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**OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

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**NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION SECRETARIAT**

**VULNERABLE YOUTH AND WOMEN SUPPORT PROJECT (VYWSP)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR SUB-PROJET OF  
DIABUGU BATAPA ECD CENTER  
REHABILITATION**

**For**

**NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION SECRETARIAT**

**June 2023**

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>CoC</b>	Codes of Conduct
<b>CRR</b>	Central River Region
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>ESMF</b>	Environmental and Social Management Framework
<b>ESMP</b>	Environmental and Social Management Plan
<b>ESS</b>	Environmental and Social Standards
<b>GBV</b>	Gender and Gender-Based Violence
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GEAP</b>	Gambia Environmental Action Plan
<b>GM</b>	Grievance Mechanism
<b>GoTG</b>	Government of The Gambia
<b>GRC</b>	Grievance Redress Committee
<b>HDRs</b>	Human Development Report's
<b>LRR</b>	Lower River Region
<b>NBR</b>	North Bank Region
<b>NEA</b>	National Environment Agency
<b>NEMA</b>	National Environment Management Act
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>OHS</b>	Occupational Health and Safety
<b>PDO</b>	Project Development Objective
<b>POC</b>	Project Oversight Committee
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SEA/SH</b>	Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment
<b>SEP</b>	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>URR</b>	Upper River Region
<b>VAC</b>	Violence Against Children
<b>VYWSP</b>	Vulnerable Youth and Women Support Project
<b>VDCs</b>	Village Development Committees
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Cumulative impacts/effects:** The impact on the environment resulting from the action's incremental impact when added to other past, current, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

**Direct impacts:** These are effects that occur through the direct interaction of an activity with an environmental, social, or economic component.

**Disclosure:** Information is available to all stakeholders at all stages of the development of projects.

**Environment:** this is a diversity of things made up of natural and artificial environments. It includes chemical substances, biodiversity, socio-economic activities, cultural, aesthetic, and scientific factors likely to have direct or indirect, immediate or long-term effects on the development of an area, biodiversity, and human activities.

**Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA):** It is an instrument to identify and assess the potential environmental and social impacts of a proposed project, evaluate alternatives, and design appropriate mitigation, management, and monitoring measures.

**Environmental Monitoring:** During project implementation, this instrument provides information about key environmental aspects of the project that enables the borrower and the bank to evaluate the success of mitigation as part of project supervision and allows corrective action to be taken when needed.

**Grievance:** An issue, concern, problem, or claim (perceived or actual) that an individual or community group wants a company or contractor to address or resolve.

**Impact:** A positive or negative effect caused by a project or an environmental activity.

**Indirect impacts:** are effects that are not a direct result of the project, often produced away from or as a result of a complex impact pathway. They are also known as secondary or even third-level impacts.

**Involuntary resettlement:** This is a policy triggered in situations involving (a) involuntary taking of land resulting in (i) relocation or loss of shelter, (ii) loss of assets or access to assets, or (iii) loss of income sources or means of livelihood, whether or not the affected persons must move to another location; or (b) the involuntary restriction of access to legally designated parks and protected areas resulting in adverse impacts on the livelihoods of the displaced persons. The policy aims to avoid involuntary resettlement to the extent possible or reduce and mitigate its adverse social and economic impacts.

**Mitigation measures refer** to feasible and cost-effective measures that may reduce potentially significant adverse environmental impacts to acceptable levels.

**Pollution:** is the contamination caused by waste, harmful biochemical products derived from human activities that may alter man's habitat and cause adverse effects on the environment like man's social well-being, animals, flora and fauna and the world they live in.

**Risk:** are potential negative consequences to a project that result from its impacts (or perceived impacts) on the natural environment (i.e. air, water, soil) or communities of people (e.g. employees, customers, local residents).

**Scoping:** Scoping is the process of determining the content and extent of matters that should be covered in the environmental information to be submitted to a competent authority or other decision-making body

**Screening:** This determines whether or not an EIA is needed and is a formal requirement under the EIA Regulations.

**Stakeholders:** These are persons, groups, or organization with a vested interest or stake in the decision-making and activities of a project.

**Waste:** anything that no longer has a use or purpose and needs to be disposed

## Executive Summary

### i. Overview of the project

In this context of widespread multidimensional vulnerabilities, The Government of the Gambia requested a grant of five (5) million UA from the African Development Bank Group to finance the Vulnerable Youth and Women Support Project (VYWOSP). The project's overall objective is to provide livelihood opportunities for vulnerable youth and women, allowing them to escape from poverty sustainably. To protect vulnerable groups, the government has identified social protection as a key strategic priority in the NDP (2018 - 2021) extended to 2022. Social protection and access to basic social services allied with livelihood support programs (literacy, skills development, and financial support) targeting the most vulnerable have the potential to reinforce the productive and income-generating capacities and social inclusion of those in need.

The proposed project seeks to improve the incomes and productivity of the most vulnerable youth and women in rural areas and their access and use of basic social services, including health, nutrition, and education. This is in line with the key strategic priority of the government NDP (2018 - 2021) to protect vulnerable groups through access to basic social services allied with livelihood support programs (literacy, skills development, and financial support); targeting the most vulnerable has the potential to reinforce the productive and income generating capacities and social inclusion of those in need. Specifically, the project will:

- (i) Create jobs and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable women and out-of-school youth in rural areas, increase their productivity and hence their incomes through skills development, entrepreneurship, supply of productive equipment and non-financial support (counseling, coaching); and
- (ii) Improve their use and access to better and inclusive basic social services (health and nutrition, education). The project will adopt a holistic approach to tackling multidimensional vulnerability and poverty. The project will also contribute to reducing gender inequalities by providing better economic and social prospects for young girls and women and reducing the social expectations of male youth.

