

**CHILD AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION-THE GAMIBA**

ANNUAL REPORT



2015



PARTNERS OF THE YEAR

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE- WEST AFRICA

ANPAS – ITALY

FUNDACION SASLONG- SPAIN

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1. ACRONYMS

CEDAG	Child and Environmental Development Association- The Gambia
CCPCs	Community Child Protection Committees
CWCY	Coordination of Working Children and Youths
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CPA	Child Protection Alliance
ICSCATS	International Centre for Street Children and trafficking Studies
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
ISS	International Social Service
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NAATIP	National Agency for Trafficking in Person
GID	Gambia Immigration Department
GPF	Gambia Police Force
PAO	Programme for West Africa
TANGO	The Association of Non Governmental Organizations
WAN	West Africa Network for the protection of children

2. MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

During the year 2015, I have the pleasure of watching CEDAG truly flag for ourselves and for the population that we serve. While the external and internal environment for Nonprofit organizations remains a very challenging one, I have seen our partners and donors come together and show resilience, determination and a shared sense of purpose, working effectively as unified agents and voice for change. I have seen steadfast commitment to helping the vulnerable children and their families to take charge of their lives and thrive.

CEDAG faced its share of challenges in 2015 which really affected a lot of issues, but I'm pleased to report that, thanks to the hard work and dedication of CEDAG management team and all of our donors and partners who participated in the activity implementation and other key initiatives by which we saw many notable successes in 2015. NAATIP and Coordination of Working Children and Youths also joined CEDAG as partners. Our staff has worked tirelessly to ensure that the objective of every activity is achieved in a timely manner.

As we move forward in 2016, I am proud of what CEDAG has accomplished in 2015 and excited about the future. Our partners and community actors are strong and vibrant, and together we will continue our efforts to protect our children and their families from extreme poverty, uphold human rights, safeguard a sustainable livelihood and ensure human dignity for poor and vulnerable groups that we serve.

OMAR SEY

PRESIDENT

3. STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR

When I reflect on the activities that were implemented in the year 2015 and all the achievements made I can proudly say that we are making progress in changing lives and giving hope to the population that we serve.

The primary aim of this report is to keep all stakeholders informed on the collective achievements, challenges and way forward to achieve the goal of elevating the human sufferings, exploitations and abuse that the vulnerable children suffer in the hands of those who are supposed to protect them. More especially for our donors to see what changes their financial contribution has made to the lives of our vulnerable children and their families.

I would like to express my appreciation to the local partners of CEDAG such as Department of Social Welfare, NAATIP, ICSCATS, Coordination of Working Children and Youths, Child Welfare Units of Police and Immigration for their support during the year 2015

We are particularly grateful to ISS-West Africa, ANPAS for extending financial support to implement activities reflected in this report.

We would like to offer special thanks to the Technical Adviser of ISS-WA for providing constant technical support and assistance for the effective implementation of program activities.

Finally, my thanks go to all management staff of CEDAG for all their support in assuring that all objectives of the project activities are met.

Let us all take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment and join hands towards achieving the goal of protecting our children and their families to overcome the challenges that they face in their daily lives.

Morris I.O. Anyim

4. Executive summary

Looking back at the activities that have been implemented in the year 2015 and the achievements, especially the valued changes it has added to the children and their families, CEDAG can say that YES we have made progress. When we see smiles on the faces of the children and their families they give us more zeal to strive harder and to reach more vulnerable children at hard to reach communities.

94 transnational children were identified and reintegrated to their countries of origin mostly from Senegal. Thanks to ISS-WA for their technical and financial support given to CEDAG to facilitate the processes of the reintegration. Additional 25 Gambian children were identified within The Gambia with the support of the Gambia Police and immigration following an outreach program conducted in various towns and communities.

80 community reference persons were identified within the five regions of the Gambia. The objective of this activity is to involve the community members in monitoring activities of the children and their families after reintegration. CEDAG and its partners now have the telephone contact of all the reference persons and it has help in family tracing in some of the communities thereby cutting cost of family tracing.

15 children who were reintegrated were supported in various fields. Some choose to go to a modern school and some chose vocational skill development such as tailoring. Their families received support for income generating activities and have engaged themselves in various ventures;- animal husbandry, cement shops and tailoring workshops. CEDAG and its partners have conducted a community garden baseline survey which the general objective is to provide relevant baseline data with a view to enhance impact evaluation upon completion of the community garden project.

30 members of Coordination of working children and Youths were trained on case management which was held in Farafenni, facilitated by the Regional focal person of CWCY in Dakar with the assistance of ISS-WA technical adviser for Anglo phone countries. 30 NAATIP partners where equally trained on Act 2007 and Child protection based on WAN standard.

5. Major Activities/Achievement

5.1 WAN program

OUT REACH PROGRAM

The outreach programs which were conducted in Jarra Soma were as a result of complaint from social workers of the Social Welfare Department in Jarra Soma on the frequent movement of children in the streets , and motor parks, who mostly leave their Daras to roam around the streets exposing them to vulnerable situations such as forced and exploitative labor and/or possibly falling into the hands of traffickers.

