

**UNJP/GAM/039/EC: DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FIRST PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FOR EU FUNDED ENVELOP B: POST-CRISIS RESPONSE TO FOOD AND NUTRITION INSECURITY IN THE GAMBIA” HELD AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & SOCIAL WELFARE CONFERENCE ROOM, 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2017**

**PRESENT:**

1. Mr. Dawda Ceesay, Permanent Secretary, MoHSW, Chairperson
2. Mrs. Sara Beysolow Nyanti, UNICEF
3. Mrs. Perpetua Katepakalala, FAO
4. Mrs. Adama Ngum Njie, Permanent Secretary, MoA
5. Mr. Darrell Sexxstone, EU Delegation
6. Mrs. Angela Cespedes, WFP
7. Mr. Rupert Leighton, UNICEF
8. Mr. Mactarr Jammeh, NAOSU
9. Mr. Abdoulie Sowe, PCU/MoBSE
10. Mr. Ousman Ceesay, MoBSW
11. Mr. Modou Njie, DHP&E, MoHSW
12. Mr. Mustapha Jammeh, WFP
13. Mr. Yankuba Sawo, FAO
14. Mr. Lamin Bojang, MoFEA
15. Mrs. Mariatou Njie, FAO
16. Mr. Pa Modou Phall, NaNA
17. Mr. Landing Sonko, DoA/PPS
18. Mrs. Louise A. Yacine Tine, FAO
19. Mr. Malang Darboe, Secretary, MoHSW



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AGENDA ITEMS	SUMMARY MINUTES	DECISIONS	ACTION POINTS
<p><b>OPENING REMARKS</b></p>	<p>The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare who took the opportunity to welcome all to the meeting and assured them of the MoHSW collaboration with other institutions in making the project a reality.</p>		
<p><b>PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT FROM FAO</b></p>	<p>The agenda of the meeting was reviewed and agreed. The composition of the steering committee was reviewed, followed by introduction of participants representing their institutions.</p>		
	<p>The FAO Representative as AA informed the meeting in the overall remarks, that the PSC is mandated as part of the Envelope B project. However, to ensure better coordination with EU funded projects, the UNICEF funded BReST project and the FAO Food fortification and possibly Envelope A would share the same project steering committee (PSC).</p>		
	<p>A presentation of the project “<b>Post-Crisis Response to Food and Nutrition insecurity in The Gambia</b>” was undertaken by Ms. Louise Agathe Yacine Tine from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Who</p>		

