



**CEDAG**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2018**



**Child and Environmental  
Development Association-  
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**2018**

# Acknowledgements

Child and Environmental Development Association- The Gambia are grateful for the generous support received from a range of donors and partners. By working together, we can make a difference in the lives of children, youths and their communities.

We would like to express our thanks to our key supporters listed below, as well as our others who choose to remain anonymous.

- INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE- WEST AFRICA
- ANPAS – ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE PUBBLICHE ASSISTENZE
- FUNDACION SASLONG- SPAIN
- THE GIRL GENERATION
- AMPLIFYCHANGE
- UNICEF-THE GAMBIA

## **TECHNICAL PARTNERS**

- **Department for Social Welfare**
- **Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education**
- **Child Welfare Unit- Gambia Immigration Department**

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## **ACRONYMS**

<b>ANPAS</b>	Associazione Nazionale Pubbliche Assistenze
<b>CEDAG</b>	Child and Environmental Development Association- The Gambia
<b>CCPCs</b>	Community Child Protection Committees
<b>CWCY</b>	Coordination of Working Children and Youths
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>CPA</b>	Child Protection Alliance
<b>ICSCATS</b>	International Centre for Street Children and trafficking Studies
<b>DSW</b>	Department of Social Welfare
<b>IEC</b>	Information, Education and Communication
<b>ISS-WA</b>	International Social Service- West Africa
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>GID</b>	Gambia Immigration Department
<b>GPF</b>	Gambia Police Force
<b>PAO</b>	Programme for West Africa
<b>TANGO</b>	The Association of Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>TGG</b>	The Girl Generation
<b>WAN</b>	West Africa Network for the protection of children

## **Statement by the President of the board**

I am proud to be writing to you as the president of the board. During the year 2018 we have spent our history building strong, positive and productive relationships to ensure the strategic and growth of the organization. We have created friendly policies that enable the management to deliver services to our beneficiaries which have added value to the daily lives.

Early 2018 we faced a fair amount of uncertainty. How will the organization service be amid global economic crises? It is certainly true that on finding the winds of change will not always blowing in our favor, even so what we have found while navigating this sometimes confounding environment is that our great works continue no matter the economic situation.

As you read this report you will see there's a lot of changes and inflects we have made that work celebrating from witnessing long running projects wind down to seeing new projects underway. 2018 really showcased how important our service is, and how much we rely on our donors and partners to make it a reality. By uniting for our course we are able to create for more impacts than we ever do in other years.

Let me say that 2018 remind me that we are all in this work to add value to lives. Momentum may not always be on our side but the needs for our work are too high and the needs are too important to not keep moving forward. There are many challenges confronting us as an organization but we will maintain our pose and dedication to positive uplifting solutions for those in need. We will continues to deliver on the promise of our mission we hope you will join us too.

Finally, I am giving a big thank you to all our donor, friends and partners for all their hard work and support.

## **Statement by the National Coordinator**

It is my pleasure to present to you on behalf of the management team of CEDAG the progress report for the academic year of 2018/2019. It has a new look and presents information in accordance with the promise that we made last year to focus in implementing activities that changes the lives of children that are within this sponsorship program and their families. One of our most important goals was to recognize the organization's performances and to become more accountable to you about that performance. This is our progress report.

The entire management of CEDAG committed itself to pursuing our goals with same dedication and diligence which has made CEDAG to continue to rank among the leading healthy and reliable organizations in The Gambia. Additionally we have been working with new technical team from the regional offices of basic education and grassroots groups this has improved our understanding of adverse outcomes and tailors intervention and program that helps children and their family be have more interest on education and parents supporting their children on other social matters.

I am proud that I present the progress report of 2018/2019. What a privilege to have steer the progress of the activities for the year that have changed life's and add hope to the population that will service.

In 2018, we're proud to be working with range of dedicated caring individuals and organizations, government and community groups; I witness a genuine groundswell and focus in supporting those vulnerable children and their families who receives the support and protection they deserved. Because of the achievements that have been made from the pasted years, new partners have joined us and supported us with the provision of school furniture, bicycles and clothing for the children.

