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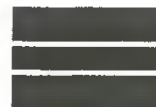
NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	SFPA EU- The Gambia: Minutes of the Second Joint Committee meeting (25 - 26 November 2020 by video conference)

Delegations will find attached the minutes of the Second Joint Committee for the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Gambia, held on 25 and 26 November 2020 by video conference.



**SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENT
EUROPEAN UNION / THE GAMBIA**



**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
VIDEOCONFERENCE
25-26 NOVEMBER 2020**

MINUTES

The Joint Committee established by Article 9 of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) between the European Union and the Republic of The Gambia met on 25 and 26 November 2020 via Video Conference due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The European Union delegation (EU) was led by Mr Ivan VAZQUEZ PEREZ, International Policy Officer for Trade Negotiations and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements, Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, of the European Commission. The Gambian delegation was led by Mr Omar Gibba, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

The acting Head of the EU Delegation in Banjul Ms Else Boonstra, in the opening remarks, highlighted the fruitful cooperation with The Gambia in the field of fishery and aquaculture. Both the EU and The Gambia shared information on their respective COVID-19 situation.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was agreed upon by both Parties and it is attached as Annex 2.

2. Sectoral support

- a) Presentation by The Gambia of the 2019-2020 matrix implementation performance review and financial execution

The Gambia presented to the Joint Committee the implementation results of the first year's program of actions. Their report is attached as Annex 4. The Gambia explained that the sectoral support is located in a dedicated bank account at the Central Bank and registered in the Annual Budget, ensuring transparent management rules. The EU delegation appreciated the clear and detailed report and the overall encouraging results achieved so far. The EU underlined also the importance of organising joint media events in order to make the SFPA's benefits more visible. The Parties took note of the rate of execution (61%) presented by The Gambia.

Due to the Pandemic, and following the opportunity offered by and with the agreement of the EU, part of the sectoral support funds have been reallocated to support the COVID-19 national response strategy in the fisheries sector based on its high importance in terms of food security and local economies. The redirected funds have been dedicated to target, among others, short to medium-term measures to ensure better hygiene conditions in the daily practices of local communities. The Gambia provided both a revised version of the multiannual and first annual sectoral support matrixes. The Gambia also explained that the low rate of execution was due to impediments generated by the COVID pandemic and the late start of the program due to delay access to funds. Implementation is progressing: making the FMC operational is foreseen in the coming weeks. Reaching the 70% execution rate is therefore a short-term target.



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The EU requested clarifications:

1. On the request the EU received to redirect part of the SS funds, the EU pointed out that the amount redirected to the COVID-related activities had not been spent yet. The EU asked whether this request was based on urgent and identified needs.
2. As regard the sources of verification, the EU pointed out that several of them have not been forwarded to the EU party. The EU encouraged their swift transmission by The Gambia.
3. On the visibility requirement stemming from the SFPA, the EU regretted the little information received on media events and suggested increasing efforts to this shared, well-deserved and expected visibility of results.

On point 1 The Gambia explained that, on the one hand there were delays in communication between the EU and The Gambia and on the other hand, the procurement process for the redirected funds was launched but it was a slow process. Hence the reallocated funds remain unspent. The Gambia also explained that some reallocations or modifications in between the different lots dedicated to the COVID-19 activities might take place, adapting to the evolution of the Pandemic. On point 2, The Gambia committed to forward the missing information as soon as possible. On point 3, the EU has shared with The Gambia the logo usually used for SFPA purposes. Also, The Gambia informed that radio and TV programmes are being used to broadcast and give visibility to the SFPA's sectoral support actions.

b) Decision on the payment of the second instalment

The EU acknowledged the COVID-19 affected the implementation process, which partially explained the execution rate under 70%. Considering the ongoing progress, the Parties agreed upon to extend, by two weeks, the deadline set for The Gambia to send to the EU both the confirmation of execution of additional actions and the scanned copies of verification sources as stipulated in the matrix. Therefore, by Thursday 10 December, considering the execution results and the verification documents provided by The Gambia, the Joint Committee will, by exchange of emails, re-evaluate the implementation of the first year programme of sectoral support activities and, accordingly, take a decision on the appropriate date to execute the payment of the 2020-2021 (second year) Sector Support contribution.

As stipulated in the Protocol, The Gambia shall confirm to the EU its bank account details ahead of the execution of the aforementioned payment. In this context, The Gambia confirmed that the sectoral support account was only dedicated to sectoral support actions and that the sectoral support amount was visible in the National Budget (2020 and 2021).

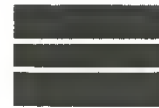
The 2019-2020 Sectoral Support Execution table presented by The Gambia is attached in Annex 3a. The 2019-2020 Revised Annual Sectoral Support Matrix presented by The Gambia and adopted by the Joint Committee is attached in Annex 3b.

The 2019-2020 Revised Multi-Annual Sectoral Support Matrix presented by The Gambia is attached in Annex 3c.

The 2019-2020 Annual Progress report presented by The Gambia is attached in Annex 4.



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3. Sectoral support

- a) Presentation by The Gambia of the 2020-2021 annual matrix

The Gambia presented to the Joint Committee its proposal for the Sectoral Support Programme for the year 2020-2021, i.e. the second tranche.

- b) Revision and adoption of the annual matrix

After discussing and revising the proposal, the Joint Committee approved the annual programme 2020-2021, as provided in Annex 3d.

4. Licence review/uptake for 2019 and 2020

The EU made a presentation of the fishing authorisation uptake for 2019 and 2020. The uptake in these last two years has remained stable:

2019: 24 authorisations were requested, 13 purse seiners (3 SP; 10 FR), 8 pole and line (SP 7; FR 1) and 3 demersal vessels (uptake only by Spain)

2020: 26 authorisations have been requested, 12 purse seiners (3 SP; 9 FR), 8 pole and line vessels (SP 7; 1 FR) and 4 demersal vessels (4 SP) and 2 Spanish support vessel were authorised in the 2020 annual period.

The EU also reminded The Gambia that the number of Support Vessels could not be higher than three per year, as established in current ICCAT's recommendations.

On the issuing of the fishing authorisations, the EU explained that in 2019 there was an average of three weeks delay on the issuing of the fishing authorisations and in 2020, 70 days delay for the demersal trawlers. The EU asked The Gambia for clarifications and for the possibility of using a provisional list of vessels as the document to allow EU vessels to fish in Gambian waters until the official fishing authorisations are delivered by The Gambia, and then received by the EU. The Gambia explained that the delays on the issuing of the fishing authorisations were due to the financial circuit implemented to receive the payments and which resulted in delays in verifying the payments from EU operators. The Gambia suggested that tuna vessels hire a local agent to facilitate the issuing of the fishing authorisations.

5. Review of 2019/2020 Catch Situation

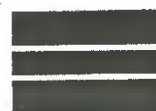
Based on the 2019 catch data shared by the EU with The Gambia a few weeks ago, the Joint Committee validated the final 2019 catch information, as follows:

Total catches for 2019:

France (Purse seiners and Long liners): 0 catches



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Spain:

- Purse Seiners 0 catches
- Pole and Lines: 2 tonnes
- Demersal (Black Hake): 771.559 tonnes.
- The subsequent amount to be paid by ship owners to The Gambian Treasury is 56.866,920 euros.

The EU also shared the provisional 2020 catch data with The Gambia

Provisional catches for 2020:

France (Purse seiners and Long liners): 0 catches

Spain:

- Purse Seiners 0 catches
- Pole and Lines: 30.245 tonnes.
- Demersal (Hake): 0 tonnes.

The Gambia agreed with the 2019 catch figures so the EU ship-owners will proceed with the payment of the catches for 2019.

6. Fishing Monitoring Centre: State of Play

The Gambia explained that due to urgency and for the need to have an up and running FMC as soon as possible, the Department of Fisheries Conference Room which is adjacent to the MCS Unit's operational base, has been refurbished, redesigned and converted into the national FMC operational center to house the equipment and operations of the FMC. The necessary furniture and equipment are yet to be installed but are being procured by the Ministry from its Fisheries Development Fund. It comprises an operations room to house the base equipment and accessories, an office for the chief of operations, a duty officer's room and a reception/waiting room.

Procurement of the equipment began with engagement of the "Collecte Localisation Satellites" (CLS), who provided quotations for the required FMC equipment comprising the Themis web, vessel activation in data base, installation and training of the FMC personnel to operate the system. The procurement was launched but was delayed due to the COVID pandemic and the first payment was eventually paid to CLS in November and by the latest update, are in the process of packaging the equipment for airfreight and delivery. Hence, the establishment and operationalization of the FMC in The Gambia is foreseen in the next few weeks.

The Gambia also explained that the Themis Web platform and the equipment have been prepared and configured by the technical team in France. The technical contact in Dakar has also confirmed readiness of the training package awaiting delivery and installation of the system for the training to be conducted for the joint personnel of the FMC (MCS and the Gambia Navy).



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The Gambia stated that the new FMC should be equipped to receive both VMS and ERS information but they will look for a confirmation from CLS. The Gambia also informed that all industrial vessels in their waters will be monitored by the FMC.

The EU thanked The Gambia for the detailed information provided and encouraged the Gambian administration to do its utmost to fasten the operationalization of the FMC.

7. Overview of the situation of the fisheries sector: COVID impact, legal framework/fisheries management plan, IUU policy, research, etc.

The Gambia provided an overview of the situation of the fisheries sector.

In relation to the COVID pandemic, The Gambia explained that there have been some difficulties in complying with the contingency plans approved following the declaration of a State of Emergency by the Gambian government. Restrictions have forced the scaling-down of all economic activities, including fishing, to comply with government guidelines. This has had an impact on fish supplies to the population, while demand has been sustained and the result has been a significant increase in prices that has not yet been normalized. Government guidelines have also affected distribution, both inland and on the coast. Exporters have also been severely affected by the situation. The government has pursued a policy of subsidies to secure jobs.

In relation to IUU fishing, The Gambia has expressed the government's commitment to combat IUU fishing. The Gambia has highlighted the existence of the annual Joint Surveillance through SRFC. The purchase of a patrol vessel to combat IUU fishing practices is also planned for the future.

Regarding the legal framework, The Gambia reported cooperation with the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) to update its legal framework, facilitated by the EU-funded PESCAO project. A fortnight ago there was a meeting between The Gambia and EFCA where legal advisors from both parties were present. EFCA is to provide a first draft of The Gambia's revised fisheries act, fisheries regulations and an IUU National Plan of Action by mid-December. The Gambia plans to use these drafts to update its existing fisheries legislation, which should come into force in 2021.

On scientific research, The Gambia showed its commitment to future participation in the EU-Senegal Joint Scientific Committees, planned for the first semester of 2021.

Finally, regarding Article 3.3 of the Agreement (*"In the interest of transparency, The Gambia undertakes to make public and exchange information relating to any agreement authorising foreign vessels in its fishing zone and the resulting fishing effort, in particular the number of fishing authorisations issued and the catches reported."*), The Gambia explained that currently there were fisheries agreements with only the EU and Senegal. The Gambia, at the request of the EU, explained the details of the reciprocity of the agreement with Senegal. The EU asked The Gambia if and how the existing fish stocks of small-pelagics were identified before delivering licences to vessels targeting small pelagics in the Gambian fishing zones. The Gambia answered that under the agreement with Senegal, licences to target small pelagics are not currently being issued.



