

DRAFT REPORT OF POST-BEIJING ACTIVITIES IN THE GAMBIA

The Gambia ranks high because we have made some progress since Beijing in

Out of 15 Cabinet positions, 4 are held by women. In addition, women hold 4 of the 107 seats in the National Assembly. The Auditor-General is a woman. The National

by factors such as heavy workload of women and the lack of labour saving devices, poor attitude of men towards women's literacy.

1.7 As a result of the foregoing, women's access to employment is limited in

terms of getting employed in the first place, staying or engaging the top. Women occupy 12.8% of managerial positions, 13.9% and technical 26.3% of clerical, 9.4% of the skilled labour force

category, they

perception of

monetisation.

forms of sexual

nature of poverty has been well documented and continues to

human rights. It is integrally linked to other conditions which

race

low access to health services, men's literacy, etc.

While domestic workers fall within the informal

are excluded from the Labour Act of 1990, the

domestic activity as a female domain and not v

Domestic workers are mainly young women

harassment, long working hours and poor wages

The absence of an organised structure for women and the inadequate linkage between the industry and production groups in horticulture and small ruminants has restricted the optimal realisation of the potential in the sector.

1.10 With 44% of the population being under age 15 (Population Data Bank, 1995), the need to maximise the potential of this group cannot be over-emphasised.

In this regard a variety of schemes have been implemented. These include the National Youth Service and President's Award Scheme programmes in family life and various self development programmes.

1.11 In realisation of the importance of sports to the development of the body and mind, women have been introduced to various sports, and have achieved some success.

1.12 The media constitutes an important pillar of development and agenda but playing a "gate-keeping" role as well, until recently women have been perceived receivers of messages. However, efforts have been initiated with the production of women theatre groups, local communicators, village video halls and radio programmes to make women play a leading role in communication, education and development processes. At the professional level the formation of WAMNE (Women's Association of the Media Network of the Gambia) has been initiated. The basic objective of ensuring the positive portrayal of women's success stories, achievements and challenges.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.13 Institutionally women's groups existed at village level during the pre-colonial and colonial eras. These groups provided a platform for women to receive psychological support to their respective members.

women's groups, 1.11 1.12 Women's Federation emerged to provide for and organizations, 1.11 1.12

women's issues' 1.13 1.14 as the policy executive arm,

the National Women's Bureau. This provided the framework for addressing women's issues.

1.16 In the 1981-86 five year plan, government reaffirmed its commitment to the development of women by introducing policy measures both at the national and sectoral levels aimed at integrating women in the national development promoting equality, and improving services to and the productivity of women.

1.17 This commitment on the part of government reflected trends in the international community such as the declaration of 1975 as international women's year and decade, the call for the adoption of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the advancement of women, the UN Convention on The Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which The Government ratified in 1992, the Women's Bill of Rights, and more recently the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action amongst others.

1.18. Regardless of the foregoing, the National Women's Bureau continues to face limitations in addressing women's issues and due to weaknesses related to the legal framework in the institutions and internal organizational constraints due to inaction.

been the necessary policy orientation to guide the coordination of the different strategies geared towards promoting the advancement of women. This policy is thus an attempt to bridge the gaps in addressing the concerns of women,

there is a framework within which Guatemalan women are to be able to overcome poverty and deprivation, towards greater participation in national development processes.

2.2. In agriculture, where women constitute 50% of the agricultural labour,

these general interventions have been assisting an increase in productivity, as a result of constraints including: low level of mechanization, inadequate access to credit, inadequate access to extension services, and inadequate access to agricultural inputs.

is as a result of constraints including: low level of mechanization, inadequate access to credit, inadequate access to extension services, and inadequate access to agricultural inputs. The main constraint to the participation of women once mechanization is introduced, inadequate access to credit, inadequate access to extension services, and inadequate access to agricultural inputs.

and control over production resources, inadequate female representation in top level agricultural management (2.6% for women as compared to 8.6% for men)

(Population Data Bank 1995).

The problem is further compounded by limited, appropriate post harvest technologies and other factors such as maintenance, cost of spare parts and limited managerial capacity at community level.

that the introduction of improved health status for women and children, including a reduction in infant mortality from 213/1000 live births in 1980, and 126/1000 in 1995 (above the national average of 106/1000), and a reduction in mortality from 375/1000 in 1960 to 250/1000 in 1980 and 126/1000 in 1995 (above the national average of 106/1000).

More substantial contributions to health status improvement has been due to the stagnating or declining public sector resources, low quality of health services, especially for women and children in rural areas.

2.4 In the area of population and development despite an increase in the contraceptive prevalence rate to 42% for all methods (modern and traditional) in 1995, and a decline in total fertility rate from 6.5% in 1980 to 6.1 in 1993, the situation remains precarious. The Gambia has both one of the highest population growth rates in Africa at 4.1% per annum (1993 census) as well as the highest population densities at 97 persons per square kilometre. This population trend has serious implications for our socio-economic development as well as for the uplifting of the status of women and needs thus be addressed.

2.5 In the field of education, significant improvements have been registered and the national education policy 1988-2003 attempts to further increase enrolment in grades 1-5 by 95% and transition rate from grades 6-7 by 100% by year 2003. However, the present trend is indicative of a need to focus attention on addressing issues of access, retention and performance as they impinge on the education of the girl child.

Efforts in this direction are consistent with the 1997 constitution (Section 30)

... to all persons the right to equal educational opportunities and compulsory basic education, as well as requires the state to

Women's employment opportunities both in formal and informal

the disparity between employed women and men continues to be

high and this requires to be bridged if significant strides are to be

regularly in economic empowerment of women

quantity and quality of labour force

low education levels, absence of affirmative action policies in training

work place, distance of formal sector employee from home of

the dual career role of women i.e. child care and family

2.11 Furthermore, a strong national machinery for women's affairs is imperative if significant achievements are to be made in women's advancement efforts. The present institutional framework has demonstrated weaknesses due to several factors including inadequate mandate, poor staffing, lack of support

and weak horizontal and vertical linkages;

this has impeded progress in the process

directions

well designed path

Council's Empowerment

the non articulation of a policy not only meant that interventions and dissipated but ineffective resulting in little gain in the security, economic empowerment of women.

This policy is thus expected to provide the coordination that will eliminate poverty, promote sustainable livelihood and ensure sustainable development for women.

This is consistent with the country's recently formulated Vision 2020 aimed at transforming The Gambia into a self-reliant and developed nation which naturally requires women's active part since they constitute nearly one half of the nation's population. The policy is also consistent with and complementary to international conventions such as Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW) adopted in 1978, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Nairobi looking strategies and the World Women's Conference in Beijing 1995.

Platform for Action amongst others.

Furthermore, it is an attempt to maximize the full utilization of our available

national human resources as well as capital, its efficiency and productivity

relative to our prevailing socio-economic trends.

between this policy and the Government of Gambia

during the latter conference underscored that it is

women are given equal access to jobs, education, finance, land ownership and so on and that women participate actively in the world economic and security order as equal partners in the development of the world. This can be more readily promoted where there is a clear policy statement to provide direction and guide interventions

aimed at achieving this. The National Policy on Women is expected to provide this

the point of view of where Gambian women are today, statistics

women are still highly under-represented in the formal economic sector

the informal sector as unskilled workers. Women generally have a

(100%) they represent (14%) (The Gambia National Report

on Women. The Beijing Forum, World Conference on

account for 77.1% of the total population of Gambian women in agriculture

which is the main occupational activity

or the disadvantaged situation of women is also apparent

ing statistics. Women occupy 12.8% of the managerial

87.2% male occupancy.

be made for the professional and technical occupations

1.9% as opposed to 86.1% for males, and in the clerical

26.2% compared to 73.7% for males. In the distribution

labour, women consist of 4.9% of the skilled labour force

ed labour force, and males 90.6% of the skilled and 38.1%

orce, indicative of women's lesser educational qualification

in access to education, girls constitute 24.6% of the girls

primary level, 37% of the Junior Secondary and 31% of the

Senior Secondary levels (Population Data Bank, 1992).