I hope you enjoy reading this report and that it gives you further insights into the work that we do and progress we have made as an organization in partnership with others in 2018/2019. Our staffs are our greatest resource, and I am proud to say that we have a team committed to working together for a common goal. Our dedicated staff has done an incredible job at expanding our outreach while strengthening our programs and services to our targeted population

## **Executive summary**

We consider cooperation as necessary tool for development processes. Therefore, we maintain partnerships with different stakeholders, being aware of the importance of every single pillar: local communities, authorities, other organizations and individuals at national and international level.

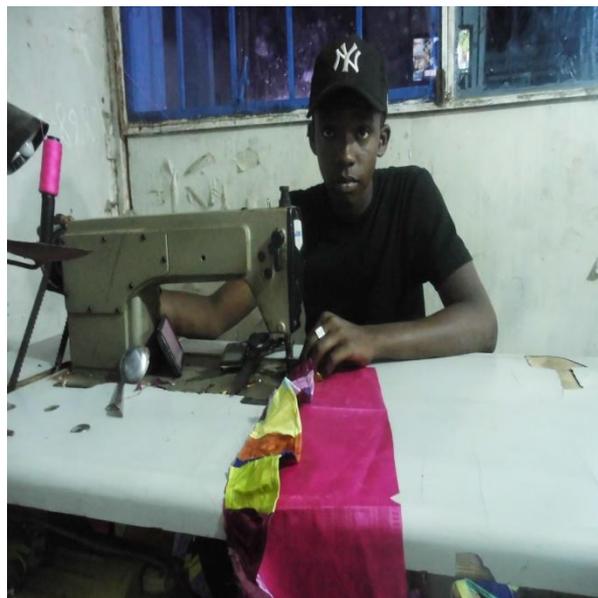
## Identification and reintegration support

Through our partner in the Gambia National Agency for Trafficking in Person (NAATIP), twenty one young women who were trafficked to different countries such as Kuwait, Lebanon etc. were identified and assisted by Gambia embassy in those countries for their returned to the Gambia.



Upon their return, NAATIP help to investigate their cases and later referred the case to the Department of health and Social Welfare for psychological support through which future referral was made to CEDAG in order to assist help them in provision of social and professional reintegration.

All the procedures were taken accordingly to ECOWAS standards on protection of children on the move and young migrants by developing a life project for each of the trafficked victims. Some of the life projects chosen by them are tailoring, daily need shops, fashion and cosmetics business respectively. Through the financial assistance provided by ISS-WA ten of them benefited from the support.



During the year 2018, a total of 187 children on the move and young migrants more identified and re-integrated with their families most of those CoM are victims of labor exploitation begging, early child marriage and other social cultural issues. Family and peer pressure contributed equally to the factors that drive the children out of their homes.

During their temporary placement at the shelter for children in Bakoteh, they were provided with clothing, shoes and other emergency needs, the social workers at the shelter provided them with psychosocial counseling and medical team examined their health conditions.

Among those numbers of re-integrated children, 43 were received school support to enable them be enrolled back to school. So the project proposals have been developed and sent to partners for supports. It is expected that in early 2019 move children and young people will receive support for life project.

UNICEF Gambia office through the DSW have indicated interest to support CEDAG to expand our identification, re-integrated support for children on the moved project documents have been sent to DSW on this regards and it is expected that early 2019 CEDAG will receive financial support to implement activities and CoM. It is expected that 120 children will benefit from this project in the next one year.

ISS-WA has been providing financial and technical support for the people under the West African Network for child protection. In October 2018, the 11<sup>th</sup> steering committee meeting of WAN was held in the Gambia which brings together directors of child protection for all the 175 countries of ECOWAS. The meeting was opened by the representative of the first lady of the Gambia in participation of UNICEF, ECOWAS representative in the Gambia EU and other government delegates the meeting was held at Paradise Suite Hotel from 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

### **Educational Sponsorship Program**

CEDAG believe together we can achieve our goals towards the education of less privileged children. We have started this journey with you since 11 years ago and have changed the lives of children through supporting them with basic needs for their education.