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Concluded via video conference, 26 November, 2020

Mr Ivan Vazquez
International Policy Officer,
Trade Negotiations and Sustainable Fisheries
Partnership Agreements
DG MARE,
European Commission

Mr S.M Omar Gibba,
Deputy Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and
National Assembly Matters



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ANNEX 1

List of Participants

Delegation of the European Union

Mr Ivan Vazquez, Administrator, International Policy Officer, Trade Agreements and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements, DG MARE, European Commission
Mr Michele Surace, Fishing License Officer, Trade Agreements and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements, DG MARE, European Commission.
Ms Else Boonstra, Acting Head of the EU Delegation to The Gambia
Mr Stéphane Meert, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to The Gambia
Mr Arnaud Appriou, Fisheries Attaché, EU Delegation to Senegal

The Gambian authorities

Mr Omar Gibba, Deputy Permanent Secretary, MoFWR&NAMs
Mr Famara Darboe, Director Fisheries Department of The Gambia.
Mr Momodou Njie, Principal Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Department of The Gambia.
Mrs Anna Mbenga Cham, Principal Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Department of The Gambia.
Mr Musa Jawla, Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Department of The Gambia.



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ANNEX 2

**SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN
UNION AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

Second Joint Committee

Videoconference 25-26 November 2020

Agenda

Start of the Joint Committee on Wednesday 25 November at 12 pm Brussels time/11 am Banjul time

Day 1: 25 November:

12.00 pm – 17.00 pm Brussels time (11.00 am – 16.00 pm Banjul time)

1. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Sectoral support

- a) Presentation by The Gambia of the 2019-2020 matrix implementation performance review and financial execution
- b) Decision on the payment of the second instalment

3. Sectoral support

- a) Presentation by The Gambia of the 2020-2021 annual matrix
- b) Revision of the annual matrix
- c) Adoption of the matrix

Day 2: 26 November:

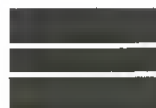
12.00 pm – 17.00 pm Brussels time (11.00 am – 16.00 pm Banjul time)

1. Licence review/uptake for 2019 and 2020

2. Review of 2019/2020 Catch Situation



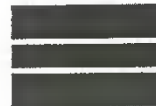
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- 3. Fishing Monitoring Centre: State of Play**
- 4. Overview of the situation of the fisheries sector: COVID impact, legal framework/fisheries management plan, IUU policy, research, etc.**
- 5. Conclusions and Minutes of the Meeting**

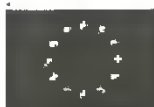


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ANNEX 3A

Annex 3 - ANNUAL (2020) REPORT MATRIX ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTORAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (see Protocol Article 4.3(b))																	
Strategic Areas	Strategic Objectives	Operations / Activities	Activity Number	Indicators of follow-up	Reference situation / objectives	Final objectives	Responsible	Sources of verification	Actual / Indicative	Comments on sources	Budget Allocation		Actual Expenditure		Actual Balance		Expenditure %
											€	GMD	€	GMD	€	GMD	
Support management measures for fisheries, aquaculture and artisanal fisheries	Strengthened management measures for fisheries, aquaculture and artisanal fisheries	Office supplies, management communication and equipment for protection and transportation of fisheries resources	1.1	Facilitate effective implementation of the sectoral support programme by the Fisheries Department	Inadequate support means to implement the sectoral support programme	Proper implementation of the sectoral support programme	DoF	Invoices and receipts	Yes, invoices and receipts available	Activity in progress	13750	783062,5	13.288,06	756755	461,9402985	26307,5	97
Strengthening MCS operations and relations in the fight against IUU Fishing	Improved monitoring and control of fisheries resources and capacity and effectiveness of the fisheries observer surveillance scheme	Training of fisheries observers and strengthen capacity and effectiveness of the fisheries observer surveillance scheme	2.1	Fisheries observers trained on inspection and control on board fishing vessels	Inadequate training of observers in the fisheries observer scheme	Improved effectiveness of the fisheries observer scheme	MoFNA	Attendance list, training certificates and certificates	Not yet	Activity is yet to be implemented	4250	242037,5	0	0	4250	242037,5	0
Strengthening Sanitary and Quality Management for Fisheries	Strengthening the organisational capacities of artisanal fisheries and increasing actions	Establishment and maintenance of a national fisheries monitoring centre (FMC) with joint operations between the Provide 2 vehicles, internet connection, equipment	2.2	A functional national fisheries monitoring centre established, equipped and operational	Absence of a Fisheries Monitoring Centre with established resources and coordination partnerships center for effective efficient	A well equipped FMC established as central MCS and coordination center for effective efficient	MoFNA	Physical AM, DoF, establishment of FMC, training of FMC staff and operations reports	Yes, Physical structure of the FMC set to be delivered / Equipment supply (CCLs) LGAP/contract	Activity in progress: Equipment set to be delivered / Technical installed: Training not conducted	125000	7118750	90.966,83	5.380.560,70	34033,17471	1938189,9	75
		Improved availability of transport of fish products	2.3	Improved availability of transport of fish products	Low level of effectiveness of transport of fish products	Increased effectiveness of transport of fish products	MoFNA	Invoices and delivery notes	Yes, complete and delivery	Activity is complete and indicative	28000	1594600	28000	1.594.600	0	0	100
		Strengthening the organisational capacities of artisanal fisheries and increasing actions	3.1	Main fisheries operator organisation as t of fisheries operators legalised and their	Low level of effectiveness of fisheries operators partnership for meaningful	Improved effectiveness of fisheries operators partnership for meaningful	MoFNA	List of organisations established and strengthened	Yes, List of organisations established and strengthened	Activity in progress with variable means of verification indicative of	15000	854250	5.395,35	295875	9804,653205	558375	35
		Strengthening the organisational capacities of artisanal fisheries and increasing actions	4.1	Environmental, social and economic effect and impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the fisheries and aquaculture	Low level of preparedness and high vulnerability awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic, reduced vulnerability	Increased level of preparedness and high vulnerability awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic, reduced vulnerability	DoF, MoFNA	Progress and annual implementation reports, Procurement documents, delivery notes and	Yes, Expert consultation reports and mission reports available. The current annual report is also	Activity being implemented but yet to incur expenditure	55000	8132250	0	0	55000	3132150	0
Sectoral Support Programme Management and Monitoring	Strengthening the organisational capacities of artisanal fisheries and increasing actions	Coordination, implementation, visibility of events, monitoring and reporting for the sectoral support Programme	5.1	Effective and timely implementation, visibility and reporting for the benefit of the EU-Gambia Joint Committee	Absence of a sectoral support and management team	Timely and effective implementation of the sectoral support, Reports available with visibility of results of implementation	DoF	Annual implementation reports	Yes: The current annual implementation report is indicative: Expert counsels, terms of reference, payment schedules,	Activity is in progress	34000	1916000	30.490,20	1733000	3569,798068	203300	90
Total											275000	15661150	167.680,48	9.560.790,70	107119,5669	6100459,3	61



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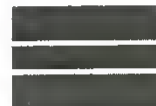


ANNEX 3B

SFP European Union - The Gambia 2019-2025									
Annex 3b: REVISED ANNUAL (2020) SECTORIAL SUPPORT MATRIX (see Protocol: Article 4.1(b))									
Strategic Axes	Strategic Targets	Operations / Activities	Indicators of follow-up/Results	Reference situation / December 2019	Final objectives 2025	Responsible Institution	Sources of verification	Budget Amount	
								Year 2020	Budget (GMD) (€)
Support management measures for fisheries, aquaculture and artisanal fisheries	Strengthened management and protection of fisheries resources	Office supplies, communication equipment and transportation	Facilitate effective implementation of the sectoral support programme by the Fisheries Department	Inadequate support means to implement the sectoral support programme	Proper implementation of the sectoral support programme	DoF	Invoices and receipts	13750	13750
	Improved monitoring and control of fisheries resources and promotion of participatory surveillance systems to fight IUU fishing	Training of fisheries observers and seamen to strengthen and increase capacity and effectiveness of the fisheries observer scheme and facilitate language communication	Fisheries observers trained on inspection and control onboard fishing vessels	Inadequate training of observers in the observer scheme	Improved effectiveness of the fisheries observer scheme	MoFWNAM, DoF	Attendance list, training curricula and certificates	4250	4250
		Establishment and maintenance of a national fisheries monitoring centre (FMC) equipped and with joint operational operations between the Navy and the Fisheries MCS Unit equipped with 2 vehicles, internet connection, tablets etc., for electronic data collection and communication, to support the operational activities work of the Fisheries Department.	A functional national fisheries monitoring centre established, equipped and operational	Absence of a Fisheries Monitoring centre with centralised resources and partnerships for effective coordination and implementation of MCS activities including fisheries	A well equipped FMC established as central MCS coordination center for efficient coordination of effective MCS operations	MoFWNAM, DoF	Physical establishment of FMC, training of FMC staff and operations reports	125000	125000
		Improved availability of transport means and supporting facilities for fisheries activities and reporting	Improved availability of transport means and supporting equipment and facilities for fisheries activities and reporting	The Fisheries Department is inadequately equipped with necessary facilities to conduct its business more effectively	Increased productivity and effectiveness of the Fisheries Administration, with improved fisheries data collection and communication	MoFWNAM, DoF	Procurement documents, delivery notes and inventory of equipment	28000	28000
Strengthening Sanitary and Quality Management for Artisanal Fisheries and	Strengthening capacities of artisanal fisheries and increasing quality and safety of products in environmental, social and economic conditions of the fisheries and aquaculture sector resilient	Strengthen the organizational development capacities of artisanal fisheries actors	Main fisheries operator organizations revitalized, legalised and their capacities strengthened	Low level of organisational development of fisheries operators for meaningful cooperation, representation and support to stakeholders	Improved organisation of fisheries operators and effective partnership of the fisheries administration and fisheries stakeholders	MoFWNA DoF, NAAFO, NASCOM, Association of Gambian Fishing Companies (AGFC), TRY, LACOMs	List of organisations established and strengthened	15000	15000
		Support to emergency response measures for the New Coronavirus SARS-2 (COVID-19) pandemic in fisheries for prevention, adaptation, and resilience	Environmental, social and economic effect and impact of COVID-19 pandemic minimised on the fisheries sector, particularly in fishing communities	Low level of preparedness against and high vulnerability of fishing communities to the emergent COVID-19 pandemic; low level of hygiene and sanitary awareness	Increased level of preparedness and awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic, reduced vulnerability of fishing communities with increased means, resources and effective implementation of the sectoral support	DoF, MoFWNAM	Progress and annual implementation reports, Procurement documents, delivery notes and materials and equipment inventory, invoices, receipts and delivery	55,000	55000
Sectoral Support Programme Management and Monitoring		Coordination, implementation, visibility of events, monitoring and reporting for the sectoral support Programme	Effective and timely implementation, visibility and reporting for the benefit of the EU team	Absence of a sectoral support and management and implementation of the sectoral support	Timely and effective implementation of the sectoral support	DoF	Annual implementation reports	34000	34000
								275000	275000