The project has three (3) complementary components, including the support to youth and women empowerment to access jobs and livelihood opportunities equitably (UC 2 million), support for better and inclusive access to basic social services (UC2.5 million), and project management and institutional strengthening (UC 0.5 million).

The overall objective of conducting an ESIA which will generate an ESMP WMP, is to determine the potential adverse environmental effects of the renovation of the Diabugu Batapa ECD Center and develop mitigation measures that can be adopted to reduce or eliminate these adverse effects as well as maximise the potential benefits of the project.

The following are the specific objectives of the ESIA study:

- ❖ To identify project activities that have the potential to impact the environment negatively.

- ❖ To map negative environmental and social areas of concern in the renovation/construction of the ECD Center.
- ❖ Develop mitigation measures and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP).
- ❖ Identify positive practices and innovations to promote a clean environment and reduce environmental degradation.
- ❖ Identify the risks, constraints, and opportunities linked to the environment in which the project will operate.

Several activities will be carried out to construct and rehabilitate the different infrastructures at Diabugu Batapa ECD Center. The activities shall be implemented in three phases: planning/preparation, construction, and operation. Details about each of the phases are provided below:

### **Preparation phase**

Activities during the preparation phase include identification of what needs to be rehabilitated or constructed; preparation of a master plan; preparation of detailed layout plans; preparation of building designs; tender processing, obtaining approvals under the Physical Planning and Development Control Act 1990 for the rehabilitation, construction and operation of the proposed project facilities. The Environmental and Social Assessment study and preparing the ESMP are part of the planning phase.

### **Renovation/Construction works phase**

Construction activities will involve demolition; excavation; compacting; trenching; backfilling with compaction consolidation; leveling and earth marking; transportation of building materials; and construction of a three-classroom block, dining area for children and kitchen upgrading. Other infrastructure, such as sanitary facilities, shall also be constructed. This phase will also involve the mobilization of workers; transportation of equipment and construction materials (e.g. stone aggregates, steel, sand, cement, gravel, fiber cement boards, pressed metal door frames, etc.).

### **Operation phase**

Activities during the operation phase will include commissioning the use and regular maintenance of the different infrastructures at Diabugu Batapa ECD Center for the intended purpose. The main effect of this phase is that a lot of solid waste will be generated daily, which must be managed properly.

## **ii. Alternatives to the project**

Intending to create a good teaching and learning environment, the alternative analysis of this project considers other practicable strategies that can be looked at to achieve the project objectives and eliminate adverse environmental and social impacts associated with project implementation. The scenarios are given to choose the design and rehabilitation/construction plan in accordance with the objectives and the actual natural environment and socioeconomic conditions in Diabugu Batapa ECD Center. The various alternatives to the proposed project

were assessed regarding environmental acceptability and economic feasibility during the assessment process as discussed below.

- ***Zero scenario alternatives***

In the case where the zero scenarios alternatives are considered, this means that the project will not be implemented. The forgone costs of not having the project could result in economic and social losses regarding employment development, human welfare, livelihood and improved services. So, this option is not recommended for this project since the land area belongs to the school, and there is no other alternative plot that the developer can access without incurring additional costs. There is also evidence that the rehabilitation/construction of this land area will not have severe negative impacts on the surrounding environment and communities.

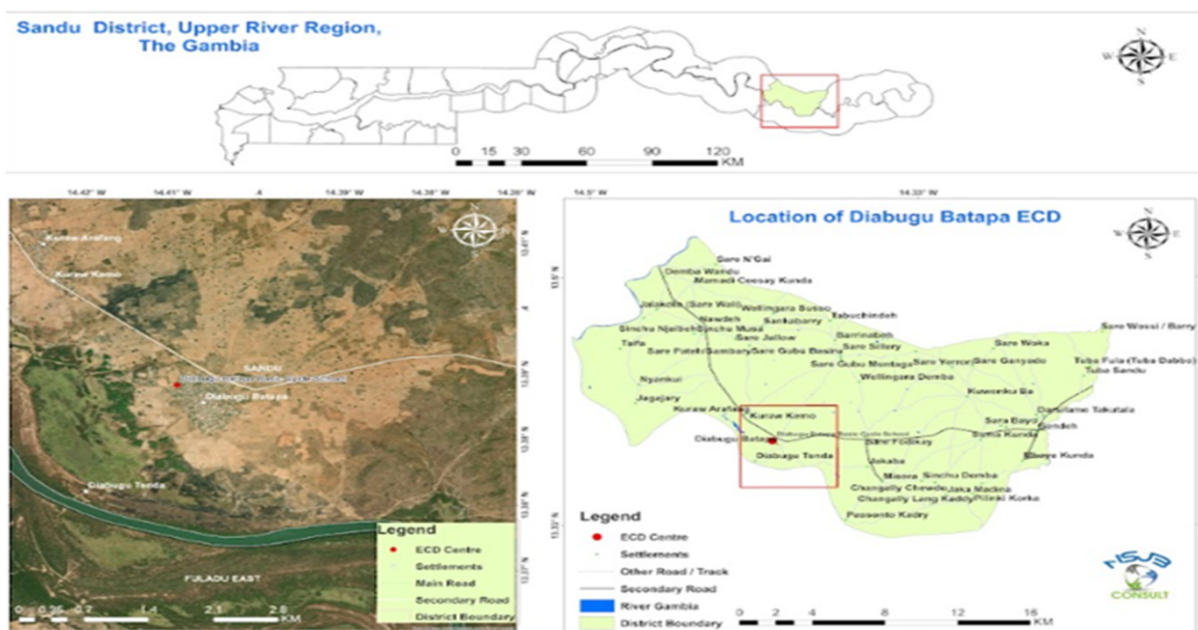
- ***Location and layout alternatives***