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	<p>highlighted the following:  <b>Food insecurity is high</b> in the Gambia and the country remains heavily reliant on food imports;</p> <p><b>High malnutrition rates with no major change over years;</b> 24.5% of children under five were stunted while the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2005 reported 22.4% stunting. Wasting among children under five has also significantly worsened from a rate of 6.4% (MICS 2005) to 11.5% (DHS 2013);</p> <p><b>Drop of income</b> in the tourism sector by 60-70% due to the Ebola Virus disease;</p> <p><b>High vulnerability of household to market prices</b> (half of the targeted households in CRR spend more than three quarters of their disposable income on food, with rice being the most purchased commodity).</p> <p>The project proposed to work on two (2) of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ improving household food security and</li> <li>▪ Promoting optimal nutrition and care practices</li> </ul>	
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<p>FAO activities under the project will be conducted through the following components :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farmers field School</li> <li>- Cash for work</li> <li>- Input distribution</li> <li>- Nutrition</li> </ul> <p>She stated that the beneficiaries are rural areas in the targeted regions (Upper River Region (URR), North Bank Region (NBR), Lower River Region (LRR) and Central River Region (CRR) that have stunting rates above the national average according to the recently concluded SMART Survey, 2015;</p> <p>Main criteria for targeting is children’s vulnerability in the rural areas with particular attention given to the first 1.000 day life cycle :</p> <p>The Executive Director, National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) in his contribution pointed out that there is a decrease in malnutrition. He said that the health of the children needs to be looked at if we are to address malnutrition. He stressed that health</p>	<p><b>CONTRIBUTIONS &amp; OBSERVATIONS</b></p>
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	<p>should take a greater role such as treating infection (malaria and deworming etc) and quality health service provision. He also highlighted the importance of access to clean drinking water by the targeted communities. He cautioned that while we are trying to help women, we should also be mindful of not over engaging them and compromise their time to care for the children at home. Providing labour saving inputs to women will reduce their workload and save their time for the care roles. Phall concluded that there is great need for effective coordination of the various intervention by the three agencies and existing programmes in the targeted regions</p>	<p>The meeting assured Mr Phall that the intervention will address most of his concerns. In addition the project will complement ongoing health and nutrition projects, thus providing synergy and complementarity. Speakers acknowledged the importance of effective coordination and promised to work together to make this a reality</p>	
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<p><b>PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT FROM WFP AND THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE ONE YEAR WORKPLAN</b></p>	<p>A presentation of the project “<b>Post-Crisis Response to Food and Nutrition insecurity in The Gambia</b>” was undertaken by Mr. Mustapha Jammeh of the World Food Programme (WFP) which highlighted WFP’s contributions and participation during the implementation of the project. He stated that the World Food Programme contributions will be to improve nutrition and care practices in targeted regions by promoting better nutrition (prevention and treatment) and health outcomes among target groups (<b>children and pregnant and lactating women</b>).</p> <p><b>Prevention</b> - Knowledge and skills for pregnant women and caregivers of children under 2 in nutrition and care practices improved in targeted regions.</p> <p><b>33,526 Pregnant Women and caregivers (IYCF/SBCC).</b></p> <p><b>Treatment</b> - Higher Recovery rates of children with severe and moderate acute malnutrition and moderately acute malnourished pregnant and lactating</p>		

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<p><b>CONTRIBUTIONS &amp; OBSERVATIONS</b></p>	<p>mothers in targeted regions.</p> <p><b>12,000 children; 7,500 pregnant and lactating women.</b></p> <p><b>Recovery rate &gt;75%; Defaulter rates &lt;15% (Food Transfers).</b></p> <p>He informed the meeting that the WFP will partner with the following agencies: National Nutrition Agency, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, National Disaster Management Agency and Local NGOs such as Red Cross, Activista, Nutritionist Without Borders in the implementation of the project.</p>		
	<p>The Executive Director, National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) thanked the European Union (EU) for their support. He stated that the project is comprehensive and that he is happy that WASH is included. He stressed that there is need for high level</p>		

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coordination.

He explained that the immune system of children has been severely affected. He advised for the project to make sure that antibiotics are available at hospitals and that private sector engagement is encouraged.

Storage facilities should also be taken into consideration because they are not at their best. Materials and equipment should be back loaded especially those from outside the country so that it will not affect the project duration.

UNICEF reassured NaNA that there will be no duplication and that antibiotics will be readily available. She informed the meeting that the recruitment of the International Nutritionist specialist has been finalized.

The FAO Representative informed the meeting that they are working on Cereal banking at community level. She emphasized that women will save more time with the introduction of the new technics. She informed the meeting that the International coordinator is to be paid by all the three agencies involved in the implementation of the project.





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	<p>The WFP Country Representative informed the meeting that food to be used during the project has arrived and that they will work with partners. The WFP Country Representative informed the meeting that they will use existing staff from the agency to implement their part of the project.</p> <p>The representative from the Ministry of Agriculture requested for support especially vehicles during the project's implementation.</p> <p>The representative from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs encouraged the meeting to involve the Private sector in the project.</p> <p>The Director of Health Promotion and Education, MoHSW on recruitment recommended a united family that is one team coordination and implementation. He said that the timeframe for starting the project in April is feasible.</p>	<p>The Representative from the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education move the motion on the approval of the Work-plans with some amendments seconded by the Director of Health Promotion and Education, MoHSW.</p>	
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<b>AGENDA ITEMS</b>	<b>SUMMARY MINUTES</b>	<b>DECISIONS</b>	<b>ACTION POINTS</b>
<b>PLAN FOR THE INCEPTION WORKSHOP</b>	The meeting also discussed the proposed inception workshop to be organized for Project Steering Committee Members.	The meeting decided that the Technical Committee should decide on the holding of the inception	



