Reducing the socio-economic inequalities between rural and urban areas in The Gambia through the Programme for Accelerated Community Development (PACD)

**Description**

The Programme for Accelerated Community Development (PACD) model provides a vehicle for a multi-sectoral approach to addressing poverty and inequality at community level and will help government to respond to social demands through a partnership with development partners to ensure accelerated, multi-pronged, participatory, and accountable delivery of services particularly to far-to-reach populations. This will revitalize and transform the economy for the wellbeing of all Gambians and particularly address the persistent and serious disparities between urban and rural areas in terms of access to basic services including water, energy and road infrastructure.

Furthermore, it will be a critical response to inclusive development for greater equity and social justice in line with the aims and aspirations of the NDP and SDGs. This will ultimately result in achieving true national and inclusive development that enables all Gambians; wherever they are, to benefit from national resources in order to improve their living conditions by developing their local potential.

The PACD will address issues related to employment of youth and gender empowerment. It will reinforce peace and stability by increasing access to basic services to the most in need.

**Objective**

The aim of this program is to contribute to the significant improvement of the 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. The programme will have four components as follows:

a. Improving access to portable water
b. Rural Electrification;
c. Rural roads Infrastructure;
d. Food Security (Postharvest and Processing Equipment)

**Funding:**

- Overall Project Budget 2020 - 2021: $ 20,000,000.00
- First year budget: $ 5,012,867.15
- Funding Gap 2020-2021: 74.94%

**2020 Strategic Partnerships:** Government of The Gambia & UNDP.

**2021 Strategic Partnerships:** In addition to the above, the project will engage with other development partners at national and international levels. A feasibility study is ongoing to provide the guide for subsequent actions following the pilot project. The current project is undertaken after intensive consultations and it is drawn from the NDP priorities.

**Implementation arrangement:**

- Coordination: Delivery Unit/ Office of the President
- Implementing Agent: UNDP
- Donors: Government of The Gambia and partners
- Overall Budget: $ 20 million
- Available Resources: $ 5.01 million
- Period of implementation: 2020 - 2021
- Programmatic Linkage: NDP 2018-2021, UNDAF 2016-2021
- Areas of intervention: 5 regions of The Gambia
- Official start date: 1st March 2020

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