The location and layout alternatives were not considered since the proposed construction and rehabilitation works will take place within the premises of existing structures at Diabugu Batapa ECD Center. Also, the intended project concerns the expansion works of the Diabugu Batapa ECD Center, which already exists in the project area. This means that the site fits the proposed project. The site also has access to water but no grid electricity expansion in the area. However, Solar Energy source is a viable option.

**iii. Brief description of the project site and the major environmental and social stakes/challenges**

***a. Project localization***

Diabugu Batapa ECD is in Diabugu Batapa in the Upper River Region (URR) North, located along the Lamin Koto-Passamass Road Highway. Diabugu Batapa has a population of 8000 inhabitants. The ECD School was established in 1961 with a six-classroom block, and the current student enrollment is 260 pupils. On average, 43 pupils are in a classroom.



### Figure 1: Location of Diabugu Batapa ECD center

The site of Diabugu Batapa ECD Center consists of various structures (Staff Quarters, Kitchen Block, Toilets Block, and Classroom Blocks). The overall condition of these structures is poor. The staff quarters are unsuitable for housing the Diabugu Batapa key personnel, and the classroom block is also not environmentally friendly for learning. The buildings developed some defects that need rehabilitating and construction, which include: Replacing the ceiling structure of the buildings, Roofing sheets with metal trusses, Plastering needed for the building, Tiling of the building floors is highly needed, Electrical works, Plumbing works, Painting works also needed for the building, and Construction of three bedrooms bungalow house (Three structures) and dining hall.

#### *b. Project Influence Area*

Looking at the size of the country where most environmental and social conditions have marginal differences; as a result, the report describes the baseline environmental and social conditions of the Upper River Region (URR) with specifics to Diabugu Batapa ECD Center.

**Climate and Weather Conditions:** Located at an elevation of 23.11 meters (75.82 feet) above sea level, the Upper River Region (URR) has a Tropical wet and dry or savanna climate (Classification: Aw). The area's yearly temperature is 31.85°C (89.33°F), and it is 2.27% higher than The Gambia's averages. Upper River typically receives about 60.75 millimeters (2.39 inches) of precipitation and has 78.18 rainy days (21.42% of the time) annually.

**Air quality:** Generally, in URR, it becomes dusty and windy during the dry season and humid during the rainy season. At the time of the visit, the air quality in Diabugu Batapa ECD was classified as not clean as it was dusty and windy.

**Water quality:** Generally, the natural phenomenon of groundwater in the Gambia is good and wholesome. The residents manifested that the water quality at Diabugu Batapa is clean and fit for human use.

**Flora:** URR is defined as the Eastern Transition Zone and South Bank Zone, characterized by vegetation dominated by shrubs, often including grasses, herbs, and tree savannas. Most of the more wooded landscapes are found on the south side of the river, where the South Bank Zone extends seamlessly into Senegal's Casamance (CAS) ecoregion. Diabugu Batapa ECD center has different ornamental and fruit tree species, including neem trees, eucalyptus, and mangoes.

**Fauna:** Over decades, the Upper River Region has lost most of its faunal species to environmental degradation. This is because of the over-exploitation of the natural vegetation to logging and slashes and burns agricultural practices. Most species have migrated to the Casamance Region, which provides a safe haven thanks to its vegetation cover.

**Demography:** The 2013 Population and Housing Census indicated that, regionally, the population of URR is 239,916. The ethnicity in the region is composed of mainly eight officially recognized groups; Mandingoes, Fulani, Wolofs, and others (Jolas, Sarahuley,

Serer, Manjago, and Akus). About 90% of the population practice Islam in terms of religious affiliation, while the remaining 10% practice Christianity or traditional beliefs.

**Agriculture:** Like other regions in the Gambia, URR is primarily an agricultural region with its population dependent on agriculture for its food and cash income. Agriculture is characterized by subsistence production of food crops (rice, millet, sorghum), semi-intensive cash crop production (groundnuts, cotton, sesame), and traditional livestock production. Horticulture is also important. It is practiced largely by women during the dry season as a counter-seasonal activity and constitutes an important source of income for them. Individual land for gardens is obtained mostly on loan from the village chief, referred to as Alkali/family heads; however, when village associations (women, youth) develop a plan for agricultural activity, they are typically given the requested piece of land for temporary or indefinite use, depending on the time they need to use it.

**Education:** In URR, many boys and girls start school; however, more girls than boys drop out of primary school. Overall, however, the literacy rates in the region are low – only around 50 percent of the population can read and write. This is much lower than in other areas of the country, where 62.9 percent are literate. The share of children in the region shows the opposite tendency, shrinking from 22 percent at the primary level to 11 percent at the upper secondary.