2.17 At the level of the household, girls and women still carry out the bulk of

domestic chores as well as functioning as the main family caretakers which continues

to constrain their full participation in other national development processes outside of

education and health. Adult equivalent units are preferred over the conventional per capita approach, which does not take cognisance of sex and age differences in household composition. Thus, the three categories of households are:

- Extremely Poor - households below the food poverty line

- Poor - households above the food poverty line but below the overall poverty line

- Non Poor - households above the overall poverty line

Table 1 shows the food and non-food baskets by urban and rural Dalasis. Not surprisingly, prices in urban areas are consistently high, resulting in a higher overall poverty line for urban households.

Table 1: Poverty Baskets in Dalasis by Location

	Food Basket	Non Food Basket	Overall
Urban	138	48.5	186.5
Rural	100	25	125

Source: derived from 1993 Household Economic Survey Report

Table 2 shows the calculated poverty lines in Dalasis per year per Adult Equivalent Unit (AEU) from the CSD and ILO studies. Due to differences in the type of fish used in calculating the food basket, the ILO and CSD studies recorded very different poverty lines.

As the ILO study used a relatively expensive fish - barracuda - *Micropogonias undulatus* - which is the cheapest type of fish found in The Gambia and

the categories

poverty lines for The Gambia in Dalasis per year per AEU

=SDA Poverty Line=

ILO line
 inflation
 adjusted

	Greater Banjul	Other Urban	Rural	
Food Poverty Line	1636	1597	1373	2614
Non Food Basket	807	807	407	807

Poverty Line

Source: CSD 1993 Household Economic Survey

persons in poverty categories by location according to the CSD study. More than one third (33 per cent) of the population is classified as poor, contributing quite significantly to the overall poverty situation. In other words, one in four Gambians cannot afford a nutritionally balanced diet - this is where the proportion is one out of four.

Table 3 shows the percentage distribution of the population by location according to the CSD study. In other words, 23 per cent of Gambians are classified as poor in rural areas, 31 per cent in other urban areas and 67 per cent in Greater Banjul.

categories by location

Table 3: Percentage distribution of the population by location

	All Areas	Other Urban	Rural	Greater Banjul
Extremely Poor	9	9	23	15
Poor	31	31	18	18
Non-Poor	60	60	59	67
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: CSD 1993 Household Economic Survey

A more dramatic picture of the poverty situation is observed in Table 4 from the ILO report which records a rural head count ratio of 76 per cent, with 44 per cent certified as food poor. It is, however, interesting to note that even when the urban incidence of poverty from the CSD study is calculated using the expensive fish from the ILO study, the situation is still less severe.

Table 4: Percentage of persons in poverty categories - comparison of CSD and ILO studies

	Urban		Rural	
	CSD	ILO	CSD	ILO
Extremely Poor	25	33	23	44
Poor	16	31	18	32
Non Poor	59	36	59	24

Source: derived from 1993 Household Economic Survey Report

...ILO and CSD studies are
 ...phenomenon. Given
 ...country, this is natu-
 ...holds (as much as 70 per-
 ...source of livelihood." Due
 ...and a long dry spell
 ...underemployed. As a

...an unanimous in their observation of pove-
 ...the traditional development bias against
 ...surprising. Coupled with this is the fact
 ...cent by some estimates) depend on agric-
 ...to the heavy reliance on rain fed agricul-
 ...limit production when most rural dw-
 ...consequence, adult equivalent rural incomes are slightly over one
 ...urban areas (see Table 5)."

Table 5: Mean annual incomes per adult equivalent unit by location

	Greater Banjul	Other Urban	Rural
AEU	1994	1994	2216

Source: derived from 1993 Household Economic Survey Report

However, poverty can also be found in the urban parts of the country, particularly among operators in the informal sector. The CSD study observed that formal sector workers earn about twice as much as informal sector workers. In part, the ILO report found that 38 per cent of the self-employed in semi skilled

...the low level of skills found among this group, as well as the high level of unemployment, especially among the young people.

studies also found that large households (15 or more members according to the 1997 census) are more common in rural areas than in urban areas. In terms of inequality, the CSD study computed a Gini coefficient of 0.42 for the country as a whole, showing that the gap between rich and poor is substantial. It is more pronounced in rural than urban areas - 0.28 vs. 0.18 - but this may be due to the over-representation of poor and middle income groups in the survey's sample.

The human dimension of poverty is captured in the first ever National Human Development Report published in 1997. The Human Development Index is a composite measure that attempts to assess a country's development based on three characteristics: income, education and life expectancy.

According to the report, the HDI for The Gambia as a whole is 0.328. The analysis reveals that the urban LGAs of Banjul and Kanifing have higher HDIs than the national at 0.519 and 0.433 respectively. The rural LGAs rank lower in the following order: Brikania - 0.328; Kuntaur - 0.274; Janjambureh - 0.260; Kurur - 0.249; and Kiangar - 0.234.

The index clearly shows that human development in The Gambia is lowest in the rural areas of the country.

The poverty index is the Human Poverty Index which is defined as the percentage of the population that is excluded from the world of economic provisioning - expressed as access to safe water and proportion of malnourished children under the age of five. An overall HPI of 44.8 per cent was calculated which is decomposed as follows:

- 34 per cent of the population is likely to die before the age of 50
- 63 per cent of Gambian adults are illiterate
- 10 per cent of Gambians lack access to health services

- 50 per cent lack access to safe water
- 12 per cent of children under five are malnourished.

Additionally, the Capability Poverty Measure considers the lack of three basic capabilities - namely, the capability to be well nourished and healthy; the capability for

for The Gambia, which is decomposed as follows: 36.1 per cent

under five are malnourished

and 3.6 of females aged 15 and above are illiterate.

The same report also compares two Gender-related Development Index

designs to facilitate the assessment of the status of women in a given society. One

uses the conventional indicators of female life expectancy, educational attainment, and

choices to yield an index of 0.34. Using school life expectancy and female

educational attainment gives a slightly lower index of 0.34. Notwithstanding the

334. Notwithstanding the measure used, it is evident that Gambian women continue

to be marginalised in our society.

THE STRATEGY FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Following the Economic Recovery Programme and Programme for Sustained

Development, the Government of The Gambia formulated a Sustainable Strategy

for Poverty Alleviation (SPA) in 1992 as a mechanism of mitigating the negative

consequences of the adjustment process. It was, at that time, realised that the welfare

of the vulnerable groups was not necessarily

improved by economic adjustments that had been made.

The SPA

adopts a two-pronged approach that combines: a)

policies that are designed to accelerate growth, promote

employment opportunities for the population, and support

and human resource development programmes; and b) the

As a core macroeconomic policy, equity, and comprehensive

Strategy for Poverty Alleviation Co-ordinating Office (SPACO) has been e-

to act as the focal point for all Government and other agencies involv-

comprises three professional staff - National Co-ordinator and two

Officers for Monitoring and Decentralisation respectively - and sur-

ensured in the operational principles of the National Poverty Allevia-

THE NATIONAL POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME

Monitoring of government policy and programme implementation of the
poverty situation in The Gambia

and opportunities to create synergies and

maximise efficiency in the use of poverty alleviation activities

Capacity Building of vulnerable groups and also of actors involved in

capacitation for all poverty alleviation intervention activities

THE NATIONAL POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME

The National Poverty Alleviation Programme details the various interventions and

activities to be undertaken to achieve the objectives of the SPA. Emphasis is placed on

developing the rural areas of the country, both in terms of physical and social

infrastructure, as well as the capacitation of the local populace to take a more

active role in the overall development process. One of the

key areas of concern is the situation of Gambian women - evidenced in gender disparities in key socio-eco-

nomically and widely acknowledged, and interventions to redress this situation

in the Programme.

Each Pillar has a number of components/interventions designed to achieve its set objectives. Components are executed by Departments of State of the relevant sector and implemented by Government departments, NGOs, CBOs and private sector operators as appropriate. This approach ensures that those institutions with the technical expertise and comparative advantage are brought into the process, and the

...funds is provided by the World Food Programme and GOTG at
...the PROTEGE Obstetric Institute...
...total cost of US\$3.2 million... The Department of State for Local Go
...collaboration with WFP, is responsible for proge
...implementing agencies include Divisional Commiss
...Our Hands (FOHL)

practice of income generating activities as a means of diversifying the inc
its beneficiaries.

and is to run for three years. The Département of State for Education, through the

Adult and Non-Formal Education Department, is the designated executing agency.