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ANNEX 3C

Annex 3C: REVISED MULTI-ANNUAL (2020) SECTORAL SUPPORT MATRIX (see Protocol Article 4.1(b))								Amount per activity/per year						Budget (GMD)	Budget	
Strategic Axes	Strategic Targets	Operations / Activities	Indicators of follow-up/Results	Reference situation / December 2019	Final objectives 2025	Responsible Institution	Sources of verification	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6			
Support management measures for fisheries, aquaculture and marine culture	Strengthening and management of fisheries resources	Review and updating of the legal framework for fisheries and development of regulations on protection of marine mammals	Updated fisheries and aquaculture incorporating marine mammals protection legislation	Existing fisheries policy (2007) is reviewed and updated	Revised and updated fisheries Regulations (validated, passed and adopted)	Ministry of Fisheries, MoF/NAM, DoF Ministry of Justice (MoJ)	Meeting report on validation, New legislation, publication in the Gambia Gazette	0	25000	0	0	0	0	0	35000	25000
		Development of mechanisms for Support implementation of the existing NASCOM and TRY fishery co-management plans and production of fish from fish farming to support livelihoods and fisheries management	Marine mammals by-improvement of fisheries co-management plans and production of fish from fish farming to support livelihoods and fisheries management	Implementation of the existing NASCOM fish and oyster fish and oyster fish production under high potentials for support livelihoods and fisheries management	Revised and updated fisheries Regulations (validated, passed and adopted)	MoF/NAM, DoF-MCS, MoF/NAM, DoF-MCS, MoF/NAM, DoF, EAO	Database and data collected on Participatory MCS reports	0	35000	0	0	0	0	0	35000	25000
		Improving data collection on the sole fish and oysters including catch assessment, monitoring of effort and stock assessments	Improved availability of catch and effort data on the sole fish fishery	Inadequate availability of valuable data and information to support implementation of fishery management plans	Improved fisheries data collection on target sole fish and oysters in the fisheries co-management plans that informs improved management of	MoF/NAM, DoF, NASCOM	Database and data collection records	0	7000	0	0	0	0	0	7000	25000
		Expansion of the TRY oyster and cockle management plan to cover other geographical areas in the southern and northern banks of the Office supplies, communication equipment and transportation	Increased scope of coverage and implementation of the TRY co-management plan for oyster and cockles in new areas	The Oyster and cockles management plan is currently restricted in scope while oyster harvesting takes place in adjacent areas, thus causing a disparity	Increased area of coverage of the oyster and cockles management plan and its effective implementation in these areas	MoF/NAM, DoF	Revised and updated approved management plan (Gazette)	0	45000	17000	12250	12000	7750	0	94000	25000
		Facilitate effective implementation of the sectoral support programme by the Fisheries Department	Facilitate effective implementation of the sectoral support programme by the Fisheries Department	Proper implementation of the sectoral support programme	Proper implementation of the sectoral support programme	DoF	Reports on community meetings, invoices and receipts	0	0	45000	15000	30000	0	0	90000	25000
		Supporting collaboration and surveillance patrols coordinated and conducted	Supporting collaboration and surveillance patrols coordinated and conducted	Limited capacity and low level of patrols by NASCOM and partners in the control of fishing activities and enforcement of measures for implementation of inadequate training of observers in the observer scheme	Participatory surveillance undertaken between communities and authorities with reinforced collaboration on fishery resources	MoF/NAM, DoF, NASCOM, TRY, GN, Gambia Fire Service Department (GFS)	Reports of participatory surveillance operations	0	12000	6000	6000	6000	6000	0	36000	25000
		Training of fisheries observers trained on inspection and control onboard fishing vessels	Training of fisheries observers trained on inspection and control onboard fishing vessels	Absence of a Fisheries Monitoring centre with centralised resources and partnerships for improved availability of	A well equipped FMC established as central MCS coordination center for efficient coordination of activities and increased productivity and	MoF/NAM, DoF-MCS, GN	Physical establishment of FMC, training of FMC staff and operations reports	0	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	0	60000	25000
		Establishment of a functional maintenance of a national fisheries monitoring centre (FMC) with joint established, operations equipped and Provide 2 vehicles, internet	Establishment of a functional maintenance of a national fisheries monitoring centre (FMC) with joint established, operations equipped and Provide 2 vehicles, internet	Absence of a Fisheries Monitoring centre with centralised resources and partnerships for improved availability of	A well equipped FMC established as central MCS coordination center for efficient coordination of activities and increased productivity and	MoF/NAM, DoF	Physical establishment of FMC, training of FMC staff and operations reports	13750	13750	13750	13750	13750	13750	0	82500	25000
		Supporting collaboration and surveillance patrols coordinated and conducted	Supporting collaboration and surveillance patrols coordinated and conducted	Limited capacity and low level of patrols by NASCOM and partners in the control of fishing activities and enforcement of measures for implementation of inadequate training of observers in the observer scheme	Participatory surveillance undertaken between communities and authorities with reinforced collaboration on fishery resources	MoF/NAM, DoF, NASCOM, TRY, GN, Gambia Fire Service Department (GFS)	Reports of participatory surveillance operations	0	5250	5000	10000	5000	10000	0	35250	25000
		Training of fisheries observers trained on inspection and control onboard fishing vessels	Training of fisheries observers trained on inspection and control onboard fishing vessels	Absence of a Fisheries Monitoring centre with centralised resources and partnerships for improved availability of	A well equipped FMC established as central MCS coordination center for efficient coordination of activities and increased productivity and	MoF/NAM, DoF	Physical establishment of FMC, training of FMC staff and operations reports	0	4250	3000	3000	5000	8500	0	28750	25000
Strengthen MCS operations and reinforce the fight against IUU Fishing	Improve monitoring and control of surveillance fisheries undertaken by TRY, NASCOM and National Fisheries Platform	Supporting collaboration and surveillance patrols coordinated and conducted	Supporting collaboration and surveillance patrols coordinated and conducted	Limited capacity and low level of patrols by NASCOM and partners in the control of fishing activities and enforcement of measures for implementation of inadequate training of observers in the observer scheme	Participatory surveillance undertaken between communities and authorities with reinforced collaboration on fishery resources	MoF/NAM, DoF, NASCOM, TRY, GN, Gambia Fire Service Department (GFS)	Reports of participatory surveillance operations	125000	50000	4000	8000	3000	0	0	185000	25000
		Training of fisheries observers trained on inspection and control onboard fishing vessels	Training of fisheries observers trained on inspection and control onboard fishing vessels	Absence of a Fisheries Monitoring centre with centralised resources and partnerships for improved availability of	A well equipped FMC established as central MCS coordination center for efficient coordination of activities and increased productivity and	MoF/NAM, DoF	Physical establishment of FMC, training of FMC staff and operations reports	26000	0	0	0	32000	0	0	60000	25000

Total



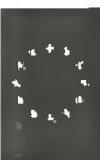
**SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENT
EUROPEAN UNION / THE GAMBIA**



ANNEX 3D

[illegible]

**SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENT
EUROPEAN UNION / THE GAMBIA**



Strengthening Sanitary and Quality Protection and conservation of fragile ecosystems	Establishment and maintenance of a functional national fisheries monitoring centre (FMC) with joint operations between established, equipped and the Navy and the Fisheries MCS Unit operational equipped with vital MCS equipment including combined VMS/AIS Canoe registration: Development and implementation of a Artisanal fishing vessels strategy for canoe registration and marking to establish an updated register of canoes.	A well equipped FMC established as central MCS coordination center for efficient coordination of effective MCS operations A register of fishing canoes to identify and trace canoes; reinforce the fight against IUU fishing and facilitate catch certification, traceability of products and a keep a register of fishing new canoes never having been registered have	MoFWNAM, DoF-MCS, GN MoFWNAM, DoF, Gambia Maritime Administration (GMA)	Physical establishment of FMC, training of FMC staff and operations reports Procurement of fishing canoes Register of fishing canoes	50000 2847500
	Strengthening capacities of artisanal fisheries operators and fisheries extension and inspection staff on hygiene, fish handling, preservation, and regulatory personnel and Support the TRY women oyster Mangrove vegetation as association of oyster harvesters with habitats restored in selected collaboration of partners to engage in areas the restoration and regeneration of mangroves as habitats and carbon sink and their monitoring during the closed season by harvesters as part of alternative livelihoods activities of the women.	Strengthened capacities of fisheries operators, extension and regulatory personnel and oyster Mangrove vegetation as association of oyster harvesters with habitats restored in selected collaboration of partners to engage in areas the restoration and regeneration of mangroves as habitats and carbon sink and their monitoring during the closed season by harvesters as part of alternative livelihoods activities of the women.	MoFWNAM, DoF, NAAFO, NASCOM, LACOMS, AGFC, CFMCMC MoFWNAM, DoF, TRY, DoPWW, Forestry Department	Number of training activities, training curricula, list of Area of mangrove vegetation restored/regenerated Number of participants in restoration activities	10000 569500 5000 284750
	Sectoral Support Programme Management and Monitoring	Effective and timely implementation, visibility and reporting for the benefit of the EU-Gambia Joint Committee and the public	DoF	Annual implementation reports	34000 1936300
	Total				775000 15661250

Annex 4

Ministry of Fisheries Water Resources and National Assembly Member Matters



Draft Annual Report
EU-Gambia Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement
Sectoral Support Programme Implementation 2020



**"STRENGTHENING OF THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES RESOURCES AND
DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR IN THE GAMBIA"**



NOVEMBER 1, 2020

6 Marina Parade Banjul The Gambia

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List of Abbreviations

AFRICOSA - All Artisanal Fisheries Cooperative Association
AIS – Automatic Identification System
CCRF – Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CFC – Community Fisheries Centre
CFCMC - Community Fisheries Center Management Committees
CLS – Collect Localisation Satellites
COVID – Coronavirus Disease
CRR - Central River Region
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation
FDF - Fisheries Development Fund
FMC – Fisheries Monitoring Centre
FSSP - Fisheries Sectoral Support Programme
GBA - Greater Banjul Area
GMD – Gambian Dalasi
GRTS – Gambia Radio and Television Services
IUU- Illegal Unreported Unregulated
JMC – Joint Committee meeting
KMC – Kanifing Municipal Council
LACOM - Landing Site Co-Management Committee
LRR - Lower River Region
MCS – Monitoring Control and Surveillance
MoFWRNAM – Ministry of Fisheries Water Resources and National Assembly Matters
NAAFO - National Association of Artisanal Fisheries Operators
NAM – National Assembly Matters
NASCOM - National Sole Fish and Catfish Co-Management Committee
NBD - North Bank Region
NDP – National Development Plan
PONSAGFAG - National Platform of Non-State Actors in Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors of the Gambia
SFPA – Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement
SSP - Sectoral Support Programme
VMS – Vessel Monitoring System
WCR – West Coast Region

1 Introduction

The EU and The Gambia signed a six years Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPa) to strengthen cooperation in the development of sustainable fisheries, fight against Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, promote the blue economy including aquaculture, and support the development of the artisanal or small-scale fisheries sector in The Gambia.