**Health:** Like the health system in all other regions of the Gambia, the health service delivery system in URR is three tiers based on the Primary Health Care Strategy and covers the proposed project areas. While health service provision is virtually free at public ECD centers, especially for women and children, proximity to major facilities remains a problem for the majority of the communities within the region. NGO and privately run facilities complement public service delivery. One of the health policy goals is to empower communities to be active partners in managing their physical health and health services.

**Economic activities the people undertake:** Outside agriculture, commerce is an important source of income among the local population in URR. Provincial growth centers such as Basse in URR are major trading centers for the surrounding communities outside The Gambia. Petty trading is also important at the village level, especially after the rainy season. In addition to domestic trade, cross-border trade in agricultural and food products, clothes, and some imported consumer goods are important at the traditional weekly markets known as the "lumo" along the border with traders from other regions and neighboring Senegal.

**Land Tenure:** Generally, the Land Tenure System in the Gambia is complex and sensitive. The typical tenure system is communal in most communities; however, this kind of ownership can result in land fragmentation which does not support large-scale investment in production. The land tenure system in URR is generally based on a dual system due principally to the colonial past, which introduced the statutory title and customary tenure (UNDP).

**Gender Empowerment:** The National Gender Policy has identified emerging development issues of the Gambia, such as poverty reduction, a sector-wide approach to planning, effective service delivery through decentralization, public-private partnership, and civil service reform, all necessitating a shift in policy direction from women empowerment to the

promotion of gender equality and equity. The National Gender Policy 2010-2020 aims to guide and direct all levels of planning and implementation of development programmes, with a gender perspective, including resource allocation geared towards equitable national development.

**Utility Facilities:** Most social and economic activities require using various forms and quantities of energy. Energy in URR is important to households for basic use. Inhabitants of the region get energy supply from the national grid, with few households using renewable energy. Nearly all households in The Gambia (95%) have access to an improved source of drinking water, mostly from public taps, standpipes, or privately dug boreholes and wells. In URR, nearly three-quarters of household use improved sanitation facilities, including facilities shared with other households. URR is also endowed with fresh water from the river Gambia, mostly used for domestic purposes such as laundry and bathing.

**Waste management:** Generally, waste management at the Diabugu Batapa ECD center is manageable with the observance of minimal littering on the school premises. However, the center do burn waste as a disposal option within the ECD premise. There was evidence of open burning inside along the center's perimeter fence, which must stop. We need to have a proper waste management plan in place.

#### iv. Institutional and legal framework for implementation of the project

Institutional and legal frameworks for implementation relevant to the project are discussed

##### a) The national policies

**Table 1: Summary of national policies relevant to Diabugu Batapa ECD Center renovation/Construction**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implications to Diabugu Batapa ECD Center Rehabilitation/Construction</b>
Gambia Environment Action Plan, GEAP (2019-2029)	The rehabilitation works at Diabugu Batapa ECD Center will trigger the GEAP, and it will help to guide general environmental planning and natural resources management.
National Social Protection Policy 2015-2025 (NSPP)	This policy is relevant to the project. It is to facilitate the reform of the national social protection system by ensuring more efficient and effective use of resources, strengthened management and administrative systems, and progress towards a more inclusive form of social protection that makes basic income and social services available to The Gambia's poorest and most vulnerable people. This project is all about that and, therefore, relevant.
The National Health Policy, 2012-2020	The rehabilitation works at Diabugu Batapa ECD Center trigger this policy as it will ensure the health of every person within the project influence areas. Health Promotion activities and enforcing health-related Laws will also be applied at the sub-project site. The Ministry of Health



	implements the policy with allied health-related Institutions and Programs.
Early Childhood Development Policy (2016 – 2030)	This policy is important for the sub-project to increase multisectoral efforts to meet the needs of all children under the age of eight. The policy covers education, health care, social welfare, food and nutrition, and water and sanitation. This is relevant for the Diabugu Batapa ECD center.
National Policy for the Advancement of Gambian Women and Girls (1999-2009)	Relevant to the Diabugu Batapa ECD Center rehabilitation Project since it will benefit both men and women equitably, including the youth.
Gambia National Gender & Women Empowerment Policy (2010–2020)	This policy would especially apply to recruiting labour for rehabilitation works at the Diabugu Batapa ECD Center. Women should ideally have equal opportunities as men for available jobs.
National Development Plan (2018-2021) <sup>1</sup>	The project aims to rehabilitate Diabugu Batapa ECD Center in the Upper River Region. The implementation rehabilitation of this center is in line with helping cover the infrastructure gap in line with the expectation of the NDP, which sets to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhancing access to early childhood education,</li> <li>○ improving quality learning, with special emphasis on promoting ECD</li> </ul>
Education Sector Policy 2016 – 2030	In line with the National Development Plan (NDP), policy priorities are identified to allow for the growth of educational opportunity and improve the effectiveness of education at all levels, from Early Childhood Development (ECD) to tertiary and higher education. The policy promotes accessible, equitable, and inclusive quality education for sustainable development.