The component's implementation strategy is to work through pre-registered CBOs and

NGOs with well defined project proposals... the major ones being Fang Dema Kafo in

the URD, Foundation For The Socio-economic Advancement of Women (FOWSEA)

the Association of Farmers, Educators and Trainers (AFET) (a local NGO). Project

operations are nation wide and cover both urban and rural areas.

Rural Water Supply And Sanitation (Gam/93/003/01/99)

Another component of the NPAP relevant to the natural resource sector is the Rural

Water Supply and Sanitation Project, which is designed to improve and increase access

to adequate water and sanitation facilities in rural Gambia. The Project is providing a

number of new wells and rehabilitating existing ones with the full participation of target

communities through Village Water and Sanitation Committees. The Project has a strong

social development component given the realisation that water is a collective responsibility

and must be collectively managed if sustainability is to be ensured. Considerable emphasis

is placed on the linkages between clean water and good health and the need to ensure

from collection point to utilisation.

Project is funded by UNCDF, GONG and UNDP to the tune of US\$6 million.

is the designated executing agency and is for four years. The Dep

Western and Lower River Divisions

agency. The project operates

The Gambia Social Development Fund aims at supporting greater access to social services and infrastructure as well as strengthening grassroots institutions and local public services. The SDF is a permanent funding mechanism which is designed to facilitate access of the poor to basic social services through investment in basic social infrastructure and services; facilitate access to basic job and literacy skills to enhance the employability and productivity of the poor; enhance the financial capacity of the poor through micro-credit and other forms of financial support as appropriate; and strengthen NGOs, grassroots institutions, Community Based Organisations, indigenous financial

the country.

Need financing has been provided by a CMC USD million loans from the

four-year project. The Department of State for Finance and

the affairs through SPACU, is the designated executing agency. The project is

y operations in Greater Banjul and Lower River Division in the first year and

similar to other will be phased nation wide by year two

ents in that it works through pre-qualified and registered NGOs and

tion Project

the Agency Française de Développement (AFD) has provided a 5.3 million French

Francs grant over a period of three years to The Government Of The Gambia to fund a

project in support of the National Poverty Alleviation Programme (NPAP). The Grant

is to be provided to three NGOs for poverty alleviation activities in the areas of Food

security - to be implemented by Action Aid

Environment:-

and NBD

Urban

signed, as have the

NGOs. The first

The Gambia Micro finance - to be

implemented by Gambia Women's Finance

Children. The Project will target commu

poverty activities in support of poor women

The Grant Agreement between the Governm

agreements between the Government a

context of the programme. The programme will seek to consolidate the achievements of previous EDF financed programmes.

Communities in the North Bank, Upper River and Western Divisions will be targeted during the programme's five-year life span. The European Development Fund and GOTG will provide funding for the programme at a total cost of 17.8 million ECU. A Programme Management Unit will be set up in the Department of State for Finance and Economic Affairs to plan, manage, monitor and evaluate project activities. The implementation strategy of this component focuses on community structures at the local level, principally Divisional Co-ordinating Committees, Ward Committees and Village Development Committees.

Lowland Agricultural Development Programme (LADEP)

The overall sector objective of the programme is the sustainable improvement of traditional rice production as a means of enhancing food security for impoverished rural households. The development objective is to increase total production in the traditional rice production systems of the lowlands by about 12,000 tons per annum in Programme Year 8 on a sustainable basis using a community based demand driven developmental approach. The two major components of the programme are soil and water management schemes, and tidal access schemes. The main target group is women, the traditional rice growers in The Gambia.

LADEP is a twenty-year nation-wide programme in three phases of 8, 8 and 4 years. The first phase is currently being implemented. The GOTG, Inter-Religious Fund U. jointly provides funding for Agricultural Development and African Development Bank, at a total cost of GMD131,714,360.

Overall programme management responsibility is vested in a Programme Management Unit and Projects Co-ordinating Office of the Department of State for Finance and Economic Affairs.

Soil and Water Management Unit (SWMU) Department of State for Finance and Economic Affairs

Programme has also established a small fund for local NGOs to implement activities. Criteria for qualification include a good track record and a minimum 5 years registration with TANGO.

Mainstreaming Gender And Poverty

SPACC and the Women's Bureau have negotiated the above named component of financing by the British Department For International Development (DFID) at a cost of GB£909,000 over three years. Unlike the other components of the NTA project seeks to address gender equity and poverty reduction from a gender perspective. In essence, the project will assist planning units to better integrate effective poverty and gender focused plans and programmes, at macro and local levels by building skills for poverty and gender analysis and budgeting, sensitising planners to poverty and gender issues, and providing relevant and timely gender poverty data.

The project comprises three main elements:

- Collation, production and appropriate dissemination of poverty and gender information
- Production of high quality poverty and gender advocacy materials and initiatives
- Development of systems and skills in selected Planning Units to enable staff to formulate, analyse and produce budgets from a poverty and gender perspective

Human Resource

The project will be managed by a Project Management Centre and overall supervision and guidance of a Projects Committee. The project will be managed by a Project Management Centre and overall supervision and guidance of a Projects Committee. The project will be managed by a Project Management Centre and overall supervision and guidance of a Projects Committee.

CONSTRAINTS

Although the SPA was designed with an integrated programme approach in mind, it

was preceded by a notable sectoral approach to development planning and has been

forced to integrate these projects into a National Programme. This difficult task has

had to be executed at the same time as co-ordination and monitoring of poverty

alleviation components took off. At the end of the first cycle of three-year programs, a

self-assessment has led to more focus being given to the identification of linkages

among on-going components as a first step towards implementing an integrated

programme.

At the same time, the provision of funds for operational expenses and some

programmes such as the National Dialogue Process will strengthen SPACO as it

institutionalises these vital functions of its Terms of Reference. SPACO is, however,

still not self-sustaining and this may be due to a lack of recognition from the key

owners of the Strategy for Poverty Alleviation. Financial constraints have dogged

SPACO ever since its inception, and have become particularly acute when more co-

ordination and monitoring is required to manage a broader array of interventions

and interventions into mainstream

sectoral programmes for added impact and sustainability.

Stronger and more enhanced partnerships between Government

and civil society to enhance sustainability.

Increased funding for components and interventions to expand coverage

and activities.

More intersectoral collaboration, co-ordination and linkages between

various actors to maximise synergism and programme impact.

GAMBIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (GCCCI)

RECOMMENDATION

1. Overcome the impression that GCCI is for big businesses and men only by lowering membership fee to public JMSSE (most of which are run by women) to

their businesses.

AGAINST WOMEN POLICE PERSPECTIVE

Women is in the increase although statistic at the level of the Police. Lack of official reports on cases of such. The factors responsible for this

1. TRADITIONAL BARRIERS

Some of our traditions have reduced women to childbearing making authority. Hence subjected to abuse and violence.

2. RELIGIOUS BARRIERS

Religion has placed an undue suppression on the female belief that any woman who is subjected to any form of harassment by the male gender should be accepted.

3. LOW LEVEL OF EDUCATION

The high rate of illiteracy and the low level of education especially on women have equally contributed to the increase of violence against women. Educated men and women tend to have the belief that husband and wife

This concept has placed an undue restriction on the social freedom of the women folk. Hence a break up of marriage and family.

CONCLUSION

ay discussions of the
tter, the missing link

The issue of gender equality has been a top a
Police Department. Despite efforts being ma

is co-opting institutions like the Police saddled with such responsibilities
the laws of The Gambia

well as the additional constitutional framework as earlier me

West Africa – Legal Issues Affecting Women, this will only count if the

Secretary of State is gender sensitive. The authors also observed that the law

1990 define masculine gender to include... though Cap

...istrict provincial and administration on the... District Au

...def its composition. District Authorities by all... standards ar

...as women are deliberately discriminated by... this Cap: La

...Gambia can be from inheritance, transfers by... state for individual (s) or from other tenancy arrangement such as purchase and

...so on. Thus ownership rights is not gender biased by principle, but in practice

...women in most cases enjoy user rights as a result of access to the rural

...Gambia.