The protocol to the agreement includes a financial contribution from the EU of EUR550,000 per annum paid to The Gambia, including a portion of EUR275,000 for access to legal fishing authorisation, and a portion of EUR275,000 representing sectoral support to finance implementation of a jointly agreed Fisheries Sector Support Programme (FSSP) of activities for the strengthening of the sustainable management of fisheries resources and development of the fisheries sector in The Gambia. The Programme of activities were jointly agreed between EU and The Gambia at the first Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) Joint of the parties (set up under the Agreement to monitor application of the Agreement) which was held on 5-6 December 2019.

The overall objective of the Programme is to strengthen sustainable management of fisheries resources and development of the fisheries sector in The Gambia, through implementation of activities identified in the Programme. The specific objectives of the Programme are the following:

- a) Support management measures for fisheries, including aquaculture and artisanal fisheries;
- b) Strengthen MCS operations to improve fisheries management and reinforce the fight against IUU Fishing for sustainable fisheries;
- c) Strengthening Sanitary and Quality Management to develop fish export capacities and increase benefits,
- d) Support the development of scientific and research capacities; and
- e) Enhance protection and conservation of fragile ecosystems

Ahead of the JCM meeting, The Gambian side with technical support of its EU counterparts, prepared the Sectoral Support Programme comprising a strategic document and programme of activities in the form of a six-year multi-annual and a first year's annual matrix of activities, for implementation in line with terms and conditions of the Agreement and its protocol and related procedures. The multi-annual and annual (2020) matrix of activities were presented to the meeting, reviewed, finalized and agreed for transparent and visible implementation to support sustainable management of fisheries resources and development of the sector. The Programme has been under implementation from February 2020 to date and the current report is the first annual report of the Programme implementation presented to the second JCM on 25-26 November 2020. The report concerns the management of the FSSP Funds and implementation of activities including levels of progress and expenditure, and related results and outputs.

1.1 Management of the Sector Support Programme Funds and Implementation of Activities

Following the conclusion of the first JCM, the annual sector support fund amount of EUR 75,000, equivalent to GMD15, 661, 250 was paid and transferred by the EU side to The Gambian side. As agreed, The Gambia opened a separate special programme treasury account,

named Fisheries Sectorial Support Fund, at the Central Bank of The Gambia where the fund was paid into and is controlled by the Accountant General's Department. The funds are meant to support and complement the fisheries sector national budget allocation and treated as such in its administration and implementation of the programme. Management and use of the fund is legally guided by the agreement and national legislation in The Gambia, and is treated the same way as government budget allocation to the fisheries sector.

Following receipt of the fund, the Fisheries administration, Ministry of Fisheries Water Resources and National Assembly Matters (MoFWRNAM) and its technical Department of Fisheries embarked on implementation of the first annual Fisheries Sector Support Programme activities for 2020 which effectively began in February 2020. To facilitate implementation of Programme, the Ministry through the Director of Fisheries engaged the services of two expert consultants to provide technical assistance and support implementation of the Sectoral Support Programme. The Fisheries management and development expert and an Organizational Development specialists were hired in February 2020 through binding annual (renewable) consultancy contract agreement with the Director of Fisheries based on specified terms of reference.

The Fisheries management and development expert Mr. Alhaji Momodou Jallow, is a retired international civil servant who worked with FAO for many years, beginning as fisheries project officer in 1995 and rising through the ranks to FAO Country Representative for Uganda until his recent retirement. Prior to working with FAO Mr. Jallow was a fisheries officer in the Fisheries Department in The Gambia. The Organisational development expert, Mr. Mamanding Kuyateh is an international consultant and worked extensively in regional countries with development agencies and projects, including fisheries projects and including in The Gambia fisheries sector. Mr. Kuyateh was also the Director of the government Department of Community Development before his retirement from service. The experts have since been involved and played instrumental and supportive roles in implementation of the sectoral support programme activities.

Programme implementation has made much progress but was impeded by the COVID-19 Pandemic which affected progress as it came amidst a state of unpreparedness and had a crippling effect to normal life and activities. With advent of the Pandemic, it was proposed by our EU partners and welcomed that sector support funds could be reallocated to support the COVID-19 national response strategy in the fisheries sector based on its high importance in terms of food security and local economies. Such redirected funds were to be target at financing short to medium-term measures to ensure certain hygiene conditions in the daily practices of local communities among others.

Consequently, the Sector Support Programme was redesigned through revision of the Programme annual and multi-annual matrices resulting in the creation of a new Strategic target and activity directed to supporting fishing communities who are among most vulnerable and potentially most needy sections of society during the Pandemic. The final objective of the new activity concerned increasing levels of preparedness and awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic, reduced vulnerability of fishing communities with means, resources (equipment, materials and facilities) to implement emergency measures for COVID-19 prevention, and to minimize its environmental, social and economic impacts in fishing communities. The annual budget was redistributed by temporal cancellation of implementation of two activities and curtailment of the budget of one other activity in the 2020 annual matrix to create a budget line of 55,000 Euro for the new anti-COVID response activity. The revision was reflected in both

the annual and multi-annual matrices which, together with the expenditure proposals (in four lots) on the activity were shared with EU counterparts and agreed. The revised Annual and Multi-annual Programme Matrices are attached as Annex 1a and 1b respectively. Annex 1c is the Summary of lots on the COVID-19 Response Budget proposal.

Implementation had started and progressed well for many programme activities but some were slow to expedite. Of the seven programme activities for 2020, one activity was fully implemented with 100% expenditure level, two activities are yet to make expenditure while the remaining four activities are progress well with generally high levels of expenditure. in their in Overall actual budgetary expenditure for the programme currently stands at about 61%. However, expenditure is expected to rise with implementation of planned activities with corresponding increase in expenditure, foreseen shortly as funds stand committed for payment before end of the year. If expenses are made on these commitments and taken into account, the total percentage expenditure will rise to, or beyond the 70% threshold required for eligibility for funds next year.

2 Implementation of Individual Programme Activities for Respective Strategic Targets

Strategic Target 1: Strengthened management and protection of fisheries resources

Activity 1.1: Office supplies, communication equipment and transportation

The activity was conceived to support activities and operations of the Fisheries Department in the execution of its regular fisheries development and management work including implementation of the sector support programme. It effectively complements the Department's budgetary allocations and facilitated its operational and development activities.

Activity budgetary expenditure

The activity budget for the period helped to purchase office equipment (two laptop computers and accessories among others), pay for fuel and stationary supplies, communication equipment (mobile routers) and internet access subscriptions/air time for the Department and personnel including personnel involved in implementation of the Sector Support Programme. This was meant to facilitate communication, particularly amidst the current COVID-19 pandemic. It was also used to pay for airtime in broadcasting of fisheries information and communication material through TV and radio programmes.

The activity scored high on budget expenditure. The state of expenditure for the activity is tabulated below showing 97% expenditure level. The available sources of verification for the activity are listed at Annex 3.

Activity No.	Budget Allocation		Actual Expenditure		Actual Balance		Expenditure %
	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	
1.1	13750	783062.5	13,288.06	756755	461.9403	26307.5	97

Activity results outputs and impact

The activity has helped the Fisheries Department acquire necessary work and communication equipment and facilities in the form of computers that support staff productivity and performance, and improved connectivity and communication in work processes. This is particularly valuable during the current pandemic and implementation of the Sector Support Programme. The activity budget helped finance payment for airtime for the production and broadcasting of television and radio programmes in support of the fisheries communication strategy. This provides the platform for awareness and sensitization, information sharing and education, announcements and advertisements, for improved visibility of the fisheries sector and in the implementation of the Sector Support programme. The activity budget effectively contributed to and supported implementation of the SSP and activities of the Fisheries Department during the year and impacted on overall sector development and management is expected to increase its impact on the sector thereby contributing realization of the overall objectives and outcome of the programme.

Strategic Target 2: Improved monitoring and control of fisheries resources and promotion of participatory surveillance systems to fight IUU fishing

Activity 2.1: Training of fisheries observers and seamen to strengthen and increase capacity and effectiveness of the fisheries observer scheme and facilitate language communication.

This activity on training of fisheries observers and seamen is targeted at developing and strengthening of capacities of fisheries observers as scientific observers and toward their responsibilities for enforcement, statistical, research and scientific data collection and reporting onboard fishing vessels. The training also seeks to facilitate basic language communication skills by observers. However, the activity is yet as its implemented is delayed mainly due to the COVID-19 restrictions. It is currently being planned expected to be executed in December 2020 or early in 2021.

Activity budgetary expenditure

Expenditures are yet to be made on the activity as can be seen in the below table of the activity budget and expenditure and at Annex 3.

Activity	Budget Allocation		Actual Expenditure		Actual Balance		Expenditure
No.	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	%
2.1	4250	242037.5	0	0	4250	242037.5	0

Activity results outputs and impact

Activity is yet to be implemented

Sources of verification

Activity is yet to be implemented

Strategic Target 2: Improved monitoring and control of fisheries resources and promotion of participatory surveillance systems to fight IUU fishing

Activity 2.2: Establishment and maintenance of a national fisheries monitoring center (FMC) with joint operations between the Navy and the Fisheries MCS Unit equipped with vital MCS equipment including: combined VMS/AIS systems, 5 computers, 50 beacons, radio communication, electronic mesh gauges, working and protective and safety gears and other facilitating equipment for MCS operations; and training on the application of VMS and AIS in MCS operations.

The establishment of a functional Fisheries Monitoring, Centre (FMC) is progressing albeit challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is aimed at strengthening the country's coastal fisheries monitoring and surveillance systems to facilitate effective control on exploitation of the resources and contribute to the fight against IUU fishing. It was therefore planned to provide equipment and build capacities for effective implementation of fisheries management plans, fight illegal fishing and protect stocks in the fisheries waters against overexploitation. It involves acquiring and installing a Vessel Monitoring Solution (VMS and its equipment) training and operationalization of the system and providing the space, furniture and fixtures and related accessories to house and operate the FMC.

Due to urgency and for the convenience of operationalizing the FMC, the Department of Fisheries Conference Room which is adjacent to the MCS Unit's operational base, was refurbished, redesigned and converted into the national FMC operational center to house the equipment and operations of the FMC. The necessary furniture and fixtures are yet to be installed but are being procured by the Ministry from its Fisheries Development Fund. It comprises of an operations room to house the base equipment and accessories, an office for the chief of operations, a duty officer's room and a reception/waiting room.

Procurement of the equipment began with engagement of the Collect Localisation Satellites (CLS), a French Company who provided quotations for the required FMC equipment comprising the Themis web, vessel activation in data base, installation, training of FMC personnel to operate the system, An Automatic Identification System (AIS), Hardware (5 computers), 30 beacons, annual iridium VMS fee for 24 positions per day, transportation and activation. The option was economically advantageous and appealing and was endorsed by the Ministerial Contracts Committee at its sitting with justified single sourcing from CLS.