## b) Legal framework

**Table 2: Summary of legal framework relevant to Diabugu Batapa ECD Center Renovation/Construction**

<sup>1</sup> The Government of The Gambia is in the process of formulating the successor of current NDP namely Green Recovery-focused National Development Plan (2023 - 2027) and also successor of Vision 2020 - Long-Term Development Vision (Vision 2050)

<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Implications to Diabugu Batapa ECD Center Rehabilitation/Construction</b>
National Environment Management Act, 1994	This Project falls under Schedule A, which requires an ESMP/ESIA. The project will observe the environmental law by conducting Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and/or preparing Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) to ensure the reduction of disastrous consequences on the Environment in its activities. The project will also monitor compliance with environmental safeguards at all sites.
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014	The Regulations provide more details for the ESIA and implementation of the ESMPs.
Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides Control and Management Act, 1994	Hazardous chemicals could be used in the construction /rehabilitation works of the Diabugu Batapa ECD center, and some of the equipment can contain hazardous chemicals.
Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Regulations 2000	This Regulation will guide the potential for the Project to use ODS. It is essential to consult with NEA to comply with the national phase-out in line with the Kigali Agreement regarding installing certain gadgets during the rehabilitation/construction phase.
Local Government Act, 2002	Implementation of the Project will require the participation of decentralized institutions, including the Regional Education Directorate, the Office of the Governor, and the respective Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Village development committee.
Biodiversity and Wildlife Act, 2003	Increased pressure on natural resources due to increased ease of access because of Civil works and operations. It is relevant to protect the fauna and flora within the project influence area.
Public Health Act, 1990	The Public Health Act is relevant because Diabugu Batapa ECD centers Rehabilitation works will have social and environmental issues that will trigger the Public Health Act. Public nuisance during construction, e.g., noise, vibration, dust, fumes. Potential contamination during construction. Pollution Prevention measures are reflected in the ESMP.
Labour Act (2007)	The project hiring and managing its labour force should adhere to this act.
The Children's Act 2005	The rights of children impacted by the Project need to be protected.
The Women's Act 2010	Relevant to this Project because of the potential impact of skills development and related matters, which is a source of livelihood for women; they need to avoid gender-based violence (GVB) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)
Anti-littering Regulations, 2007	The Project must ensure that all waste produced during all phases is well managed, including e-waste.
Environmental Quality	Project implementation can generate dust and pollute

Standards Regulations 1999	surface freshwaters and groundwater within the project's area of influence.
States Land Act 1995	The project implementation must adhere to these provisions to avoid land conflicts in project sites.
Physical Planning and Development Act, 1990	Since Diabugu Batapa ECD center Rehabilitation may require some expansion, as in the construction of new infrastructure, this Act is triggered.
Hazardous Chemicals Regulations 1999	Relevant to Project since some chemicals in rehabilitation/construction works may be used and associated with human and environmental health.
Sexual Offences Acts 2013	The Projects can potentially increase the risk of GBV in different settings and ways in the Diabugu Batapa ECD center sub-project. Thus, preventive measures must be in place to avoid such occurrences.
Land Acquisition and Compensation Act, 1990	Project implementation can cause land ownership and transfer problems in project implementation sites. However, this does not affect the Diabugu Batapa ECD center rehabilitation sub-project since activities will be carried out in the existing center. Still is relevant for reference during project implementation.

c) Institutional framework

- Project implementation entity (PIE)

The National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS) is the executor of this Project in The Gambia, coordinating and monitoring the Project ESMP implementation. NSPS is therefore invited to set up a project management unit and to recruit E&S specialists to monitor the implementation of the ESMP generated by this ESIA.

- Stakeholder in the Project's ESMP implementation
  - ✓ Stakeholders

**Table 3: Institutional framework relevant to project**

<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Specific Responsibilities</b>	<b>Interests and roles in this Project Implementation</b>	<b>Level of intervention</b>
National Environment Agency (NEA)	The NEA enforces the NEMA,1994 and ESIA Regulations 2014	-Evaluation of the ESIA report -Grant Environmental Approval for the Project Disclosure and publication of the ESIA, Issuance and renewal of environmental certificates/permits - Monitoring the	All phases of the Project, from planning and design to the renovation and operation

		environmental aspects of the ESMP implementation	
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Resources	Oversees the NEA and implementation of environmental laws and policies of The Gambia	Policy guidance oversees the Department of Forestry and Department of Parks and Wildlife Management are key to this Project	All phases of the Project, from planning and design to the renovation and operation
Ministry of Lands and Regional Administration	Oversees all the local government authorities. Its regional representatives are the TACs located in the Regional Governors' offices.	The Ministry will support the coordination of involuntary settlement as it enforces all legal regulations on land administration and land use.	Pre-renovation, renovation, and operation phases
Governor's Office (URR)	Oversee the region's Regional Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) (URR).	The TACs will support the implementation and monitoring processes at the Regional levels.	Pre-renovation and renovation phases
Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education	Responsible for overall formulation and direction of the national Secondary education agenda, planning, and education infrastructural development	Provide alternatives for the continuity of class lessons during the project implementation.	Pre-renovation, renovation, and operation phases
National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS)	Under the Office of the Vice President, NSPS provides leadership and coordination across social protection efforts in The Gambia.	NSPS is the executor of this Project in The Gambia and coordinates and monitors the Project ESMP implementation.	All phases of the Project
Women's Bureau	Under the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare, the Women's Bureau promotes gender equity and women's empowerment in	-Ensures the rights of women affected by the Project are protected -Participates in sensitization on gender issues.	Pre-renovation, renovation, and operation phases

