



Gambia

Localizing SDGs - Improving the Livelihoods of Vulnerable Women and Youth Around the Senegambia Bridge

Background information

The Senegambia bridge is a major infrastructure project that promises significant economic opportunity for The Gambia and the subregion. While it has brought some economic gain to the local communities, those in the most vulnerable situations have experienced negative consequences to their economic, health and personal security. As such, the overall purpose of the programme is to strengthen capacities of the local authorities and communities towards creating an environment to safeguard the economic and social rights of vulnerable groups whose livelihoods have been negatively impacted by climate change and the Senegambia Bridge, while activating new opportunities that emerge along the Trans Gambia corridor.

The programme builds upon an initiative supported by the UNTFHS in 2019 to strengthen the application of human security towards accelerating the achievement of the SDGs at the local level in West Africa.

Goals and objectives

The key objectives of the programme are to: (i) increase access of women and youth to economic support services; (ii) strengthen resilience, local capacities, mechanisms and networks to reduce the incidence of violence and conflict over natural resources; and (iii) enhance national capacity to utilize the human security approach in planning and implementation of development programmes.



DURATION
July 2021 - April 2024



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
UNFPA, ITC, UNRCO



OTHER KEY PARTNERS
All Ministries of Gambia, The Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency; The Gambia Association of Local Government Authorities-Kerewan Area Council-Mansakonko Area Council; The Association of NGOs; The Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry; The Gambia's Women Chamber of Commerce; The Gambia Youth Chamber of Commerce

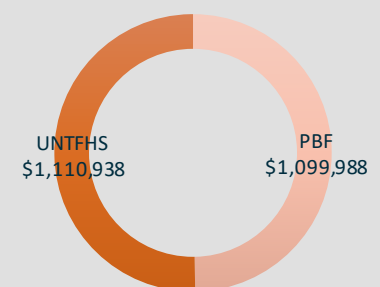


BENEFICIARIES
The populations of the Kerewan and Mansakonko LGAs



TOTAL BUDGET
US\$ 2,210,926

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

The programme benefits the communities living in the Kerewan and Mansakonko Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in the North Bank and Lower River Region.

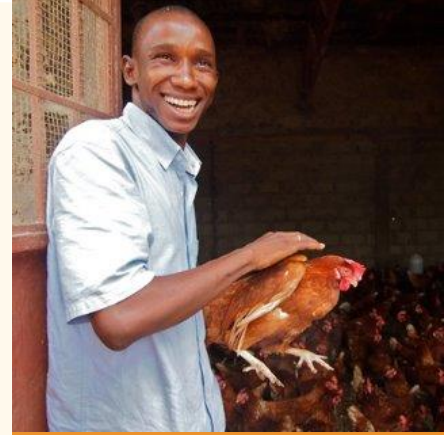
Applying the Human Security approach

The programme is designed based on the needs of the communities and is linked to the strategic development plans of the two LGAs and the National Development Plan. As part of the design, an assessment along with community consultations were conducted to identify the cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of the people in the two LGAs affected by the bridge construction in order to find tangible solutions that are not only people-centred and community-owned, but also ensure that no one is left behind.

This programme is developed to mitigate and address the multidimensional and complex challenges around the growing conflict and tensions among rural agricultural communities affected by the increasing impact of climate change and the introduction of the Senegambia Bridge. It seeks solutions to adapt and improve the lives and livelihoods of these communities by reducing the impact of climate change through rehabilitating and protecting arable land; by diversifying away from conflict drivers through developing income sources that are not reliant on arable land/rain-fed agriculture; and by solving existing conflicts through strengthening conflict resolution mechanisms at the community level.

Providing catalytic seed funding, the programme leverages existing synergistic projects and initiatives. Through ongoing support mechanisms with an NGO specialized in solar installation for households and community facilities, the programme provides solar systems to improve access to social services in the communities, leading to improved health, education and welfare outcomes as well as the creation of employment opportunities.

Building resilience and strengthening existing community level mechanisms, the programme seeks to address the root causes of vulnerabilities within the target communities, promoting social coherence and advancing respect for human rights and dignity. Furthermore, the programme leverages the good relationship between the Government and the UN System to strengthen partnerships with local communities for effective coordination and more significantly to build capacity to effectively use the human security approach for development in The Gambia in the long run.



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