Following approval by the Ministerial contracts committee, and with justification for single sourcing, the Gambia Public Procurement Authority (GPPA) was contacted and approval secured to single-source supply of the FMC equipment, accessories and related services. The approval enabled the procurement process to commence.

A letter of agreement (LoA) /contract was signed between the the Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and NAM (MoFWRNAM) as the client, and CLS as the service provider which, specified the terms and conditions on the purchase and delivery to The Gambia. The agreement required 60% advance payment on the total cost of EUR116,650 (equivalent to about GMD 4229495.7), and the remaining 40% is to be paid post-delivery. However, the process of the transactions, including payment, shipment and delivery of the consignment were hampered; complicated and delayed by advent of the COVID-19 restrictions with shutdowns and hindrances in communication. It was initially anticipated that a full fledged and operational

FMC would be in place by March or April 2020. However, the expectations did not happen thanks to the COVID 19 pandemic and upsurge in cases, lockdowns and other restrictions and difficulties in communications. The CLS office in France was partially closed as was the case for most airspace for any deliveries.

Further delay was caused by the fact that in September 2020, a payment voucher was raised mistakenly for 100% of the cost which was later noticed by the Internal Audit Department as contrary to the terms and conditions of the Agreement/contract, but the 100% payment had already been transferred by Central Bank of The Gambia to CLS. The CLS acknowledged receipt of the payment and began working on the process for delivery of the equipment to The Gambia. However, it was required that the 100% mistaken payment be reversed to respect the agreement. Accordingly, CLS was contacted and made the reversal. The 60% payment was eventually paid to CLS in November and by the latest update, are in the process of packaging the equipment for airfreight and delivery. Delivery of the will facilitate progress in establishment and operationalization of the FMC in The Gambia, foreseen in the next few weeks.

It is informed that the Themis Web platform has been prepared and configured by the technical team in France and the equipment. The technical contact in Dakar has also confirmed readiness of the training package awaiting delivery and installation of the system for the training to be conducted for the joint personnel of the FMC (MCS and the Gambia Navy).

Activity budgetary expenditure

The total activity budget was EUR125,000, equivalent to GMD7118750 and the activity scored high on budget expenditure. The state of expenditure for the activity is tabulated below showing 73% expenditure level. Expenditure areas are on the purchase of the FMC equipment and related items and on contribution to cost of refurbishment of the FMC building whose balance was contributed by the Ministry from the Fisheries Development fund. Available sources of verification for the activity are shown at annex 3. With payment of the remaining committed balance to CLS is made, the total expenditure level of the activity will become 100%.

Activity No.	Budget Allocation		Actual Expenditure		Actual Balance		Expenditure	Committed
	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	%	
2.2	125000	7118750	90,966.83	5,180,560.70	34033.17	1938189.3	73	1938189.3

Activity results outputs and impact

The establishment of the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) is in progress for the realization of the objectives. The physical structure of FMC is now in place and the Fisheries Department will pay for the furniture and fixtures for the FMC from the Fisheries Development Fund as complementary financing. The equipment is being procured with 60% part payment already made and on its way to delivery. The balance of payment will be finalized on delivery and installation of the equipment. It is expected that the FMC as a whole will soon be fully realized with the delivery and installation of the equipment and training of personnel, expected before end of the year. Hence, the establishment of a well-equipped FMC as central MCS coordination center for efficient coordination of effective MCS operations is progressively underway for effective coordinated fisheries monitoring operations with anticipated impact of improved management of fisheries resources.

Strategic Target 2: Improved monitoring and control of fisheries resources and promotion of participatory surveillance systems to fight IUU fishing

Activity 2.3: Provide 2 vehicles, internet connection, tablets etc. for electronic data collection and communication, to support the operational activities work of the Fisheries Department.

The Programme has in August/September 2020, effectively finalized the purchase of one of the vehicles (Toyota pick-up) as budgeted in the 2020 Programme, for the Fisheries Department as planned to support and improve availability of means of transportation and execution of the Department's activities including coordination and implementation of the sectoral support programme. This first vehicle purchased by the Programme has been delivered and is registered in the name of the Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources with plate number: FSSP 1 (Fisheries Sectoral Support Programme).

Activity budgetary expenditure

The budget for the purchase of the vehicle was short of the current cost of the vehicle and the difference complemented and paid for by the Ministry through its existing Fisheries Development Fund (FDF) established for development of the fisheries sector, particularly artisanal fisheries. The vehicle was therefore jointly financed by the Ministry and the Programme. The activity is fully implemented with purchase of the vehicle and the following is a tabulation of the state of expenditure of the activity budget. The available sources of verification for the activity are indicated at annex 3. The physical means of verification will be compiled and presented/shared.

Activity No.	Budget Allocation		Actual Expenditure		Actual Balance		Expenditure %
	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	
2.3	28000	1594600	28000	1,594,600	0	0	100

Activity results outputs and impact

The vehicle is physically available for use in the coordination of the EU Sectoral Support Programme and execution of official responsibilities and activities of the Fisheries Department. It is of added value as it will facilitate work and improve productivity and effectiveness in carrying out work on implementation of the Sector Support Programme and support the execution of field and official duties.

Strategic Target 3: Strengthening capacities of artisanal fisheries and increasing quality and safety of products in post-harvest fisheries

Two activities were originally planned for implementation in 2020 under this strategic target. One of these activities, concerning training of post-harvest operators, was temporarily cancelled for this year during the June/July 2020 Programme review, because it could not be implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its restrictions. The corresponding budget activity was therefore redirected towards the new anti-COVID intervention (Strategic Target 4 and its activity 4.1), introduced to support the national COVID response in fishing communities to cope with the outbreak of the pandemic. The initial budget of the second activity under the

strategic target (strengthen the organizational development of actors) was also curtailed and redirected to the anti-COVID activity budget.

Activity 3.1: Strengthen the organizational development capacities of artisanal fisheries actors

This activity is one of the most intensely pursued activity as it is broad-based, multi-faceted and involves diverse and much dispersed fisheries actors. The activity is reported here with detailed description of its implementation attached as Annex 2. It was undertaken with the direct support of the two expert consultants. Having the final objective as improved organisation of fisheries operators and their effective partnership with the fisheries administration, implementation of the activity is premised on the background that the 1997 Constitution of The Republic of The Gambia calls for participatory and decentralized local development and governance. This call also provided the basis for the Decentralization and Local Government Reforms Act of 2001 which also calls for greater citizen participation and involvement in their own development and the management of natural resources. The Fisheries Act 2007 also empowered fishing communities to participate in the sustainable exploitation and utilization of fishery resources and has empowered the fisheries authorities to legally allocate special fishery management areas for community based management.

It is conceived that sustainable governance and development of artisanal fisheries resources require trusted formal partnerships between actors and the fisheries administration. In order to facilitate this partnership and the implementation of the policy and legal frameworks for fisheries, and for realisation of sector outcomes of the National Development Plan (NDP), the fisheries administration remains resolved to strengthen the organizational and developmental capacities of artisanal or small-scale fisheries actors as partners.

The activity is implemented to remedy the prevailing low level of organisational development of the sector, necessary for partnership in the management of the fishery resources and development of the sector. It is also conceived that strengthening of capacities must take place at all levels, from micro-meso-macro levels within the framework of the national development continuum and based on the tenets of credible, equitable, fair and transparent representation. Hence, with guidance and support of the experienced experts, sub-activities were identified and guided the implementation approach to the activity and its sub-activities presented below.

Sub-Activity3.1.1 Inception meetings

The first sub-activity was the holding of inception meetings between the experts and the fisheries administration to establish common understanding and working approaches, and to agree the basis and modalities of engagement. This was followed by engagement of the various existing fisheries and community organisations in a series of consultation meetings and field activities.

Sub-Activity 3.1.2 Assessment and Appraisal of the institutional and organizational status of fisher-folk organisations

A two days initial consultation meeting was organized with existing fisheries organisations on 19th and 20th February 2020. The meeting was well attended by male and female (mainly

executive member) representatives of the organisations, personnel of the Fisheries Department and the experts.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- Explain to participants about the EU/Gambia SFPA and share the Sector Support Programme and its objectives and activities with them;
- Make participants understand the importance and need to properly establish a functional and credible fisher-folk organization including a national fisherfolk umbrella organization,
- Make participants understand and appreciate the principles of institution building, integration and cooperation within the programme framework and for development and management of the fisheries sector.
- appraise the training and capacity development needs of existing and anticipated national fisherfolk executives for effective leadership and for steering the course of organisations;
- Initiate a process of reform of main fisheries organisations and the formation of a well-represented, effective and credible national fisher folk umbrella organization.

Representatives of the following fisherfolk groups attended this initial meeting and provided information including on their group structures and functions:

- i. National Sole Fish and Catfish Co-Management Committee (NASCOM),
- ii. Landing Site Co-Management Committee (LACOM),
- iii. National Association of Artisanal Fisheries Operators (NAAFO),
- iv. Ndeflen Fishermen Association,
- v. National Fisheries Platform,
- vi. All Artisanal Fisheries Cooperative Association (AFRICOSA), and
- vii. Aquaculture Fish Farmers Foundation.

Among other things, participants were informed/reminded of the EU-Gambia Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) and what it entails including the sectoral support component as financial contribution of the EU towards the sustainable management of fisheries resources and development of the fisheries sector. The sector support programme of activities for implementation during the six years duration of the Agreement with an annual budget amount of EUR275,000 were presented to the participants. It was explained that some of the programme activities involved the strengthening of capacities of fisher-folk organisations and establishing mutual partnerships for the management of the fisheries resources and development of the sector.

The meeting which took a multidisciplinary approach, assessed the organisations on the basis of their origins, objectives, organizational structures, mode of formation, period of existence, constitutional and legal status among others as basis capacity development. The assessments also had the purpose to make comparisons for conformity with accepted norms on legal establishment of the organisations, but also to initiate a process of revitalization or formation as the case may be, of associations at community/village, district and regional levels. It was also aimed at the eventual legal establishment of a well-structured and recognized, inclusive, equitable and viable national umbrella organisation of fisheries actors. The meeting collected useful information, and made important findings and recommendations that paved the way for subsequent activities.

Sub-Activity 3.1.3 Follow-up Appraisal of Institutional and Organizational Status of Fisher-folk Groups and Associations

Based on conclusions and the recommendations of the initial 2-day meeting, an appraisal field mission was undertaken in March 2020 by the expert consultants and fisheries officials to make follow-up consultations with the various fisher-folk organizations. The mission visited (20) inland fisheries communities and three (3) aquaculture sites in five of the six regions (NBR, WCR, LRR, CRR and KMC) where they held assessment meetings and discussed with executives and key members of several community, district, regional and with existing national fisheries associations. A report on the consultation mission was prepared and submitted. Again valuable findings and recommendations were made and followed up in subsequent activities.