	The Gambia.		
Department of Social Welfare	This department protects and promotes the rights of vulnerable people such as children, women, and the disabled.	Supports and guides the process during related grievances and participates in sensitization on GBV, SEA, VAC, etc.	Pre-renovation, renovation, and operation phases
Department of Labour	Enforces employment laws and combats child labor	Protection of employee rights; Protection against child labor; Response to complaints and reports such as accidents, abuse, and discrimination at work	Pre-renovation, renovation, and operation phases
Head teachers/School Management team	Responsible for the day-to-day operation of the School facilities	Oversight responsible of all the activities carried out during the rehabilitation works in consultation with the PIU, Regional Education Directorate, and Contractor.	All phases of the project
Construction companies in charge of the rehabilitation works	In charge of the implementation of the rehabilitation work in accordance with the signed contract.	Execute the project as designed and agreed, keeping in view the environmental and social safeguards.	Pre-renovation, renovation,
NGOs and civil society	These voluntary groups or organizations are determined to protect the community's rights and promote awareness creation.	Support the community to ensure that the right thing is done in terms of project implementation as well as advocate for zero incidents, no environmental degradation and social disorder.	All phases of the project

#### v. Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement

Public Consultations and stakeholder engagement were held from March 14<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to establish the levels of understanding and appreciation of the ECD project Project. Some of the key findings of the consultation are as follows. Over 68% of the respondents were unaware of the proposed renovation/construction activities at the ECD. The project awareness level was higher among the (55%) of ECD center staff. A summary of both positive and negative concerns raised during consultations is in Table 4 below.

**Table 4: Summary of concerns raised during consultations are as follows:**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Comment/Concern/Question</b>	<b>Mitigation/Action to be Taken</b>
1.	Project benefit	Expectations about the project implementation from all (regional education officials, teachers, students, community leaders, mothers club, parents, etc.) are high. They have heap praises of the benefit of the project to the community citing that, it will contribute to increasing enrollment and retention, and ensure conducive teaching and learning environment.
2	Noise and dust emissions,	To minimize noise pollution during school working hours, carry out construction activities that will generate disturbing sounds to be restricted to the weekend or during break time.
3	Waste management problems,	Sensitization of community members and contractors, contractor to ensure proper waste management. Contractors should ensure that all construction waste is removed and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. To promote waste management in schools, the Project should consider procuring waste bins for the sites.
4	Sexual abuse, harassment, the introduction of STIs, community conflicts as a result of closeness to contractors, teenage pregnancy	Sensitization of contractor workers and community members on sexual exploitation and risk of STI/STD infection. Community members should be encouraged to speak out on cases of abuse meted out by contract workers for the project`s necessary actions. The need to develop a code of conduct by contractors under the project's supervision with the sole objective of regulating workers' behavior in communities.
5	Cutting down trees can cause desertification.	Planting trees to replace those cut-down
7	Environmental impacts due to non-compliance with mitigation measures outlined	Efforts should be made to make contractors aware of the mitigation commitments outlined in this report. Commitment to comply with these measures for best environmental outcome should be a precondition for contract award. Include the sensitization in the sites of the contracting companies and their subcontractors to this effect. There should be regular monitoring of the sites to verify compliance by the project E&S expert as well as the EIA Working Group.
8	Influx of migrant labourers from other regions, thereby limiting employability opportunities for locals/residents.	Community members at intervention site should be prioritized for any employment opportunities requiring unskilled local labour. Migrant labourers should be sensitized to communities` ethos to avoid potential conflict.
9	Illegal sand and gravel mining	Construction materials should be sourced from existing approved mining areas. Where no such sites exist near from project intervention site, and there is a need to open a fresh site, the project team/contract should ensure that necessary assessment and approvals are obtained beforehand.
10	Child labour	Verification of the age of potential employees, enforce the terms and conditions of employment enforcing work standards and conditions to ensure that workers' rights are respected
11	Overcrowded classroom	Construction of new classrooms to accommodate pupils

		To make renovated classrooms that provide living conditions for pupils during class
12.	Capacity for ESMP implementation and monitoring and the need for relevant training	Training and capacity building of relevant parties

**vi. Environmental and social management plan (ESMP)**

The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) identifies measures to address potential environmental and socio-economic impacts during project implementation. The ESMP guidelines for implementing mitigation measures for renovation/construction activities of the ECD center in the Upper River Region are presented in Table 5 below.





Table 5. Environmental and social impacts and mitigation measures

Activities	Impacts	Indicators	Means of verification	Timelines (preparation, construction, exploitation, Closing phases)	Responsible for			Cost of implementation (US\$)
					Execution	Monitoring	Aftercar	
Prioritizing the local workforce with equal skills	Job creation	Number of local workers recruited	Hiring record	Site Preparation	Enterprise	Project Implementation unit (PIU)	-NEA -Labour Department	5000.00
Installation of the site base (Installation of office & stores, mobilization of equipment, materials and labour, transportation of construction materials (i.e., Sand, gravel, cement etc.)	Income for transporters and associates	Equipment engines properly tuned All equipment fitted with mufflers All workers working in a very noisy environment equipped with earplugs	Monitoring reports	Site Preparation	Project Contractor	PIU, National Environmental Agency (NEA)	PIU and NEA	3500.00