The purpose of the mission was to dialogue with the owners of the Quaranic memorizing centers called Dara and security officers at the border post in Jarra Soma and Farafenni in order to discuss the social welfare of the children, which included support and care. Another reason was also to meet with the children in the streets in order to have a face to face talk on matters affecting them and to educate them on the opportunities and options available should they need help.

The program was jointly conducted by the DSW, GID, CEDAG and MAEJT group from Jarra Soma.

Outcome of the mission

- The Immigration and the Police at the border post of Jarra Soma gained more knowledge of WAN operational partners and assistance available for referral of cases of trans-national children.
- The mission helped the team to see the need to visit more Dara centers in order to dialogue with the owners to improve the social welfare of the children and for the children themselves to know where to seek help when needed.

5.2 IDENTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY REFERENCE PERSONS

In order to improve the quality of services that are provided to vulnerable children in different regions in The Gambia, Child and Environmental Development Association-The Gambia (CEDAG) with the financial support from International Social Service (ISS) West Africa conducted community dialogue programs in five regions namely;

Central River Region, Western Region, Upper River Region, Lower River Region and North Bank Region respectively.

The general objective of the activity is to identify reference persons to cover all the communities in the five regions in order to assist in family tracing and monitoring of children after their return/reintegration and follow up with the progress of their individual projects.

The activities were conducted in collaboration with the regional coordinators of Department for Social Welfare (DSW) and Coordination of Working Children and Youths (CWCY). The two partners assisted in local logistics in terms of arrangement for the hall and invitation to participants in all the regions where the events were held.



The dialogue with the communities in the five regions focused on bridging the gap between diverse groups so that community leaders, community members, and other stakeholders will all be able to engage in meaningful interaction across typical child protection problems. The discussion among participants was further focused on the procedures of monitoring of the child after reintegration and the roles of the participants within their communities.

Achievements and outcomes of the community dialogue

- 80 persons have been identified as reference persons representing 80 communities in The Gambia
- The contact telephone numbers of the identified reference persons have been collected and database developed for quick references
- Participants were able to gain more knowledge on family tracing and monitoring after reintegration
- Family tracing and monitoring will be more easy with the involvement of the community members
- Participants were able to have a little knowledge of WAN standards
- Participants were able to know the referral system available for the WAN program in The Gambia
- There are opportunities to identify more children especially trans-national ones.
- CEDAG now has a better understanding of the challenges of the communities' actors

5.3 COMMUNITY GARDEN BASELINE SURVEY

The West African Network for Child protection program in The Gambia, a unique mechanism for child protection, has supported communities, families and children on economic and income generating activities to enable them steer the process of their own development and enable families including communities to contribute to the protection of vulnerable children. Establishment of community garden as an alternative livelihood will help communities to increase their sense of community ownership and stewardship towards protection and holistic development of their children. It will also help strengthen the direct environment of the child and establish a dialogue with parents and the community who will act as first line protection, contributing to reducing the vulnerabilities of the children in the communities.

The objective of this activity is to provide relevant baseline data with a view to enhance impact evaluation upon completion of the community garden project.

The activity was conducted in collaboration with Department for Community Development regional office in Kerewan, Coordination of working children and youths, CEDAG and International Center for Street Children and trafficking Studies.

The baseline survey was conducted in four communities, two of which are in Central River Region (Kaur Touray Kunda and Jamwelly) and two in the North Bank Region(Njawara and Saba).

The reason for selecting these communities are:

A high number of children are out of school because of their parents lack of income as a result, they leave their homes in search of jobs which exposes them to exploitation and face the risk of being trafficked.

- Large number of children have been reintegrated within these communities
- High number of unemployed youths within the selected communities.

5.4 NATIONAL COORDINATION OF WORKING CHILDREN AND YOUTH CASE MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Three days training workshop was conducted in Farafenni aiming at strengthening the capacity of the WCY of the Gambia on how to use the regional case management processes and the sheets that help to collect information, orient, and plan for the children who are vulnerable especially “the children on the move” through the national coordination of WAN in Gambia (CEDAG). The Objective is “to strengthen the members of Association of Working children and youth in the Gambia focusing on the National focal persons and association’s focal persons as elected by each association and the national coordination, by enforcing and maintaining processes and systems and providing equitable understanding of the methods of filling the sheets, the interventions of the WCY, the correspondences and how the system works”.

The overall purpose of the workshop was to conduct a training for the National and the Association focal points of association of working children and youth the Gambia, to equip them with the knowledge and skills required to ensure effective case management, reliable record keeping, and compilation of case statistics for the production of periodical case statistic reports which will be provided by the Case data for good practices.