The main types of land tenure system in the Gambia are traditional, private and

...e. Therefore, this paper will attempt to look at how each of them affects

Gambian Women.

The 1993 census has shown that women constitute 51% of the Gambia's

...ulation. It further indicated that majority of them are illiterates living in the

...age in Agricultural production as primary or

...secondary income earners. Those in the urban area are mainly invo

...as located either in their bottles or at the

...therefore the role of women in development is another

...important aspect to look at because their role may be deemed to be included as

TRADITIONAL SYSTEM OF LAND TENURE

The above system is based on custom and usage, and is applied through traditional forms of organisation. It is therefore imperative to look at the rural organisation with a view bring to light how this type of land tenure impedes the acquisition of land.

The administration, planning and development of customary land holdings are closely related to the rural organisation and/or social organisation.

The Gambian follows a traditional system of land tenure, which is based on the household or family compounds which are grouped into (wards) within a village. The villages are formed into district and

The Gambian follows a traditional system of land tenure, which is based on the household or family compounds which are grouped into (wards) within a village. The villages are formed into district and

usually passed to the wife's field, which is usually sub-divided, or the husband claimed as other communal land by the husband's additional spouse(s). This system usually grants only land use rights to women which are not sufficient guarantees for those of them wishing to make major investments. In cases of divorce, the women have no claim or user right over ex-husband's land.

PRIVATE OR INDIVIDUAL LAND TENURE

This type of land tenure dates back to early years of the nineteenth century when individuals and corporations purchased land. It accounts for only a small percentage of agricultural and lands settlement in the country. It has become

registration of ownership.

The kind of ownership and the security of tenure offered to the individual or group are sufficient to encourage improvement and conservation of the land resource.

Individual free hold tenure is well established in the Gambia as an official policy directed towards the establishment and registration of individual rights in land. These types of land tenure system are not gender bias in principle but in practice women are disadvantage mainly due to their low income and other societal barriers.

A case study of a 'Kafo' in Brikama (Bombiri) comprising of 50 women and 35 men showed that out of the women only 4 women own settlement land and agriculture land. The 1993 household census also shows a similarity. At the national level, 84.1 percentage of the households are headed by male while only

inequalities in law, policy and practice in relation to such claims. Gender ideologies can obstruct women from getting land rights. For example, ideological assumptions about women's needs, work, roles and capabilities and social expectations infringes on what type of property they inherit in the Gambia society. These gender ideologies negatively affect the Gambian women especially when it comes to implementation of public policies and laws relating to land rights for example, among the criteria for allocation of state

lands (e.g. Kanring, Bakoren and Bursub) estate) are the issue of marital status, income level, and responsibility. In the urban area where their land rights were restricted, the local women are the weaker sex and therefore they are systematically re-

TABLE 1: LAND ALLOCATION BY SEX AND LOCALITY

LOCALITY	NUMBER OF		PERCENT
	MALE	FEMALE	
Kanring	539	200	27
Bakoren	139	65	31
Bursub	320	188	37

allocation affects both the urban and rural Gambia. In the rural area, the Pachtan Rice Project land distribution was based on the traditional male headship which is patrilineal Gambia is

Kanring
Bakoren
Bursub
This is
wome
based
always
CONS

a. Lack of security of tenure for women land users because the male land owners can take back their land whenever they like especially in case of divorce or death.

b. Women do not have direct access to land as their male counterparts but despite this, they make considerable contribution to agriculture and other national development activities.

c. Poor application of customary/traditional rules in distribution and use of land resources.

d. After several attempts of reforms, amendments and adaptation of the law, it can be said that legislation on land is difficult to be enforced correctly. Land legislation fails to bring about the desired gender equality.

e. Lack of education among traditional land administrators as most of them

(These are mostly male).

RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Inclusion of women in land administration at all levels.

b. Gender quota system in land allocation in state lands.

c. Women land ownership rights be raised and documented in all women for a

CONCLUSION

Going through the country document presented at Beijing in 1995 it was observed that although women's role on Agriculture production cannot be overemphasised yet the women's issue on land tenure rights was not discussed.

It was therefore to improve the country document in order to draw attention on some of the constraints women face in relation to lands ownership. This will also remind policy makers to adjust or enforce those policies/laws (partial by the customary law) which are deterrent to women's ownership of land in the Gambia.

MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE POST-BEIJING REPORT

Management Development Institute (MDI) is the main government institute for

and consistency in the country. It spearheads the various activities of the human resources development component in the country. Its main functions are to provide training, research and economic management capacity building.

Its general objectives are:

1. To provide training and skills in the planning and

operation to development tasks and skills.

2. To provide training and skills in the planning and operation to development tasks and skills.
3. Organise and conduct courses, seminars, workshops and conferences for the purpose of improving performance, efficiency and exchanging ideas in the fields of administration and management.

The General and Management Unit (GMU) of the MDI was established in 1991 with the objective of creating gender awareness and sensitisation and transferring

in its economic management and capacity building programmes. Since then, the GMU has sought to:

develop gender sensitivities in the public and private sectors to respond to the

of different target groups in the development process and society.

development of gender sensitivities in the public and private sectors to respond to the
programming and implementation skills.

develop gender-sensitive policies and administrators.

work closely with NGOs and other development agencies.

achieve gender equality.

years, the GMU has been active in gender awareness raising in a range of
activities such as training, research and consultancy, and in providing
information at both the institutional and national levels.

Seminars, workshops and conferences have been effective conduits for
gender-sensitive research findings into concrete plans and actions for

effective strategic changes taking gender into account.
consultancy services to organisations and
streamlining gender in their development programmes.

Since its inception, the GMU has made tremendous strides in
the area of women and gender, including preparation of technical papers and
design and organisation of training programmes.

preparations to Beijing in close
MDI's GMU played a prominent and
collaboration with the Women's Division and
and finalisation of the Beijing document presented to the Fourth World Conference held in

gender disparities in The Gambia's different contexts. It is with this in mind that MDI has

implementation of post-Beijing strategies taking a pro-
in order to ensure that the Government in The Gambia
in activities geared to ensuring the empowerment of women in The Gambia
by effecting strategic targeting of its programmes at various groups in the
and the NGO community. In this regard specific training programmes have
in response to the country paper's recommendations and the Mansakonko
Among these are gender sensitisation and awareness training seminars for the

le Ministers and Permanent Secretaries
facy and the legal profession
a personne
des personnes

NGO decision-makers and pro

As well as creating public awareness about gender and working to put gender issues
the centre of government and NGO programmes. The GMU has been mainstreamed
gender concerns in other MDI programmes. It is pertinent to underscore the role of

the UNDP in providing funds under the EMCBP, for the realisation of the objectives
of the GMU Programme in the first phase of its post-Beijing strategy du

During 1997-98 the GMU has focussed its attention on research and pro
and the Government's role and activities were the focus
of research on "Women in top management in The Gambia. (See annex for
of the GMU Programme in the first phase of its post-Beijing strategy du
laboration with TANGO on a gender audit exercise of NGOs

for Education to ensueher's primary school curriculum
of the GMU Programme in the first phase of its post-Beijing strategy du

Gender training of civil servants

Consultancy to develop a new "Youth Policy" (Completed)

Participation in the Department of State for Health, Social Welfare, and

Women's Affairs Technical Committee for Gender and Development Policy, "Policy for the Advancement of Gambia Women" (ongoing into 1999).

the following:

in the first half of 1999, the C

s from all sectors to discuss findings

Workshop with from

Gambia" research

from "Women in top

n engendering programmes and

Work with Action A

projects.

include:

Forecast activities for the rem

Gender and Development diploma

Preparation of an inte

programme

able for use in the entire sub-region

Preparation of a gen

ible research programme and capacity

Further development

for statisticians, women managers

Training programme

and leadership train

Nonetheless, despite its many successes, much remains to be done to fully implement MD's post-Being strategy. It is envisaged that the

EMCBP will continue to support the Institute in its training, capacity building and research programmes. However, it will require increased government support to

attain the full realisation of its post-Being strategy. A proposal to fund the first phase of the GAVI has been completed with the intent to cover the second phase of the

of post-Being

CONSTRAINTS, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

www.wfp.org

Convention Against Discrimination in Education

Equal Remuneration Convention

Maternity Protection Convention

Discrimination, Employment and Occupation Convention

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (OPICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention on the Rights of

Relating to the Status of Refugees-Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees

(CRSR)

The signature and ratification of these Conventions – all aimed at protecting the rights of women and children – will no doubt create a conducive enabling environment and would ease constraints encountered by institutions working for the improvement and upliftment of the Gambian society. As a matter of fact, the legal framework for the implementation of these Conventions is in place.