Sub-Activity 3.1.4 Facilitate and Enhance the formation, legalization and strengthening of fisherfolk institutional and organizational capacities

In response to their acceptance, request and support for the proposed national umbrella organisations, the experts and fisheries staff members of the Programme technical implementation team led by the organizational development expert followed up with fisher-folks and generated a new draft constitution for the envisaged new umbrella organization based on revision of an existing draft constitution for the establishment and functioning of a new independent and credible National Fisher-folk Umbrella Organisation. The body was widely agreed to be called the **National Platform of Non-State Actors in Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors of the Gambia (PONSAFAG)**. The draft constitution is being discussed and internalized by the Original Member organizations in anticipation for nationwide membership awareness and educational process, a validation and adoption meeting, as the case may be.

Regional WhatsApp fisherfolk discussant groups were created to circumvent effects of the COVID-19 restrictions and to facilitate consultations and discussions and helped in processes to establish regional fisherfolk apex organizations. The following 5 regional fisherfolk organizations were reorganized and assisted with development of draft Constitutions:

1. The Banjul Albert Market Beach Fisher-folk Association
2. The North Bank Region Fisher-folk Apex Association
3. The Central River Region Fisher-folk Apex Association
4. The Lower River Region Fisher-folk Apex Association
5. National Platform of Non-State Actors in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of Gambia: PONSAFAG

The constitutions will be discussions at planned regional meetings or through respective regional WhatsApp groups, and will be finalized once discussions are concluded. Meanwhile, the draft regional constitutions were delivered to the respective organisations for study and review in anticipation of the review and adoption meetings.

The Way Forward on the Activity:

The next steps are for community and regional organisations to be assisted and revitalized, and the National Fisher-folk Umbrella Body established.

As follow up to activities and developments of regional fisheries apex associations, if COVID-19 permits, a proposal is being finalized for a working trek mission to hold two-day sessions with key stakeholders in three key regions. The objectives of the proposed 2-day meeting sessions are to work out and agree modalities for establishment and formation of regional fisheries apex associations and discuss their constitutions and other relevant institutional instruments. These will be followed by similar missions to other regions / administrative area and strategic planning exercises to implement activities to finalize the formation of regional and national apex organisations and ensure professional training and capacity building.

Activity budgetary expenditure

The activity budget was initially 25,000 Euro but this was slashed by EUR10,000 which was reallocated to the anti-COVID activity during the June 2020 Programme review leaving a balance of EUR15,000, equivalent to GMD854,250 as the new activity budget. The budget and level of expenditure for the activity are tabulated below with about 35% level of expenditure, expected to rise soon with implementation of additional sub-activities. Details of implementation including progress, expenditure levels and sources of verification for the activity are indicated at Annex 3.

Activity No.	Budget Allocation		Actual Expenditure		Actual Balance		Expenditure %
	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	
3.1	15000	854250	5,195.35	295875	9804.653	558375	35

Activity results outputs and impact

Initial consultations with actors, followed by assessment and working meetings facilitated dialogue, collection of useful information, and made important findings and recommendations that guided subsequent activities. These activities are already producing impressive results in the gradual but progressive realization of objectives of the activity.

Implementation of the activity and sub-activities have so far made significant progress in the revitalization and strengthening of capacities of actors and their organisations and is bringing them together under the envisaged national umbrella organisation and edging closer to the envisaged partnership on the common course of sustainable management, exploitation and utilization of the fisheries resources. The consultations, awareness and sensitization activities has been helping bring together fisheries actors in diverse communities, organizational and trade group settings, to willingly and purposefully organize themselves at their respective levels for strengthened capacities, empowerment and partnership. Along the way, actors have enthusiastically discussed important issues and demonstrated awareness and concerns over important issues. This has been encouraging and gives hope of genuine partnerships and collaboration, and the sector support programme is fertilizing the ground for these.

Regional umbrella groups have been formed or reorganized, and a constitution drafted for them. With increased acceptance and support for the proposed national umbrella organization of fisheries actors, a new constitution was drafted for the envisaged new independent national fisherfolk umbrella organization which now has been named the National Platform of Non-State Actors in Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors of the Gambia (PONSAFAG).

In the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic, WhatsApp regional groups have been the alternative and helped in the processes to establish regional fisherfolk apex organizations at local

government level around the country (mainly North Bank Region, Central River and Lower River Regions and in the Greater Banjul Area comprising three administrative regions). The eventual amalgamation of the memberships into the national fisherfolk umbrella organization is envisaged. If the momentum is kept with continued cooperation from stakeholders final setting up of the body will be achieved by end of 2020 to be followed by training and capacity building actions in 2021.

It may be too early to determine the overall outcome of the activity, but it is fair to indicate that significant progress is being registered and mile stones reached in the realization of objectives of the activity. The full assessment of the impact and outcome of the activity is only possible at a later stage or end of implementation when indicators can be fully monitored.

Strategic Target 4: Strengthened environmental, social, and economic conditions of the fisheries and aquaculture sector resilient against external forces and their negative effects

This strategic target and its related activity were introduced into the programme during the programme review process, in June 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic and its attendant effects. The activity is intended for supporting the national response strategy in the fisheries sector, specifically in fishing communities.

Activity 4.1: Support to emergency response measures for the New Coronavirus SARS-2 (COVID-19) pandemic in fisheries for prevention, adaptation, and resilience building in fishing communities - safeguarding and minimizing negative impacts on the environmental, social and economic conditions.

The activity came about as a result of the revision of the Programme in June 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic as explained earlier. The sector support programme was revised and funds redistributed to create this, new activity under the new strategic target to implement emergency measures for COVID-19 prevention, and minimize its environmental, social and economic impacts in fisheries communities. The revision was reflected in both the annual and multi-annual matrix (see Annx1).

Implementation of the activity was meant to provide rapid response to the COVID situation. However, implementation of the activity has become delayed due to delayed actions in sharing of the revised program matrices and proposed expenditure items with EU partners for agreement and in the procurement of the items. The proposal comprising four lots of materials and services, has been referred to the Ministerial Contracts Committee for necessary, urgent endorsement and procurement of materials and services for delivery and distribution to the beneficiary communities soonest. However, it is widely observed that the general public and fishing communities in particular are generally not respecting and observing the anti-COVID measures which are also not being enforced due to great decline in the number of registered COVID cases. Due to this situation, and the uncertainty surrounding whether or not, there will be a resurgence of cases, expenditure on items in lot 1 is halted and is being reviewed to prevent the circumstances where the materials (personal protection materials – masks and) and equipment is purchased and not used but wasted. It is being considered to redirect saved expenditures from lot 1 to lot 4 where it will provide additional relief to increased number of targeted economic operator organizations and individuals.

Activity budgetary expenditure

The activity budget was 55,000 Euro, equivalent to GMD 3,132, 250. The activity intervention areas and expenditure items consists of four separate lots each with an itemized list of materials/service. The activity is comprised of four lots: i) Personal protection equipment and materials; ii) awareness building; iii) water and sanitation facilities and; iv) provision of improved equipment and facilities as relief to community trade groups to provide safeguards against products, businesses and income. The activity budget is yet to be spent but expected shortly. The following table shows budget expenditure level for the activity. However, the budget is currently fully committed to payments for supply/ delivery of the items in the lots. Any payments will be debited from the budget as expenditure. The activity budget and level of expenditure are shown in the table below. Details of implementation including progress, expenditure levels and sources of verification for the activity are indicated at Annex 3.

Activity No.	Budget Allocation		Actual Expenditure		Actual Balance		Expenditure	Committed
	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	%	
4.1	55,000	313,2250	0	0	55,000	3132250	0	313,2250

Strategic Target 5: Sectoral Support Programme Management and Monitoring

Activity 5.1: Coordination, implementation, visibility of events, monitoring and reporting for the sectoral support Programme

Programme implementation is centrally coordinated and managed by the Permanent Secretary supported by his two Deputy Permanent Secretaries and the Director of Fisheries supported by his Assistant Director of Fisheries and technical personnel. A technical working team is constituted that work on the programme implementation process. The Principal Fisheries Officer and head of the Inspectorate and Post-harvest Systems Unit (as coordinator designate) leads the technical working team on planning and implementation of the Programme activities, assisted by an Assistant Fisheries Officer of the Research and Development Unit (as contact person designate). Other members of the team are one Senior Fisheries Officer from the Extension Unit, one Fisheries Officer from the Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) Units and the two expert consultants. The team coopts as necessary, other personnel of the Ministry/ Department in meetings and working sessions including the Permanent Secretary and Director, or their representatives and other technical staff. It meets periodically (scheduled weekly, or as necessary) and in working sessions. However, sessions could not be regularly held afterwards due to the COVID-19 pandemic and repeatedly declared national state of emergencies and their extension with restrictive measures put in place to control the pandemic.

Despite the Pandemic, the team was able to work minimally on implementation of the programme activities. It undertook field mission, consultation and working meetings and sessions, and with several communities, and on planning and following up activities on implementation of Programme activities. Experts prepared and submitted mission and periodic (quarterly) reports, reviewed by the team for further actions. Notwithstanding, the Pandemic was always a challenge.

For the purpose of visibility and transparency, fishing communities and the general public are informed about the EU-Gambia SFPA and sensitized on the Sector Support Programme and its objectives and planned activities. These were undertaken during the inception periods through direct and interactive meetings and working sessions with representatives of stakeholder fisher-fisherfolk communities and organisations.

Another medium for visibility of the SS Programme (and indeed for the fisheries sector as a whole) has been through regular television (TV) and radio programs financed through the SSP in complementarity with the Ministry of Fisheries. The Ministry of Fisheries negotiated and signed a contract with the Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS) as a platform to launch the sector communication strategy of the Ministry (as identified in the NDP), for the dissemination and sharing of fisheries information. In addition to the contract, an MOU was also signed between the Ministry and GRTS relating to the TV and radio stations preparing and broadcasting a regular weekly fisheries programme hosted by a contracted media consulting agent (MTN Consultancy). The TV and radio programmes host and broadcast themes on wide ranging issues of the fisheries sector produced and broadcast with collaboration of the parties. Fisheries Officials, notably, the Minister, Permanent Secretary and Director of Fisheries but also other partner institutions and organisations are hosted on the programme. The programme also presents highlights of visual events, and announcements on the sector. It discusses wide ranging issues affecting the fisheries sector (particularly artisanal fisheries), creating awareness and sharing information with fisheries actors, the media and the general public.

The range and typology of issues and information featured are diverse but prominent among them so far are: the EU-Gambia SFPA and the Sector Support Programme, featured, discussed and referenced depending on theme and topic of the programme. Issues included, the purpose and benefits of the FSFPA and FSSP, objectives and planned activities of the SS programme including the involvement and partnership with fisher-folk communities and organisations, and the activities efforts towards strengthening of their organizational and operational capacities for partnerships on management and development of the sector. The platforms seeks to sensitize and create awareness on various fisheries related matters including: policy and legal issues and provisions on, restricted fishing areas, management measures; Illegal fishing and sustainability of the resources. It will also provide the platform and host planned broadcasting of sensitization and awareness activities for fishing communities about COVID-19 and the visibility of related events.