When we started, our primary focus was to provide basic education to the underprivileged children in the Gambia but today we have measured our success and see that we have excel more than what we expected. The achievements have not been an easy task –it have required huge amount of efforts, commitment and patience to keep up the promises. We are sure that with our collective strength we'll be able to fulfil our objective in the days to come. But even though with all this success, there is no time for a pat on the back as many children are still waiting and hoping that one day they will go to school.



*Ida Joof from Munyagen community, now in grade ten (10) student in Kerewan Senior Secondary School*

Despite the complex issues that make it so difficult for families to break the cycle of poverty, we still believed that it can be done. Over the years, we have heard from different communities who felt the support of CEDAG to their children when they were in need. Many of them now help children in their own communities.

We hope you will continue your commitment to the work of our organization, because the lives of children in the Gambia can be transformed when people like you show them love and care which you have been doing for the pasted years now. We highly appreciate and acknowledge the positive contribution that you have made in the academic year of 2017/2018.



Crossroad shipment donated to CEDAG school furniture which includes chairs and table, books for beginners. The school at Daru Foday which started as a nursery school has now been upgraded to a lower primary school and since it has

been upgraded, over 50 children are without Charis and table to sit with. But with the support received from Crossroad under our request to support the sponsorship program that received 60 chairs and 60 tables.



With the help of an organization based in Germany, more 30 bicycles were given to 30 children to support them with the transportation to and fro to school. This eases their walking for more than 2 to 3 km before they could reach to their school and in most cases when they cannot be able to work a long distance they miss their classes leading to poor performance in their securing better education which determines their tomorrow.

During the distribution, assistance was extended to other children different from the direct beneficiaries of the sponsorship program. This is to encourage them to pursue education and encourage other parents to send their children to school

The support items given to the beneficiaries are:

- School uniforms and clothes
- Shoes and bags
- Reading, writing and learning materials

## SUCCESS STORIES



*My name is Aja Horoja Cham  
“When I was very small my mother came back one evening and told me that I will soon start school which is in our community. I ask me mother who will buy my uniforms and other things I need for the school. My mother touch my head and told me that God is great. I ask her what does that mean, she replied and told me that some people have promised to take care of those expenses. As a young girl I was very happy. I start immediately to tell everyone around me that I will start school*

*soon. Just a little time my mother toke me to school for enrolment and I was given new bag, shoe, uniforms and books. I was very happy that following day I will be going to school. In the morning I was the first to wake up and request my mother to bath me which she did and put on my new uniform. I was so excited and I call other of my friends who attend the same school and say let us go. Today I am in grade 10 hoping to finish my grade 12 soon. I am really happy that I am able to go to school. Today I can read and write English. Thanks to the person who have help me and my parents”*



*“My name is Filli Njie I am happy to be enrolled in the school. I enjoy seeing and playing with my friends in the school. We study together too. My mother is happy seeing me going to school. My father does not have much money to send the children to school but I am lucky that I have support from CEDAG which I am told that some people in Toubabuo country is helping me but I don't see them. But my mother always say Allah will bless them. I hope that I will finish my school soon and get a work to help my parents so that my other brothers and sisters will be able to go to school.*

## **Our Major achievement in the year 2018/19**

- 60 chairs and 60 tables donated for the extension of classrooms in Daru Foday
- 150 children are still enrolled in the school
- 29 out of the children enrolled in different schools have sat for their grade 9 examination
- 30 children received bicycles
- 5 volunteers within North Bank region join CEDAG to assist with the monitoring of the progress of the children.
- A representative from Regional Educational office in Kerewan join our monitoring team

## **Bike for School Program**

Advocacy and awareness program