Work at height (construction of scaffolding, dismantling of roofs and structures at height)	Risk of falls that can result in temporary disability, disability, or death Workplace accident falling objects	All workers under the platform are always equipped with safety helmets and shoes. No visitors without PPE are allowed in construction sites	Monitoring reports/ Visual Observation. Interview with workers. Accident report	Renovation/Rehabilitation Phase	Project Contractor	PIU and NEA	PIU and NEA	3000.00
Demolition (excavation/digging, Demolition of the concrete structure and clearing)	Occupational accidents and injuries to workers and risk to community health and safety	Number of injuries	Monitoring report	Renovation/Rehabilitation Phase	Project Contractor	PIU, NEA EIA Working Group, Regional Education Directorate	School Management Committee (SMC)	4000.00
Transportation of materials and equipment	Vibration and noise nuisance Air and dust pollution	Monitoring reports	Monitoring reports	Renovation/Rehabilitation Phase	Project Contractor	PIU, NEA EIA Working Group	PIU and NEA	3000.00

Influx of foreign workers in the community	availability of cheap labor and also not enough qualified improvement of the income of small traders and food/meal sellers Gender-based violence (GBV), Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), Violence against Children (VAC)	Number of foreign workers recruited  GBV, SEA, SH Complaint report  Report on GBV/SEA/SH sensitization	Monitoring report/Grievance report	Renovation/Rehabilitation Phase	Project Contractor	PIU, NEA EIA Working Group, Local community members	PIU and NEA	3000.00
Presence of workers on site, Onsite civil work/floor concrete, Painting and coating, Disposal of construction/renovation waste, Domestic and sanitary waste generated by workers	Waste generation and its contamination of water sources, risk of injury to workers onsite, hiding place for reptiles and vermin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste tracking slip</li> <li>• Existence of labelled bins for waste collection</li> <li>• Existence of a clean-up kit on site</li> </ul>	Records on waste management and housekeeping observation	Renovation/Rehabilitation Phase	Project Contractor	Local Council, PIU, NEA	PIU and NEA	5000.00

<p>All civil works Material transportation and handling Working conditions Workers' behaviour</p>	<p>Occupational Health and Safety (increased accident potential)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site worker's induction meetings</li> <li>• Number of awareness toolbox meetings conducted</li> <li>• Number of accident cases involving site activities</li> <li>• Number of workers equipped with PPE</li> </ul>	<p>Report on work-related accidents, injuries, near misses and illnesses</p>	<p>Renovation/Rehabilitation and Operational Phase</p>	<p>Project contractor</p>	<p>PIU, NEA EIA Working Group, RED</p>	<p>SMC/RE D</p>	<p>4,000</p>
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Commissioning of the ECD center (operation, cleaning, waste management) ;	Air and dust pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic watering of the site and spoil (at least twice a day in the dry season)</li> <li>• Number of covered trucks</li> <li>• Up-to-date maintenance booklet for machinery</li> <li>• Waste tracking form</li> <li>• Number of cases where speed limits were exceeded</li> <li>• Percentage of staff wearing the correct PPE</li> </ul>	Records on waste management and housekeeping observation	ECD Rehabilitation Exploitation Phase	Project Contractor	PIU, NEA EIA Working Group	Regional Education Directorate (RED)/ SMC	4500.00
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Movement of vehicles	Increase in emission of air pollutants from vehicles, dust pollution, and possibilities of accidents and injuries	Monitoring reports	Monitoring reports	ECD Rehabilitation Exploitation Phase	Project Contractor	PIU, NEA EIA Working Group	PIU and NEA	2500.00
Waste generation	Risk of injury to students, hiding place for reptiles and vermins	Existence of an approved and implemented WMP  Waste Stock piles on site Reuse or recycle a maximum of the waste generated by the school by producing compost or through their reuse. School users know have to sort the waste generated Private company hired to collect and dispose the waste	Visual Observation -interview with the school users	ECD Rehabilitation Exploitation Phase	Project Contractor	Local Council, PIU, NEA	SMC	4000.00

Consumption of resources (water, energy etc.)	Additional demand for water causes scarcity. Workers onsite creating more demand for energy use.	Water and energy use tracking form	Monitoring reports	ECD Rehabilitation Exploitation Phase	Project Contractor	NEA, PIU, Department of Labour and MoBSE	PIU and NEA	3000.00
All civil works Material transportation and handling Working conditions Workers' behaviour	Occupational Health and Safety (increased accident potential)	Site workers induction meetings. Number of awareness toolbox meetings conducted. Number of accident cases involving site activities. Number of workers equipped with PPE.	Report on work-related accidents, injuries, near misses, and illnesses	ECD Rehabilitation Exploitation Phase	Project contractor	PIU, NEA EIA Working Group, RED	SMC/RE D	4,000

Demolition and stripping of equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise pollution and Occupational accidents and injuries to workers and risk to community health and safety.</li> <li>Heaps of solid waste may cause a disturbance in mobility.</li> </ul>			Closure Phase	Project Contractor	NEA and PIU	PIU, NEA	2000.00
Generation of construction site waste (gravel and other construction scraps)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scattered solid waste may affect the visual and aesthetic environment and provide a breeding place for mosquitoes.</li> </ul>			Closure Phase	Project Contractor	Local Council, PIU, NEA	NEA and PIU	3000.00