Another aspect of the visibility of the Programme is that equipment and materials including vehicles and any other identifiable asset provided through the SSP funds will be tagged and labelled with identification stickers having the logo as depicted in Annex 4.

Activity Budget Expenditure

The activity budget was established at 34,000 Euro, equivalent to GMD 1,936,300. Expenditure areas include hiring of expert consultants and contracts, media consulting, and other matters relating to implementation of the activities. The activity budget expenditure is separately tabulated below showing a level of 89.5%. Details of implementation including progress, expenditure levels and sources of verification for the activity are indicated at Annex 3.

Activity No.	Budget Allocation		Actual Expenditure		Actual Balance		Expenditure
	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	%
5.1	34000	1936300	30,430.20	1733000	3569.798	203300	89.50

Activity results outputs and impact

The activity budget facilitated management and implementation of the Programme. It enabled the hiring of experts with long term experience working and serving in the fisheries sectors of various regional countries through international and regional Organisations and agencies, and projects. The experts effectively supported implementation of the Programme and brought their respective experiences into the programme implementation process and provided expert advice, guidance and services that contributed to the results. This also enabled experience sharing with personnel who also learned lessons. It is interesting to note that it became commonplace to hear fisher-folk partners express common concerns related with illegal fishing and sustainable resources management, and the need for strengthening of capacities and partnership for collaboration on these issues. This insinuates the desire of fisheries actors for partnership for a sustainable fisheries, and indicates the obvious need for consolidation of partnership between communities and fisheries authorities.

3 Evaluation of the Programme Budget Implementation

Overall, implementation of activities is in reasonable progress given the COVID-19 Pandemic which brought with it much uncertainties and setbacks in the rate of progress and hence expenditure of the budget. There were a total of seven individual activities under the five strategic targets in the 2020 programme for implementation, following the Programme review of June 2020. Table 1 shows the state of expenditure of the Programme including the levels for the respective activities. At present, one activity (Activity 2.3) has been fully implemented with 100% budget expenditure level. Expenditure is yet to be made on one other activity budget (Activity 2.1). The rest of the other activities are at various levels of implementation and expenditure as can be seen from the table. They have levels ranging from about 35% for activity 3.1 and about 73, 90 and 97% for activities 2.2, 5.1 and 1.1 respectively. The Overall level of expenditure for the Programme is currently about 61% but is expected to rise significantly before the end of 2020 with expenditure of already committed payments, to above the required 70% threshold mark per year for eligibility to payment of funds.

Table1: State of expenditure of 2020 Programme Activity Budget

Activity No.	Budget Allocation		Actual Expenditure		Actual Balance		Expenditure	Committed GMD
	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	Euro	GMD	%	
1.1	13750	783062.5	13,288.06	756755	461.9403	26307.5	97	0
2.1	4250	242037.5	0	0	4250	242037.5	0	0
2.2	125000	7118750	90,966.83	5,180,560.70	34033.17	1938189.3	73	1938189.3
2.3	28000	1594600	28000	1,594,600	0	0	100	0
3.1	15000	854250	5,195.35	295875	9804.653	558375	35	0
4.1	55000	3132250	0	0	55000	3132250	0	3132250
5.1	34000	1936300	30,430.20	1733000	3569.798	203300	90	0
Total	275000	15661250	167,880.43	9,560,790.70	107119.6	6100459.3	61	5,070,439.30

4 Constraints and Challenges

The primary and overriding feature of the constraints/ challenges of implementation of the 2020 Fisheries Sector Support Programme has been the COVID-19 Pandemic which have been felt and affected virtually everything worldwide. As indicated earlier, the Pandemic and the consequent declaration of national state of emergency, lockdowns and restrictions around the world, also hampered implementation of programme activities as restrictions became the order of the day. The unforeseen circumstances affected programme implementation arrangements

by restricting movement, travel, gathering and activities, and has at some point caused a general state of fear, uncertainty and anxiety. Meetings could not be held and planned activities stalled, causing overall delay in implementation of some the programme activities and hence, crippled progress.

The lack of a formal arrangements on Programme management and coordination which were largely ad-hoc in nature with rather loose arrangements regarding lines of communication and reporting affected coordination, implementation and monitoring. A correction on this state of affairs may be considered to facilitate better focused and more directional arrangements and approach to implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting.

A somewhat slow procurement process characterized by delay and stalling of the process is a factor in the slow expedition of program implementation and needs improvement for faster and smoother operations.

The preparation of the annual report has been made difficult by difficult or slow access to information and carrying out of verifications. Expenditure transactions follow regular government procedures on recurrent budget expenditures which, can be slow due to inherent slowness of the payment system in general, caused by connectivity and network issues and bureaucratic bottlenecks among others. However, it is vital that expenditures must be made under the predetermined specific programme activity budget lines to avoid confusion and facilitate easy and transparent verifications, monitoring and control. In relation to this, it is vital to tabulate expenditures per activity to enable easy tracking of funds and expenditures on the respective activities.

5 Lessons Learned

The fundamental lesson in the implementation of the programme is that of the attendant risk factor of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This reminds us, in passing, about the common expression that: “Man proposes, God dispose,” and the need to factor in and manage external risk factors in program design and decision making.

Another lesson relates to actual Programme implementation requiring clear and formal designation of coordination responsibilities with clear lines of communication and close collaboration of all involved, and in sharing relevant information. Hence, the need for transparent and timely sharing of information for equal levels of knowledge and understanding.

By working together with the experienced technical experts, they have contributed to knowledge transfer, experience building and practical lessons learning for personnel of the Fisheries Department many with limited or lower level of experience in the sector. Obviously they have contributed lessons on fisheries development approaches and planning, relevant to sector and carrier development.

6 Conclusion and Recommendations

Albeit the COVID-19 Pandemic and its effects, significant progress has been registered in the implementation of the 2020 annual Sector Support Programme of activities with the 2020 representing a benchmark year with challenges but also a year of lessons learning for improvement. However, Programme implementation requires clear and formal designation of coordination responsibilities with clear lines of communication and close collaboration of those involved. For improved and more effective coordination of Programme implementation,

monitoring and evaluation, and reporting, it is recommended to formerly appoint a regular coordinator with an assistant to coordinate implementation of the Programme and related processes including monitoring and reporting

In contrast with current practice of making expenditures without reference to the activity budget lines in the annual Programme matrix, budget expenditures must strictly be made with reference to the predetermined specific activity budget lines in the programme, to avoid confusion and facilitate easy and transparent verifications, monitoring and control. Equally important is that, it is vital to track the expenditures per activity to enable easy monitoring of funds and expenditures on the respective activities, with tabulation of expenditures linked to the respective activities. All documentation on expenditures under the Programme must be filed separately again for ease of reference for verification processes and as means of verification.

The level of expenditure so far remains short of the required 70 % threshold mark to be eligible for receiving next year's tranche of Sector Support Funds. The lower level of progress in implementation has been largely due to the external risk factor of the natural calamity in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic. It is hoped that the level of progress in implementation of activities will rise further with corresponding rise in the level of expenditure as planned, before the end of the year. Hence it is recommended for parties to take this main factor of the Pandemic and the reasonable level of 61% expenditure registered so far into account in their decision process on the payment or retention of the 2021 tranche of the Programme.

ANNEXES

Annex 1a: Revised Annual and Multi-annual Programme Matrixes (*Separate Document*)

Annex 1b: Revised Annual and Multi-annual Programme Matrixes (*Separate Document*)

Annex 1c: Summary of lots on the COVID-19 Response Budget

Summary of lots on the COVID-19 Response Budget	
Lot 1: PPE, hygiene measures and signposts (billboards)	834,500.00
Lot 2: Water and Sanitation facilities (toilets at selected fish landing sites)	1,859,150.00
Lot 3: Awareness building (through community radio stations)	210,000.00
Lot 4: Provision of improved facilities and capacities for post-harvest community trade group business operators	420,000.00
TOTAL COVID Response Fund	3,323,650.00

Annex 2. Detailed Report on Annual Activity 3.1: Strengthen the organizational development capacities of artisanal fisheries actors

This activity was undertaken with the support of the two expert consultants. With the final objective of improved organisation of fisheries operators and their effective partnership with the fisheries administration, implementation of the activity is premised on the background that the 1997 Constitution of The Republic of The Gambia calls for participatory and decentralized local development and governance. This call also provided the basis for the Decentralization and Local Government Reforms Act of 2001 which also calls for greater citizen participation and involvement in their own development and the management of natural resources. The Fisheries Act 2007 has empowered fishing communities to participate in the sustainable exploitation and utilization of fishery resources and empowered authority to legally allocate special fishery management areas for community based management.

Undoubtedly, sustainable governance and development of artisanal fisheries resources require trusted formal partnerships between actors and the fisheries administration. In order to facilitate implementation of the policy and legal frameworks for fisheries, and for realisation of sector outcomes of the National Development Plan (NDP), the fisheries administration remains resolved to strengthen the organizational and developmental capacities of artisanal or small-scale fisheries actors as partners.

The activity is implemented to remedy the prevailing low level of organisational development of the sector, necessary for partnership in the management of the fishery resources and development of the sector. It is also conceived that strengthening of capacities must take place at all levels, from micro-meso-macro levels within the framework of the national development continuum and based on the tenets of equitable, fair and credible representation. Hence, with guidance and support of the hired experts, sub-activities were identified and directed the implementation approach and processes of the activity. The following are the main sub-activities implemented.

Inception meetings

The first sub-activity was the holding of inception meetings between the experts and the fisheries administration to establish common understanding and working approaches, and to agree the basis and modalities of engagement.

This was followed by engagement of the various existing fisheries and community organisations in a series of consultation meetings and field activities.

Assessment and Appraisal of the institutional and organizational status of fisherfolk organisations

A two days initial consultation meeting was organized with existing fisheries organisations on 19th and 20th February 2020. The meeting was well attended by male and female (mainly executive member) representatives of the organisations, personnel of the Fisheries Department and the experts.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- Explain to participants about the EU/Gambia SFPA and share the Sector Support Programme and its objectives and activities with them;
- Make participants understand the importance and need to properly establish a functional and credible fisherfolk organization including a national fisherfolk umbrella organization,
- Make participants understand and appreciate the principles of institution building, integration and cooperation within the programme framework and for development and management of the fisheries sector.
- appraise the training and capacity development needs of existing and anticipated national fisherfolk executives for effective leadership and for steering the course of organisations;
- Initiate a process of reform of main fisheries organisations and the formation of a well-represented, effective and credible national fisher folk umbrella organization.

Representatives of the following fisherfolk groups attended this initial meeting and provided information including on their group structures and functions:

- viii. National Sole Fish and Catfish Co-Management Committee (NASCOM),
- ix. Landing Site Co-Management Committee (LACOM),
- x. National Association of Artisanal Fisheries Operators (NAAFO),
- xi. Ndeflen Fishermen Association,
- xii. National Fisheries Platform,
- xiii. All Artisanal Fisheries Cooperative Association (AFRICOSA), and
- xiv. Aquaculture Fish Farmers Foundation.