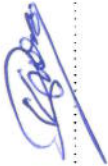
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	<p>workshop.</p> <p>The meeting decided that the Technical Committee members should be from the key institutions implementing the project.</p>	<p>UNICEF to present its workplan based on new approved budget and circulate electronically.</p> <p>All 3 agencies to present their workplans in the same format and show link to the original results area to ensure proper tracking.</p>
<p><b>COMPOSITION OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE</b></p>	<p>On the composition of the Technical Committee, UNICEF proposed the following members: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) and National Nutrition Agency (NaNA). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) proposed Plan Protection, Soil and Water Management and Food Technology from the Ministry of Agriculture. Whilst the World Food Programme proposed the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and The Gambia Red Cross Society.</p>	<p>The meeting unanimously approved the proposal from UNICEF. In addition, the EU Programme Officer, Mr. Darrel Sextone read out a note from an email from EU Brussels indicating that no formal request for this adjustment was required since it fit within the 25% movement of funds between budget lines and would not be changing the agreed actions/results. However, he requested that the first quarter report of the AA (FAO) should include the adjustments as endorsed by the PSC.</p>
<p><b>UNICEF Proposal for a budget revision</b></p>	<p>The UNICEF Country Representative informed the meeting that UNICEF did not provide its workplan for today’s meeting owing to the fact that there are some adjustments required in their component. The UNICEF component originally proposed recruitment of WASH Officer, Nutrition Officer, and a Nutrition specialist, at the international level to be brought in to transfer knowledge. However, the WASH Officer and Nutrition Officer are being paid for by UNICEF core resources. UNICEF therefore seeks the endorsement of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) to revise the recruitment list for a Child Survival and Development Manager who will focus on transferring knowledge and skills on EU project</p>	<p>The UNICEF Country Representative informed the meeting that UNICEF did not provide its workplan for today’s meeting owing to the fact that there are some adjustments required in their component. The UNICEF component originally proposed recruitment of WASH Officer, Nutrition Officer, and a Nutrition specialist, at the international level to be brought in to transfer knowledge. However, the WASH Officer and Nutrition Officer are being paid for by UNICEF core resources. UNICEF therefore seeks the endorsement of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) to revise the recruitment list for a Child Survival and Development Manager who will focus on transferring knowledge and skills on EU project</p>

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	<p>management and nutrition; and also a local nutrition specialist This adjustment fits within the 25% allowable movement of funds between budget lines, but must be endorsed by the PSC.          Amounts moved from lines 6 grants to counterparts and; 2 supplies: \$245,900 and \$53,646 respectively adding to line 1 staffing \$299,546.          New UNICEF totals requested are: Staffing Line 1 = \$433,400, Supplies Line 2 = \$587,990 and Transfer to counterparts Line 6 = \$570,100.</p>		
<p><b>Proposal for the disbursement of EU Funding received to the three UN Agencies</b></p>	<p>The meeting was informed that FAO as the Administrative Agent received the first disbursement from EU in the tune of USD 6,513,487. Each agency in accordance with the joint UN budget should receive the following amounts:          UNICEF: \$948,363          WFP: \$2,704,097          FAO: \$2,861,026          In accordance with the UN MoU the PSC is requested, if agreed to endorse the proposal so that the funds can be transferred to each agency accordingly</p>	<p>The meeting unanimously approved the proposal to disburse the funds from EU in accordance with the Joint UN budget allocation.</p>	
<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p>	<p>The Project Steering Committee discussed at length on the holding of the meeting on quarterly basis.</p>	<p>The meeting decided that the next meeting of the Project Steering Committee is to be held in the month of June 2017 at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare Conference Room and that it should start from midday.</p>	

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MR. DAWDA CEESAY, CHAIRPERSON, PSC