ANNEX

of the critical findings of the

The report will take the opportunity

Unit's recent research on "Women in

r managerial position, less than
assessing university degrees, far
almost half had no education at
political involvement.

The majority of Gambian women ma
five years. They are highly educated
exceeding their own mothers' education
all. The majority is married and Muslim

However, they are sometimes
isations or departments. It in
to be the first woman in their
to be found in top management
balanced workplaces, whereas
male superordinates.

These women mostly work in male-d
the only women working in their p
upper management or heading a div
workplaces to hold that position. W
positions if they work in female-d
divisional heads

realisation, although "not" as much as we
n are not to be found in high positions in the
hic attainment or lack of qualifications. We
graduates we surveyed were in assistant
professional positions, the women holding
a to be found in middle rather than in top
half of all middle managers we surveyed had

Education makes some
expected, given the con
Gambia because of their
found that although a
managerial, middle or
advanced university deg
management. Further, o
a diversity of

ve dual-role stress
women were over-
stress negatively.
ce dual-role stress
n children under age 25 also
ed women with children under

Husbands' role at home seems to be an issue as t
was positively related to women's marital and pare
represented in the category of women who e
Women with children under the age of 12 particula
negatively, but the larger category of
tended to suffer negative dual role stress
age 25 experienced dual-role stress pos

ment Unit was motivated to
deliver gender training in the
tion of our respondents who
do with workplace relations
men had no impact on their
specific policies, practices, and
claims of gender-sensitivity,
managers and professionals are in need of gender awareness
ir ability to identify gender-based problems in the workplace
ey counter and overcome such problems.

As has already been mentioned, the
undertake this study in order to imp
workplace. What is most striking for
offered contradictory responses to simi
and gender. Some claimed that cultu
careers. Others neglected to mention
challenges at work. Our responde

a lack of access to training promotion
opportunities was a problem
lation and workplace policies
ities, but gender training or
d include
ditionally.

Our respondents repeatedly
decision-making roles and responsibility
and a barrier to their advancement. Eco
would support women's effects at se
workplace supervisors and decision-makers is also called fo
training of women in methods and strategies to improve
research on how workplace decisions should be made

Relations in the workplace seem particularly fraught, and this not only includes those between men and women, but also between women subordinates and superordinates. This again points to the need for more general gender awareness training, not only for women managers and professionals and workplace superordinates and decision-makers, but also for women who occupy the lower ranks of the workplace. Several women mentioned that

their female subordinates were reticent to accept their authority or refuse they could be as effective as supervising as their male counterparts

professional attainment. Only one-quarter

ideally they should be su

working had anything to do with women's

of the respondents repo

a factor in their own career success. This

career realisation and

's career development and support networks

finding calls for the ne

information, encouragement, and experiences.

and organizations whe

ous, women who are "unconnected" or newly

While this may exist in

get of such support

breaking into their care

ly needs to be conducted in order to uncover the exact gender

fun

single workplace, with the understanding that these may widely

dys

ance, sector, gender constitution and hierarchy of the workplace.

var

addition, a close examination of policies and practices in the

and

insight as to how these relations and the resulting career support

work

to training

has produced

suggested investigation into workplace decision-

promotion and responsibilities mentioned above. It

women's experience of treating dual role stress must be addressed before

with young children report no negative dual role stress, while married women, especially with young children, are over-represented when it comes to negative dual-role stress. The obvious assumption to make is that, married women live with responsible adult partners who share family responsibilities, just as these women do by bringing home paycheques – traditionally a male responsibility, might not actually be the case, if our findings are any indication. Legislation supporting working mothers by extending allowable confinement leave and providing adequate childcare facilities – perhaps even in the workplace itself for lactating mothers – could go some way to easing the burden such women carry. Women

also need support in sensitive approaches to lit-laws, including public awareness

campaigns and support to men who are willing to make positive family changes in the

allocation of a fair share of domestic, including childcare, labour.

professional development for

domestic arrangements and

the home. While findings

managers and women in the

crisis to now learning about

stubborn professional and

led at MDI that Gambian

de human

should

as a less developed country, are

places

OBSTACLE FOR AGRICULTURE

the fact that women are the major food producers for the family, re-

te for Agriculture has as one of its major ways to help women women to

We hope that responses to this study will

Gambian women, and will prompt re-

responsibilities in households where both

from the research perhaps those more dif-

workplace than they answer, this situation

women add work and experimentation

domestic problems facing Gambian career

public, private, and NGO institutions are not making a

resources by not being aware of the problems of profes-

as a less developed country, are

places

provide sufficient food for members of their household. This has been achieved through the technical advice and services provided to the women.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

The following achievements are registered in strengthening women's capacity as producers and processors so as to enhance household food security:-

<p>The National Agricultural Policy has been reviewed to take on board women's production, processing and access to marketing and other marketing support services and</p>	
<p>Production programmes with emphasis on</p>	<p>Promotion of sust</p>
<p>and millet in order to contain the growth of</p>	<p>On cereal product Rice importation.</p>
<p>ing the wet season to ensure year round</p>	<p>Promote the grow</p>
<p>in and income.</p>	<p>Supply for both</p>
<p>under irrigation scheme in Banjulunding</p>	<p>Establishment of</p>
<p>of urban and semi-urban consumers.</p>	<p>Village have gree Vegetable deman</p>
<p></p>	<p>Improving, womp</p>
<p>in women's rice fields affected by salinity.</p>	<p>Assistance has bē Alkalinity.</p>
<p>ion and extension services. Mobilisation</p>	<p>Increase access to</p>
<p>been promoted to reach as many women as</p>	<p>Training of womp possible.</p>

Emphasis on women's key role in processing/ preservation as an extension Strategy to ensure food security.

Promotion of small ruminants and poultry production in order to better meet the nutritional requirements of families and also increase rural incomes.

CONSTRAINTS:

Challenges and constraints limiting women's agriculture production reducing (alleviating) rural poverty and improve household food security. Such problems can be addressed in a way similar to other in several projects such as:-

Lack of proper marketing arrangements/market information system for the Agricultural sector.

Limited access to credit facilities for women in the rural villages.

Access to extension services implemented by women is another major problem.

staff.

- Incidence of disease outbreaks in small ruminants and poultry production.
- Inadequate vaccine and drug supplies in the rural areas
- Inadequate feed supplements for small ruminants more especially during the dry season.
- Inadequate knowledge in feed conservation techniques.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Household Food Security can be attained through strengthening women's capacity in food production and processing. This can be achieved when all production factors are in place, coupled with strong institutional support from both public and private sectors engaged in agricultural production. This calls for more concerted efforts from all stakeholders involved in agricultural development.

In order to achieve the objective of improving women's capacity in food production and processing, the following recommendations should be looked into:-

- Provision of a marketing arrangement and information system for women producers. This will greatly increase their income earning capacity.

produce and	Establishing of storage and processing plants to control seasonal gluts, and enhance their availability.
foods	Accessing financial support through credit provision.
of this sale	Availability and accessing product value and for Government's support to a review of the L
or land	

tenure.

- . Ensuring adequate water facilities to increase production and productivity of vegetables. Also providing water-lifting devices in vegetable gardens.

DOSA to provide adequate incentives to staff so as to maintain personnel in the

The Act defines some basic rights and obligations in the design, construction, abstraction and use of water. It provides regulations for the implementation of the provisions of the Act and defines the responsibilities of the Department of Water Resources as executor and enforcer of laws and regulations governing the water resources. The National Water Resources Council (NWRC) chaired by the then

sectoral Water and		technical arm the Water Resources Council
primary level administration	.....	Secretary for Planning (D/WA) (R)
water approved operations	.....	in implementation of activities up to the
policy document in 1989	.....	Policy issues for National Water Resources
development and supply	.....	This laid out directions related to
the Department of Water	.....	management. Rural water supply is the
owns and urban growth	.....	Resources. Whilst in the Greater Banjul
(WEC) is responsible.	.....	centres, the National Water and Electrici

(DWR), more than 80% of all water used in The Gambia comes from ground water. Ground water occurs in two aquifers; the shallow sand aquifer and the deep sandstone aquifer.