This requires an understanding of case management systems of WAN, record keeping and their ability to use sheets provided in the standard of WAN regardless of the capacity of the WCY Focal points



- The training was conducted with the following specific objectives in mind:
- To ensure basic understanding and familiarity of using the sheets (identification sheet, follow-up/monitoring sheets and children life projects)
- Reinforce the focal points on how to fill the sheets using practical examples provided by the WCY;
- Ensure understanding of the purpose and importance of efficient case management and reliable records and case status in relation to the functioning of the case data;
- Increase knowledge and understanding of principles of case management and records keeping;
- Ensure and trace out a collaborative teamwork between the focal persons, the case worker and the national coordination WAN in the Gambia (CEDAG).



The 3 days' workshop brought together 30 participants; among who were 12 Boys and 18 Girls who came from 6 Associations such as; Barra, Brikama, Farafenni, Kaur, Pakalinding and Soma Associations and an additional 2 from the National Coordination team. Each of the AWCYs was represented by 4 participants. The training workshop was facilitated by Abena Yamoah from ISS-WA and Boyon James Suru from AMWCY regional office Dakar with support of 3 personnels from CEDAG.

5.4 SUPPORTS TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Helping children out of the street requires giving them a new life and hope for the future CEDAG with the support from the WAN program have supported the educational and skill development of 20 children in different regions of the Gambia. These children who are being reintegrated with to their families after experiencing hard time, exploitation of different types and abuse and are now enjoying a new life full of hope and are receiving family care and support from their community members.

Some of them who have chosen to learn tailoring and other skills have now seen that life is better at home and with a skill you have better future in life.



Supporting the child is one type but supporting the parent to take care of the children themselves is one of the greater achievements this program has made during these past months in the year 2015. In general this program has supported 15 families in different income generating activities such as animal husbandry, cement shops, daily need shops and tailoring shops.



We added more school hours to some of the children by providing them with bicycle as they walk long distance to school. This has helped to reduce their lateness to school and increase their school performances.



5.5 TRAINING WORKSHOP ON CAPACITY BUILDING OF NAATIP PARTNERS ON THE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ACT 2007 AND CHILD PROTECTION



Capacity development training on trafficking in persons Act 2007 and Child protection was conducted for 30 participant of NAATIP partners which was held from 30th of November to 2nd December 2015 at Djembe Beach Resort in The Gambia.

The focus of the training was to build the capacities of NAATIP partners on child protection and trafficking with emphasis on partners participation and networking as a team in order to enable them work in a mutually supportive manner at both national and regional level. The training module was put in components of both ISS - WA and NAATIP mandates which was of great benefit to the participants. The lead consultant for the training was Sheikh Lewis supported by three prosecutors from Ministry of Justice and a facilitator from Legal Aid.

NAATIP is a government agency with the mandate to combat cases of Human Trafficking through the 4P approach of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership. NAATIP is also mandated to administer the provisions of the Trafficking in Persons Act 2007 and to initiate measures to inform and educate the public including potential victims about the causes and consequences of Human Trafficking in persons.

5.6 SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

In the year 2015/16 academic year a total of 150 children from the communities of Daru Foday (26), Dasilami (8), Munygen (39), Saaba (23) Greater Banjul Area (11) wellingara ba (4), Jamagen (34) and 5 communities received educational support from CEDAG with the financial assistance from ANPAS who has financially been supporting this program for the past ten years. Not only supporting the children but supporting their parents and communities through the establishment of community projects such as community garden, poultry farms and multipurpose milling machine which is presently situated at Daru Foday in the North bank Region of The Gambia.

Almost all the children started from early childhood education (nursery) but today some of them are in grade 9 to 11 and some will soon finish secondary education in a very short time.

This program has been a great stepping stone in contributing to educational development of these children, reducing the burden from their parents and adding more farming hours for the parents thereby resulting to more agricultural production, add value to their lives and increase their nutritional intake.

With the training received from the Village Development Committee in the year 2008 through the support of the same program, the income generated from the milling machine is now being use to support other needs of the Nursery school situated in the community



The children received school bags, shoes, learning and writing materials, uniforms and
“*You will be remembered*” said one of the children after receiving her school kit.



Laugh it off!!!!

Within the same academic year, the primary school in the village of Munyagen received 50 school chairs and twenty five tables as a special request from the school authority through the village counselor.



The school has been in need of furniture for the past two years as there are more children registering in the school. For the past six years parents are encouraged to send

their children to school as they have seen other children doing better in the school and their parent being happy with it. According to the father of one child who joined the school in the year 2014, said that there is a great difference between children who go to school and children who stay at home without going to school.



6. CHALLENGES

- Effects and existing factors on extreme poverty within families and communities that drove their children out of their homes.
- Migration of families from the community to the other places without atrace
- Partners inability to understand WAN procedures and operational system
- Insufficient funding to implement increased needs to respond to emergency needs of vulnerable children and their families.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- To educate partners on WAN procedures and operational system
- To increase funding opportunities for program implementation through fund raising activities
- To develop sustainable family and community support programs

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