THE GAMBIA

Programme for Accelerated Community Development (PACD)

Tractors assembly, Yundum Agricultural Engineering Unit
BACKGROUND

The Programme for Accelerated Community Development (PACD) is an articulation of four development priorities identified by H.E. the President of the Republic of The Gambia. It seeks to address persistent and serious disparities between urban and rural communities by providing safe drinking water, access to roads, energy and labor-saving equipment for post-harvest handling and exotic livestock breeds for milk production to rural communities. The PACD is supporting the achievement of the Global Sustainable Development Goals and contributing towards the COVID-19 recovery efforts.

OBJECTIVE

The aim of PACD is to contribute to the amelioration of living conditions of people in the rural areas through improving sustainable access to basic socio-economic infrastructure and services, and the creation of a local economy for sustained and improved socio-economic development, social justice and equality.

PACD GOALS

- Increased access to basic socio-economic infrastructure and facilities (rural roads, energy and water);
- Improved agricultural productivity and livestock through improved access to production and processing equipment, and improved livestock breeds;
- Reduced disparities in socio-economic wellbeing between rural and urban communities;
- Reduced work burden on women and girls;
- Sustainability and accountability of the Community Assets beyond the project implementation.

LINKING PACD TO THE SDGs

The overall analysis of the components of PACD and its areas of intervention show direct linkages with almost all the SDGs.
Access to water statistics

* 16 boreholes drilled
* 31 rural communities targeted
* 3500 households to benefit
* 6 local government areas (NBR, LRR, CRR-N, CRR-S, URR & WCR)

**PACD Components**

**Improving Access to Potable Water**

Access to clean and safe drinking water is still a major challenge for a majority of rural communities. Improving access to potable water is one of the priorities of PACD.

**Rural Electrification**

Access to affordable and reliable electricity supply is a major development challenge for The Gambia. Most of rural Gambia is without electricity. PACD seeks to close this gap by providing electricity to rural communities where.

**PACD Rural Electrification Statistics**

* 10 communities
* 3 districts in NBR (Lower Nuimi, Upper Nuimi & Jokadou)
**Food Security**

This component promotes innovation and technologies to increase agricultural productivity and reduce food losses. Post-harvest processing equipment will significantly reduce hard labour among rural farmers, especially the rural women.

**PACD Food Security Statistics**

* 38 Rural Communities targeted
* 6 Local Government Areas (NBR, LRR, CRR-N, CRR-S, URR & WCR)

**Rural Roads Infrastructure**

* Feeder roads network is a major challenge for rural communities off the two major roads of the country and the quest for inclusive economic growth can hardly be achieved with this high disparity in access to transportation among rural dwellers.

* The road infrastructure component of the PACD will enhance the supply chain and exchanges between communities, and therefore help to reduce poverty, eliminate hunger, and improve health, and economic growth. Development of road infrastructure will thus help in reducing inequality among rural communities.

**Sustainability of Assets and Services**

* To ensure sustainability of assets including ensuring adequate revenue generation for the project, a Geographic Information System (GIS) was built to support the monitoring of project implementation and the effective management of assets. Community driven project monitoring was introduced using mobile technology. As part of the project implementation strategy each community will be provided with a mobile phone with user friendly software.
Mangrove Planting through Youth Ecobrigade

The mangrove planting exercise engaged youth and women, with the objective of creating green job employment/livelihoods for youths, including girls/women for climate resilience and greening of The Gambia.

Civil Society Organizations such as the West African Bird Study Association and Gambia Red Cross Society and National Youth Council planted Over 800,000 mangrove seedlings in North Bank Region of The Gambia through the involvement of volunteers.

The Tree Planting exercise was targeted in the North Bank Region where communities are affected by Climate Change Deforestation.
To achieve its objective, the Programme will target beneficiaries using the bottom-up approach based on the needs identified by the communities in collaboration with the technical ministries and agencies of government. These needs were prioritized with particular focus on those areas where little investments were needed to make a big impact (quick wins).

The key stakeholders in the PACD are Department of Water Resources (DWR), National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC), National Roads Authority (NRA) and Department of Community Development (DCD) and West Africa Livestock Innovation Centre (WALIC).

The other Component includes support from the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) who are training communities and installing systems and mechanisms to ensure sustainability of assets and services.

**OUTCOMES**

* Improved rural access to potable water
* Improved rural access to electricity
* Improved rural roads network
* Improved access to labour-saving devices
* Access to exotic livestock breeds and increased quantity and quality of milk
Rural Electrification, ToubaKolong

Borehole drilling, Kass Wollof

Stakeholders

* Department of Strategic Policy and Delivery (DSPD), OP
* Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA)
* Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare (MoGCSW)
* United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
* Department of Community Development (DCD), MoLRG
* Department of Water Resources (DWR), MoFWR
* National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC), MoPE
* Agricultural Engineering Services (AES), MoA
* National Roads Authority (NRA), MoTWI