The shallow sand aquifer, which extends throughout the country and is divided into 2 units, being the upper perched aquifer occurs at depths 10-30 below ground level and mainly tapped by hand dug wells. The lower semi-confined sand aquifer is at depths of 40-120m below ground level and normally exploited by the sinking of boreholes.

Recharge of the aquifers is mainly by infiltration from rainfall at 8% lateral flow and a volume of 630 million cubic metres per annum was estimated (GITEC 1991). An estimated total annual abstraction rate of 25 million cubic meters, indicating only 4% exploitation of 70%. As the aquifers are still

grossly under-utilised, over-exploitation issue does not arise in the foreseeable future in most parts of the country. However, according to DWR records about 60% of the total ground water abstraction is from a 300km² area in the Kombo District where increased demand for drinking water for the Greater Banjul Area and for irrigation of cash crops may put the delicate supply system equilibrium at risk and increase threat to saline intrusion. A seasonal movement of saline water in the river Gambia up to 250km (at Kuntaur) upstream in the dry season further limits the quantity and quality of river water use for agricultural and livestock purposes. In view of the foregoing population growth combined with planned accelerated water use for agricultural purposes, there could be increased pressure on the utilisation of water in the coming decades thus requiring proper policy formulation and planning.

Water Supply and Access

The most widespread mode of water supply in The Gambia is the shallow hand-dug wells. Government first introduced cement-lined wells equipped with pumps back in 1951. Later, bore holes with motorised water lifting devices were introduced. According to the Central Statistics records of 1995, there were 1362 hand-dug wells and 257 boreholes serving a population of 554,515. The data further indicates that about 22.3% of households depended on open compound wells and an additional 1.5% on open public wells.

Overall, 48% of the population did not have access to any safe reliable drinking water. L

Taking into account the broken down pumps, the percentage without access could be

much higher. The data also indicated that only 31% of the population had piped water

supply, the bulk of which was in the Baofu and Kanfing Area. The

resources records of 1990 survey revealed that there were 2934 public water supply systems in the country.

83 Open lined wells, 1455 lined wells fitted with pumps and 71 reticulation

out of 1606 Villages visited nation-wide (see table 7.5)

HCS in 1996 estimated that overall, 69% (Urban 80%, Rural 65% of the

had access to safe drinking water supply. Coverage ranged from 99%

in the East. During 1994, 786 households had taps installed in

their compounds and 845 public taps were in use in 1994 National Human

Development Report, 1997. The table below shows data obtained from a recent

survey carried out by The Department of Water Supply

in 1997. Table 7.4 shows overall and regional disparities of

RURAL WATER SUPPLIES

VILLAGE VISITED	TRADITIONAL WELLS	WELLS WITH HIGH PUMPS	SYSTEM	
			UNLINED WELLS	OPEN LINED WELLS
Lower River	143	279	591	2197
Western	266	3479	135	218
	420	256	121	434
	486	2521	242	287
1606	7707	683	1455	71

* Not all villages were covered in this survey. Source: DWR, 1996

RWS coverage

Assumption 150 persons/hand pump $(1455 \times 1.154) \times 150 + 71 \times 2000 = 393,860$
 = 60%

250 persons/hand pump $(1455 \times 1.154) \times 150 + 71 \times 2000 = 393,860 = 86\%$

while on premises or less
 1 hour were defined as
 at each water point (hand
 serve 2,000 persons. But, 111
 r of users.

Public tap, own tap and pumped well v
 than 100m and less than 30 minute
 "convenient". According to the NPA,
 pump) serve about 250 people and 22
 most water points serve more than the

1.2 Quality and Affordability

There has been marked improvement
 supply in the Gambia, especially in the
 still persists in rural water supplies we
 supply.

In spite of these efforts, water
 contamination of even the seemingly
 conducted by The Baptist Mission in F.

vision of improved water
 er water quality problems
 ills are the main source of
 cted so far, have indicated
 The Water quality survey
 showed that 7 out of the 9

either "chemically" or bacteriologically
 household jars were contaminated with
 ar study by Action Aid in LRD and CRD in 1996 also recorded that
 138% of the wells were contaminated 27.2% of the water points included
 had Hydrogen sulphide and 17% had nitrate. An inve
 ed that 24% of the institutions were without
 ad high traces of Phosphate and

community pump wells included
 (Hydrogen Sulphide) a
 had Hydrogen sulphide and 17% had nitrate. An inve
 ed that 24% of the institutions were without
 ad high traces of Phosphate and safe water, 64% of the sources

Nitrate; and 36% of the sources were both chemically and bacteriologically contaminated.

A recent water quality survey of 100 Primary schools and their consumption points by DWR (Water Quality Division in 1997) using the membrane filtration technique, found 39% of the water points contaminated with Faecal bacteria (FC) at source (49%, above 100 cfu /100ml). The survey also indicated poor water handling practice and as a result increased level of bacteriological contamination at consumption point (52 % above 100cfu/100 ml) as shown in figure 7.5. An earlier survey carried out

health Department of Gambia in 1997, reported that although 80% of the women knew that water could cause disease, only 32% knew how this occurs. Thus about half of them (52%) chose to drink on the basis of its taste and proximity rather than on health considerations.

to bacteriological contamination than the deeper hand-dug wells (see graph below), which are also much more expensive and less accessible to the rural household. Therefore, most rural households, as in the case of Banjul and other urban areas, obtain their water from the traditional shallow wells.

Gambia a major issue in rural water supplies where initial and regular water quality monitoring is not usually carried out. The tasks of fetching water are the responsibility of women. They wash clothes, bath their children and use the wells. These domestic activities result in pools of dirty water that contaminate the wells through seepage. In the absence of an effective water supply system, the traditional rope and bucket water retrieval method is another contributing factor to contamination at consumption point. The link between the use of water and disease relationship is a major contributing factor to water contamination. This underscores the importance of health education for women, in water sanitation and the connection between water quality and health.

Treatment has recently been incorporated in ongoing projects implemented by

WATSAN Working group Provision of Adequate and Safe

ated Water Quality problems particularly in rural areas can be

the Legal framework for

The 1979 National Water Resources

with the redefinition of the

Public sector interventions in the Wa

functions and mandate of the established DWK. Although Government

functions and mandate of the established DWK. Although Government

ent of the sub sector during the last two decades. Major

sign

and have negated the efficient operational performance, had it

econ

intervention of Bi-lateral, Multilateral agencies and NGOs

not o

1983 to 1993, marked improvements were observed in the

Over

th access to protected water source. In 1983, 23% of

Comb

protected water source was covered to 50% by 1993. A major

factor

number of intervention

controlling factor to this increase

water supply project

programmes over the period. Among these

NDP and executed by the

GAM/74/007 sinking of 228 wells. This pro

and Groundwater

UNICD from 1976 to 1982. The "E

EEF from 1982-1987

Development" project Co-financed by UND

Other donors began to show interest including UNSO and the Saudi Arabian and

German Governments.

The framework German Government programme was initiated by UNICEF in 1987 and the

private hand pump maintenance system in 1989. This system promotes the transe

repairs and maintenance of hand pumps to village-based trained local mechanics

additional new wells were constructed under phase 4, which came to an end in Jan

1995. Continuation of its planned programme under a new phase is now under

Activities of the Major donor agencies and few NGOs in this sector were suspen

following the change of Government in 1994. Donor support was uncertain du

subsequent years.

However, since the re-establishment of the civilian Government, the European U

(EU) which has been working on the integrated approach in combining water su

ed to continue its support. UNICEF has been instrumental in

to several water and sanitation working groups and is also

in schools and primary

contributing to the improvement of water

phased out its activities in early 1995 but has completed preparatory work for its next phase. JICA assisted-project providing solar powered reticulation systems, has been suspended since 1994. A number of NGOs notably, Caritas and Action Aid, are engaged in sanitation, implementing small scale constructions and disseminating hygiene at the community level on a smaller scale.