Participants were informed/reminded of the EU-Gambia Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) and what it entails including the sectoral support component among others as contribution of the EU towards the sustainable management of fisheries resources and development of the fisheries sector. The sector support programme of activities for implementation during the six years duration of the Agreement with an annual budget amount of 275,000 Euro were presented to the participants. It was clarified that some of the programme activities involved the strengthening of capacities of fisherfolk organisations and establishing mutual partnerships for the development and management of the fisheries sector and fishery resources.

The meeting assessed the organisations on the basis of their origins, objectives, organizational structures, mode of formation, period of existence, constitutional and legal status among others as starting point for capacity development. The assessments also had the purpose to make comparisons for conformity with accepted norms on legal establishment of the organisations, but also to initiate a process of revitalization or formation as the case may be, of associations at community/village, district and regional levels and facilitate the eventual legal establishment of a well-structured and recognized, inclusive, equitable and viable national umbrella organisations of fisheries actors. The meeting collected useful information, and made important findings and recommendations that paved the way for subsequent activities.

Findings

- The existence of an effective extension presence in fishing communities and guidance is necessary in the establishment of any credible national fisheries umbrella apex body reflecting the membership interests of all fishers, fish farmers and post-harvest operators at all levels of the national development continuum.
- the weak field presence of the Department of Fisheries both horizontally and vertically in inland communities, gave room to the sporadic formation and proliferation of fisherfolk groups with leaderships that attempted to fill the gap left by the absence of the fisheries department (extension), and assume roles they lack the capacity and mandate to handle.

- Various organisations existed each claiming to be a national umbrella organization, but some of them did not have the appropriate representation to be designated as a national umbrella body with often a wrong approach to formation and inter-organisational struggles.
- The nature of institutional arrangements of the organisations varied widely from one to the other, but the stated objectives of many of them in general, placed emphasis on the achievement of multiple stakeholder participation on issues of common concern in the fisheries sector.
- Existing fisher-folk organisations were stronger on potential than accomplishment and have memberships not reflective of adequate national representation and have little or no base at the grassroots (community, village/town, district, region),
- Some were informal and without valid constitutions or legal documentation such as registration certificates.
- Associations and Organizations were headed by the same individuals for very long time without change, and whose motives were often in variance with that of the organization.
- All Groups and Associations indicated and assured their support for a national fisheries apex body and expressed eagerness for the establishment of a credible National Fisher-folk Umbrella Organization.
- Most of the Fisherfolk Groups have been legally registered with the Ministry of Justice some had in fact united into District level Apex Bodies with strong and enthusiastic membership base. Some had undertaken several and various joint MCS patrols with the local Navy to arrest and prosecute destructive Fishers engaged in IUU and non- respect of CCRF. Many had struck partnerships with various government departments, NGOs and International Aid Agencies

Recommendations

Proposals were made to initiate action and plan for the progressive establishment of a national umbrella organization. For this to happen the following were recommended.

- The Department of Fisheries to request each of the existing fisher-folk organisations to submit copies of their legal registration certificates and constitutions in order to establish records of each organization and secondly as evidence of legal existence;
- The Department of Fisheries to update the list of fish landing sites to provide a needed reference for field missions and as basis for work with fishing communities and subsequent work under the programme activity;
- Hold a meeting to discuss the staff situation in the Department of Fisheries for expert advice and orientation to enable collaboration between units and staff to deliver the expected outcomes and meet objectives of the activity;
- Carryout to evaluate their status and sensitize them;
- Organize field missions for further consultations for the appraisal /assessment of existing organisations and review of their status and further sensitize them on the Fisheries Sector Support Programme activities and the need for a unified national fisheries umbrella organization of actors and partnerships for sustainable exploitation and utilization of fisheries resources.

Follow-up Appraisal of Institutional and Organizational Status of Fisher-folk Groups and Associations

Based on conclusions and the recommendations of the initial 2-day meeting, an appraisal field mission was undertaken in March by the expert consultants and fisheries officials made follow up consultations with the various fisher-folk organizations. The mission visited (20) inland fisheries communities and three (3) aquaculture sites in five of the six regions (NBR, WCR, LRR, CRR and KMC) where they held assessment meetings and discussed with executives and key members of several community, district, regional and with existing national fisheries associations. A report on the consultation mission was prepared and submitted. The objectives of the mission meetings included the following:

- a) Measure and ascertain the respective institutional/organizational structure and status **for baseline and monitoring purposes.**
- b) Verify their respective legal status and registration with the Ministry of Justice
- c) Ascertain their respective constitutional objectives verified against the pronounced objectives of organizations as presented during the 19-20 February 2020 consultation meeting.
- d) Determine the willingness and readiness to reorganize themselves around a new umbrella organization and to partner with the national fisheries administration.
- e) Look into issue of compliance with their respective constitutional requirements related procedural issues including leadership and adherence to electoral requirements for executives /officials.
- f) Enhance partnership between National Fisheries Professional Associations and the Fisheries Administration

- g) Any other Issues of concern raised by concerned parties

Findings and conclusions

Findings made include the following.

- There has been a proliferation in the formation of fisherfolk organisations / associations) at local, regional and national levels headed by individuals or executive members occupying intermediate positions in each of the Fisherfolk Groups.
- The associations exist at varying levels with some of them in their embryonic stages and some established for many years now but within the grips of the same individuals as executives and need normalization in the approach to formation and capacity building through a multi-disciplinary approach.
- They also lack regional level structures and some executives see themselves as trade unionists rather than a professional fisherfolk organisation
- Many executive members of existing associations have overstayed their constitutional mandate without replacement and are being accused of lacking transparency by members and.
- Many organisations lack the required support and guidance of fisheries extension staff who are usually not available on site but have had good working relationships and earned the respect of the Fisheries Department as a partner. They include coastal community organisations who accumulated years of experience under the community fisheries centre (CFC) management approach and structures where individual trade groups associations formed as basis for broad base representation in Community Fisheries Center Management Committees (CFCMC). These organisations collaborated and partnered with the Fisheries Department and gradually took over management of CFCs with much successes. These organisations can contribute to effective establishment and operationalization of a national apex artisanal fisherfolk umbrella organisation.
- Organisations have sectoral objectives with members having insight into issues such as: IUU fishing, implementation of the CCRF, MCS.

Recommendations:

A number of recommendations were agreed with groups during the mission and include the following:

- A final meeting of all the groups and associations be organised by the fisheries administration facilitated by the experts in order to begin the formation of an acceptable and credible national fisherfolk umbrella apex body that reflects the organizational and individual membership needs, interests and aspirations from community, regional and national levels and including fishers, oyster harvesters and fish farmers. Such an apex body will not in any way affect the status and structures of the existing fisherfolk associations and groups, nor does it affect their present partnership arrangements, funding and funding sources to which they continue to be independent.
- The experts to help facilitate the drafting of the organisation's constitution that caters for group membership, transparent governance, and allow allows for common approaches to fisheries governance and development among other objectives. The draft constitution is to cater for a short - term (3-4 Month), an interim Steering Committee that stands dissolved following the election of executives at a later general meeting and comprising of executives representatives of the founder member associations and groups.
- The major apex fisherfolk groups (NAAFO, NASCOM, AFRICOSA, NAPSIF Fisheries Associations, TRY Oyster Women's Association and Gambia Aquaculture Association) should submit to the Department of Fisheries their respective Ministry of Justice registration certificates and official legal constitutions. They should also submit annual and periodic activity reports and minutes of annual general meetings. Such an arrangement would have enriched Department of Fisheries files and facilitate the legal signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) needed in the working relationships between the Department and the Fisherfolk Associations and, will improve collaboration.
- It was established from the field missions and consultations that the establishment of a credible regional and national fisherfolk bodies cannot be effectively undertaken without the presence and guidance of regional fisheries staff and community based extension agents. Hence the need for the Department to deploy appropriate staff for this purpose among others.
- It was recommended that all the apex fisherfolk groups (NAAFO, NASCOM, AFRICOSA, NAPSIF Fisheries Associations, TRY Oyster Women's Association and Gambia Aquaculture Association) should submit to the Department of Fisheries their respective: Ministry of Justice registration certificates and official legal constitutions; annual and periodic activity reports and, minutes of annual general meetings.

- Such an arrangement would enrich Department of Fisheries files and facilitate the legal signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) needed for improved partnership and collaboration between the Department of Fisheries and the fisherfolk organisations.
- It has been established from the field mission and consultations that the establishment of credible regional and national Fisherfolk Bodies cannot be effectively undertaken without the presence and guidance of Regional Fisheries Staff and Community Based Extension Agents.

Facilitate and Enhance the formation, legalization and strengthening of fisherfolk institutional and organizational capacities

In response to their acceptance and support for the proposed Body, and at the request of the fisherfolks and organisations consulted, the experts and fisheries staff (members of the Programme Implementation Team) led by the organizational development expert, have worked together and have generated a new draft constitution for the envisaged new umbrella organization based on revision of an existing draft constitution for the establishment and functioning of a new independent and credible National Fisherfolk Umbrella Body. The body was widely agreed to be called the **National Platform of Non-State Actors in Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors of the Gambia (PONSAFAG as local name and acronym)**. The draft constitution is being discussed and internalized by the Original Member organizations in anticipation for nationwide membership awareness and educational process, and a validation and / follow-up adoption meeting, as the case may be.

Regional WhatsApp fisherfolk discussant groups were created to circumvent effects of COVID 19 restrictions and facilitate contact. The WhatsApp groups have helped in processes to establish regional fisherfolk apex organizations. The following 5 regional fisherfolk organizations were reorganized and assisted with development of draft organizational Constitutions:

4. The Banjul Albert Market Beach Fisherfolk Association
5. The North Bank Region Fisherfolk Apex Association
6. The Central River Region Fisherfolk Apex Association
7. The Lower River Region Fisherfolk Apex Association
8. National Platform of Non-State Actors in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of Gambia: PONSAFAG

Relevant regional level fisherfolk body constitutions have been drafted by the expert consultants for discussions at regional meetings/ through respective regional WhatsApp groups, and will be finalized once discussions are concluded.

The draft constitutions were delivered to the respective organisations for study, review and adoption.

The Way Forward:

The next steps are for community and regional organisations to be assisted and revitalized, and the National Fisherfolk Umbrella Body established.

As follow up to activities and developments of regional fisheries apex associations, if COVID-19 permits, a proposal is being finalized for a working trek mission to hold two-day sessions with key stakeholders in three key regions. The sessions will be organised in pursuit of the process of formation and establishment of regional fisheries apex bodies of legally registered fisheries CBOs in the Regions.

The objectives of the proposed 2-day meeting sessions are to work out and agree modalities for establishment and formation of regional fisheries apex associations and discuss their constitutions and other relevant institutional instruments.

These will be followed by similar missions to other regions / administrative area and strategic planning exercises to implement activities for finalize the formation and establishment of regional and national apex organisations and ensure professional training and capacity building.

End of Annex 2

Annex 3: 2020 Annual Sectoral Support Programme implementation report matrix - including Progress, Expenditure level and sources of verification for activity implementation (Separate document)

Annex 4: Logo for identification stickers on SSP acquired Assets