Improvements in provision of safe water supply in the past

Water is one of the leading causes of morbidity and deaths among

children is still high. Access

access of 69% by the MICS survey region

while Western Division has an estimated access of 49%. I

improving access and coverage. The economic

expenditure on social services including the

to the economic problems, the decline in the

slow attainment of the DWSSD goal

in the sector as mentioned earlier

Water Supply for All re-targeted to

and continued donor funding to the

is likely to remain for sometime.

a climatic pattern, coupled with the

has reduced infiltration of

these resources aggravated by

water system leads to rapid

maximising resources

More safe water pumps

conditions resulted in

provision of safe water

external aid now also

although a lot of improv

developed and the goal of

year 2003. However, in

sub-sector, the problem ac

15.7 Constraints & We

-Physical- The over

persistent Sahelian drought

have and the southern. The inc

low recharge rate of the gro

The difficult geological character of the deep sandstone aquifer on the other hand precludes its exploitation in the near future.

- Technical- Despite the improvement in drilling of wells and boreholes, the technical constraints in terms of equipment and adequate maintenance and repair facilities still remain.
- Economical -Inadequate operational and development funds due to Low budgetary allocation, adversely affects staff mobility, training and staff

retention thereby increasing the efficiency of operational water supply sector. The high foreign exchange required for motorised/ supply systems under a difficult economic situation has led to a reduction in investment in the sub-sector. The inconsistency of donor support has made it practically impossible to attain set targets.

- Social - The high population growth rate of 4.2% (1993 census) and the increase in the number of people with a growth rate of 3.5% per annum (1994 National census) have naturally put increased pressure on the available water resources. This has led to an imbalance in the water supply/demand situation between rural and urban areas. The apparent lack of sense of ownership of (public) water supplies makes management of facilities and services expensive and wasteful. Appropriate user charges cannot therefore be effectively levied because of the collective nature of the supply system.

Institutional- There has been an increased number of actors over the years with the lack of a clear sense of direction. The level of co-ordination has improved through the WATSAN working group but it still remains weak on the ground due to lack of sufficient personnel for monitoring. Non adherence to design standards and facilities as well as overlap and duplication of efforts is still a cause for concern. There needs to be in place a master plan, a community based monitoring system and a comprehensive water law for effective co-ordination

to water supply, the problem of Sanitation particularly in the rural areas did not receive much attention in the past.

Nation-wide sanitation surveys are rare, but the most recent study (MICS, 1996) estimated that only 7-10% of household had access to sanitary toilet facilities most of which were in Banjul areas. Although the study had a definition problem for a 'Sanitary' toilet facility, it still gives an indication of the situation. Another survey (Inventory of WATSAN in Educational Institution, 1997) also indicated that 16% of

communities of GITEC in 1992 recorded that 49% of compounds, which are poorly constructed and insanitary in villages around Farafenni reported that although yet 74% of the compounds did not have one.

A study of compounds. Another local study. most people

The MICS study also reported that 10% of compounds in Banjul had a flush toilet.

wards improving the sanitary situation in Banjul. The present system in Banjul and the wastewater is disposed through a sewerage system. This has eliminated flush toilet system in Banjul relying on septic tanks and soakaway which results in frequent overflow due to the high water table leading to potential health hazard.

In the rural areas human excreta disposal facilities are scarce and unhygienic. These facilities are usually shallow, constructed with less durable materials and are mostly used by a large number of people. The facilities are usually within a short time and yet quite a number collapse during the rainy season. A large number of them use the bush as a substitute.

RURAL SANITATION STATISTICS

Location/Diviso	Villages visited	Unimproved	Modern Latrines

n)	Latrines		
3279			Lower River
17,100			Western
	North Bank	291	17,020
	Central River	320	7020
	Upper River	486	4437
	TOTAL	1606	38,653

SOURCE :DWR,1996

2.2 Quality and Affordability

As is indicated in the MICS 1996, most households (70%) in the rural areas have latrines. Despite their insanitary conditions, it is a recognition of a basic facility in the home. Improved pit latrine innovation was initiated in 1992. Subsidisation of the toilet in 1996 contributed to its acceptance from a traditional viewpoint. Further indications of its subsidised price as evident in the request for it and its widespread use in the Lower River and Western Divisions. As communities seem to be beginning to enhance sanitation, it is hoped that the interest

semi-urban and urban growth

sanitation throughout the country particularly in the rural centres.

years of age do not normally use the latrine. Sometimes they use pits in the yard, which is then brushed off with a broom onto a piece of paper and a sandwich

In a typical Gambian rural household, children do not use the latrine. Sometimes they use pits in the yard, which is then brushed off with a broom onto a piece of paper and a sandwich in the compound. The parents handle

way of spreading diseases. Further study to determine the underlying reasons for poor attitudes towards human refuse disposal, is necessary for more effective planning.

3.3 Area of Intervention by UN Agencies, NGOs and Donors

Rural Sanitation has not received much attention in the past. Only NGOs such as Gambia Baptist Mission in Farafenni, Action Aid The Gambia, CARITAS, FIOH have

been active to a limited extent in rural sanitation. In 1992, a pilot Rural Sanitation project was launched in three Divisions of the country (LRD, NBD, and WD) by the Department of Community Development (DCD) with assistance from UNICEF. In total, more than 6000 latrine units have been constructed in North Bank, Lower River

Western Divisions. An earlier Project (Gambia Baptist Mission) had constructed sanitary units in North Bank and Lower River Divisions. The pilot was complemented by a project which supports provision of improved Pit Latrines in

selected villages. According to the WATSAN inventory in 1997, improved units were constructed in 330 of the 392 targeted districts. Manifested by the project, the activities are now extended to divisions (CRD & URD) as part of the bridging programme.

Sanitary units put in place by participating NGOs cannot be sustained without information sharing among the different actors. This therefore calls for collaborative efforts in data collection and monitoring envisaged that with reactivation of the WSWWS Sub-committee would eradicate the situation. In fact, the WSWG has already succeeded in achieving a better understanding of the situation and facilitated the staff in the sanitation sub-sector.

and strategy on one hand, lack of effective co-ordination between the different sectors. Efforts have been made in the sanitation sector, but there are still a lot more to be done. In general terms, peoples attitude towards improved sanitation is believed to be positively changing though at a very slow pace. This could be attributed to the varying

unaided of the

sanitation was not possible. Thus

sary. Absence of an effective

assess sanitation project

approach can offset this

Reliable and Timely data for effective

a KAP study in the sanitation sector

monitoring system has made it difficult

participation is broadened to include a role in planning

management. This calls for the involvement of Community Based

spheres of sanitation projects/programmes.

Constraints

Lack of adequate professionals in the sanitation sector

the institutional capacity of the Government. This calls

human resources as an important element to strengthen

weak areas.

Lack of community participation in all stages of sanitation projects is a serious gap, which constrains

sanitation practice.

Funding remains the major constraint in reaching sectoral goals.

uncertain funding situation and the seemingly lack of interest of many

in rural sanitation, attainment of even the re-targeted goal to the year

to the

the water

sanitation sector is given attention, otherwise all

sector will be overshadowed.

to the

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FOR INTERIOR

DEPART

whether sexual harassment or physical abuse perpetrated
human rights. Gambian women since time immemorial have
abuses and despite the signing and ratification of several

VI
against wo
been subje

me means for a man...
dominated society. It should be noted that under the Laws of
women is covered under assault. This shows that there is no
in the maltreatment of a woman. A husband manhandling h
against a human being not a woman. Consequently, such ca
problems and forwarded to the Department of Social Welfare.

However despite these shortcomings of the law, the law enforce
made significant strides in trying to limit violence against wo
for instance, it is important to note that a lot of it goes w

victims who muster the courage to report in
against the perpetrators. It is important to
a term of up to ten years imprisonment. The
people accused of rape are not considered q
Prerogative of Mercy.

Below are the reported cases of violence aga
after the hearings:

YEAR	NATURE OF OFFENCE
(1) 1991	RAPE

YEAR	NATURE OF OFFENCE	NUMBER OF CASES
1988	RAPE	1
	ABDUCTION	

- DO -	OF A GIRL	2	2 CONVICTED	FEMALE
INDECEN			DEFILEMENT	INSUFF
			(16)	EVIDEN
ONVICTED	1993	INDECEN		INDENT
		ASSAULT		ASSAULT ON
		FEMALE		FEMALE
CTED	1994	IND/ASSAULT	1989	RAPE
		FEMALE		
CTED	1994	RAPE		INDECENT
				ASST ON
				FEMALE
CTED	1995	IND/ASSST	1990	RAPE
		IND/AST/E		
				DEFILEMENT
				DEFILEME

...section is playing in the grand task of the
...the general public about the role of women in Nation
...conference...
...are dealt with in programmes broadcast
...national radio...
...and...
...elf to...
...of them...
...more...

...this section...
...Building...
...areas of the global...
...English, Mandinka and Wolof on a weekly...
...programmes were generated through the initiative of Produc...
...from workshop presentations. The National Media has n...
...promote gender as a commitment to the Beijing Platform...
...unclear line of responsibility for its implementation. Its...
...emphasised rather than scrutinised as an institution taking up...

STRENGTHENING THE MEDIA FOR INFORMATION AND EDUCATION (IEC) ACTIVITIES

...ch as...
...oport...
...of the...
...broad...
...ities...
...f the...

The responsibility of strengthening the media on activities
Health Education Campaigns, Radio Programmes, Vaccination
to extension work as indicated in the Gambia's National
Beijing Conference (p94) are not clearly stated. However
commitment to inform, educate and entertain the Gambian p
have been going on. Since the Beijing Conference the He
...of health...
...on radio and decides on topics relevant to the Unit. Issues s...
...Water and Sanitation, Breast feeding, Respiratory diseases, et...
...Campaigns related to Polio Vaccination, bed net dipping and in...
...through the radio. Reproductive health issues related to contra...

spacing and female genital mutilation (FGM) are left to the NGOs such as Gambia
Family Planning Association (GERA). In addition to "Pankanta" a local family
planning initiative under the Gambia German Family Planning Project (GGFPP) and...

the Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the health of women and children (GAMCOTRAP). The so called sensitive issues such as the ability for women to decide on matters affecting their reproductive health, their bodily rights and integrity, are handled in the Women's programmes in English, Mandinka and Wolof.

debate on these issues. Other

move from accessing land through user
is need to critically analyse the Gambian
ss concepts in national development.

empowerment issues
right to ownership of
context of the empowe

PROGRESS TO STRENGTHEN THE INFORMATION SERVICES

FREEDOM OF THE M

both Gambian women and men, in both urban and rural areas.

tion is important for any effective enlightenment towards social

ment. Consider that the progress of Chapter XIX of the

which guarantees freedom and responsibility of the media

important to educate the masses, particularly women using the mass media. The

facilitates feedback and dialogue on the

audience. It is a learning process for listeners and

dialogue on the radio in particular. When media are

of the advocates the opportunity to express their views

is the right to access information to make informed

effort by media practitioners to broadcast information

PROGRAMMES IN THE NATIONAL MEDIA TO

CREATIV

ON.

DISSEMI

of the production of the women's programmes at the

Creative p

National ra

Media to organise its own gender training as a commitment to Post Beijing activities which will help most of the staff to appreciate the gender issues as a government commitment.

MAJOR CONSTRAINTS

- > Lack of a clear communication policy for broadcast of development issues.
- > Limited co-ordination of programming between the different interest groups to cater for different target audiences. In some cases where the messages are conflicting, the programming process should be co-ordinated with the National Radio to educate the masses and inform them.
- > Staff who are multi-lingual in local languages to reinforce the message to the development agencies.
- > Professional training opportunities for staff, where they should be professionals or politicians.

RS

In spite of the constraints, the National Radio has contributed to raising the awareness of both men and women, young and old to gender issues in nation. It has been noted that women, religious scholars, politicians, young males

and the gender experts

ACTION POINTS

- > The final Communication Policy should be harmonised with the Constitutional provisions, the National Policy for the Advancement of Gambian Women, other

- Promote and encourage women issues for them to enjoy their full democratic space in the National media.
- Other government departments should budget for the IEC programmes for broadcast on the national radio because presently it is partly commercialised and under a parastatal i.e. the Gambia
- Telecommunications Company Limited (GAMTEL).

perspectives on these issues in order to bring about change
women in The Gambia.

The Television in collaboration with the Department of State
does organise panel discussions with women Heads of section
the promotion of girls and women's education.

These are sensitisation programmes, where the importance
and women's education are discussed and encouraged.

ACTIONS FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF

These will aim to create use of the media
Apart from the weekly health programme
particularly on primary health issues in Wolof and
"Tele-clinic" programme hosts by the Educational
Phone-in programmes where a specific topic is discussed
area, it is followed by viewers' calls to contribute or

Panel discussion on

broadcasting (i.e. Radio-TV), Telecommunications, Print Media and P
Services in The Gambia. In addition, it elaborates on the policies and
required for an effective Information Technology (IT) Policy...

Considering the recommendations of the participants during the work
policy document was finalized for adoption by the Government of the

Therefore another one-day workshop was proposed 15th July 1999 for
policy document before its submission for
amendments/re

JOURNALISTS TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC
AWARENESS ON THE GLOBAL PLATFORM OF

TRAINING
PROGRAMME

ACTION

developed in awareness
Local Human Rights NGOs
steps to sensitise media
Platform of Action.

There was no specific training for journe
creation of the Global Platform of Actio
and other similar organisations do organ
practitioners on some of the issues raise

RECOMMENDATIONS

the TV and broadcast time

Priority should be given to wom
be reviewed if the target audienc

More actions need to be taken for the strengthening of the media for IEC
activities

More actions should be considered at the Television

There should be a proper collaboration between the women's affairs unit of the Television and other related organisations for a better co-ordination and planning of Women's programmes.

The freedom of the media should be guaranteed to strengthen the information services

More female journalists should be trained to fill the gender gap

There should be media for the dissemination

specific programmes to raise

A special training should be awareness on the Global P

should be gender balanced and

The National Communication the implementation

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTION

REPORT

The Department of Community Development established by government in 1976 is located within the Department of State for Local Government, Lands and

its mandate objectives the following

- To promote the development of rural/urban communities in the basic need areas through implementation and evaluation.
- To improve rural/urban poor income, through the promotion of income generating activities such as micro - enterprises, handicrafts, building materials production using appropriate technology skills.

and promote local institution development at village and community levels so as to better facilitate their access to services and sharing of benefits that concern them.

- To assist conceive and design proposals based on needs and play advocacy role in favour of government, NGOs, bilateral and multi lateral needs.

In order to effectively operationalise the above operational programme units were established viz

1. Research, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
2. Programmes/Extension Division which comprises
 - Women's Programme Units

and Construction unit.
 Community support
 and Day Care Centres Programme, and
 Institute (RDI)

Development received like
 departments, yearly budgetary allocations
 are complemented by Development
 agencies.

of its programmes, which
 Multilateral and bilateral

Similarly through collaboration with the Enhancing Sustainable Livelihood Component women's groups in Upper River Division, Kaning Municipal Council and Lower River Division are being trained on business management and income generation.

The Day Care Centres under the auspices of the

works, provide child care facilities during the day to allow women the much needed time to embark on both domestic, income generating and other developmental activities.

Designs prototypes with women within their communities. Dissemination of such devices goes along with training and use of such devices.

Pottery/Kumba Gave Co

female staff pursued further training and development from Pan African University United Kingdom respectively

In the area of man power successfully obtained a Institute for Development Social Development (F

CONSTRAINTS

Though the Department in meeting some of the Post Beijing Recommendations registered some achievements, with difficulties which still affects the department's outputs. Among the various constraints, the following are of great concern

- Inadequate financial resources due to the limited budgetary allocations that cannot serve the various felt needs of the vulnerable groups (women) especially in order to provide the required training in micro enterprise and income-generating skills.
- Very limited female extension workers to meet the ever growing demand for their services by the rural urban poor women. This is partly due to the department's inability to recruit additional Home Craft Assistants for the positions are not available.
- The absence of mobility and logistical support to facilitate the movement of the staff especially those in the field limits individual staff out reach activities.