The ECD centers' rehabilitation/construction implementation oversight will be the National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS) under the Gambia's Office of The Vice President (OVP). NSPS deals with the existing and proposed institutional arrangements that would facilitate environmental and social soundness and sustainability. Monitoring of the ESMP is paramount as it ensures that mitigation and enhancement measures are implemented. Monitoring assists to:

- Improve environmental and social management practices.
- Check the efficiency and quality of the environmental processes
- Compliance with the environmental and social screening requirement

The monitoring shall be viewed in three phases: compliance, impact monitoring, and cumulative impact monitoring. The National Environment Agency is responsible for monitoring compliance, and resources should be made available by the project for the Agency to execute this task, followed by reporting. The monitoring plan for the ecological and socio-economic components of the proposed project is provided in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Summary of the monitoring plan

Issue	Monitoring	Method	Frequency	Responsibility	Performance Indicator	Cost (US\$)
<b>Air Quality (air pollution)</b>	Emissions from vehicles and equipment  Dust generated from construction activities, construction vehicle movement, stockpiles, storage of construction materials, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Visual monitoring</li> <li>○ Interview of workers and communities on and around project sites</li> </ul>	Quarterly	Contractor/NSPS Environmental Safeguard and Social Specialists/NEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complete records of monitoring activities</li> <li>○ Regular vehicle maintenance records.</li> <li>○ No visible dust plumes originating from construction sites.</li> <li>○ No irregular exhaust (heavy black or white smoke) from equipment and vehicles.</li> </ul>	5,000
<b>Water Pollution</b>	Visual inspection of any erosion from the construction area and transport of sediments and contaminants (e.g., oil, grease).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Visual monitoring</li> </ul>	On demand run-off after heavy rainfall events	Contractor/NSPS Environmental Safeguard and Social Specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Up-to-date and complete records as required by spill prevention and response procedures</li> </ul>	5,000
<b>Waste</b>	Site clean and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Visual monitoring</li> </ul>	Daily throughout	Contractor/NSPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Current and</li> </ul>	

<b>Generation and Disposal</b>	<p>proper storage and handling of (hazardous) waste and sewage.</p> <p>Segregated waste disposal or storage areas are marked. Toilet facilities are readily available near the construction site for all workers.</p>		preparation, rehabilitation/construction phase	Environmental Safeguard and Social Specialists/Public and Environmental Health Officers/NEA	<p>complete records of regular waste collection and disposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Records of workers attending follow-up health and safety training on a monthly basis.</li> <li>○ Compliance with applicable regulations, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Anti-littering Regulation of Solid Waste</i></li> <li>○ <i>Regulation of Harmful and Hazardous Waste Management</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	5,000
<b>Community Health and Safety</b>	Monitor health, safety and security requirements are considered and respected Ad hoc intervention in case any of the workers show symptoms of a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ On-site visits and communication; interviews with community leaders As per government’s recommendations</li> </ul>	Monthly and When necessary	Contractor/NSPS Environmental Safeguard and Social Specialists/Public and Environmental Health Officers/NEA/EIA working group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No identified non-compliances of health and safety procedures.</li> <li>○ Regular training records of personnel on health &amp; safety</li> </ul>	2,000

	COVID-19 infection.				<p>procedures on site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review of grievance register Minimal rate of infection with positive COVID-19.</li> </ul>	
<b>Occupational Health and Safety</b>	<p>Visual inspection of compliance with health and safety procedures Monitor working conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ H&amp;S training provided</li> <li>○ Use of personal protective equipment for workers</li> <li>○ Accessibility of workers to a grievance mechanism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Visual Check training records Visual</li> <li>○ Grievance mechanism in place and grievances recorded</li> </ul>	Monthly	Contractor/NSPS Environmental Safeguard and Social Specialists/Public and Environmental Health Officers/NEA/ EIA working group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No identified non-compliances with health and safety procedures.</li> <li>○ Regular training records of personnel on health &amp; safety procedures on site.</li> <li>○ Injuries or accidents to workers/personnel on site are reported and investigated promptly and in compliance with the health and safety procedures.</li> <li>○ H&amp;S training</li> </ul>	2,000

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ provided</li> <li>○ PPE used on-site by workers</li> <li>○ Review of grievance register</li> </ul>	
<b>Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Harassment (SEA/SH)</b>	Monitor the existence of workplace Violence, Sexual Exploitation, and Abuse/Harassment (SEA/SH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interview with the workers</li> <li>○ Interview with the local community</li> </ul>	Monthly during the preparation and rehabilitation/construction phase and, if necessary, randomly	Contractor/NSPS Environmental Safeguard and Social Specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Whether cases of discrimination, GBV, and indiscipline are reported</li> <li>○ Number of grievances addressed</li> <li>○ All workers to comply to the Code of Conduct</li> </ul>	8,000
○ <b>Total</b>						<b>27,000</b>



The proposed budget for implementation of the ESMP is **US\$209,000** including capacity building for relevant stakeholders as indicated in Table 7 below.

**Table 7. ESMP Implementation Budget**

<b>N°</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Cost (US\$)</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1.	Mitigation measures	40,000	Contractor/SMC
2.	Environmental and Social Monitoring Programme	30,000	PIU/NEA/RED
3.	Environmental and Social aftercare Program	25,000	PIU/NEA/SMC/RED
4.	Capacity-building measures	40,000	PIU/NEA/RED
5.	Information and awareness-raising of stakeholders	25,000	Public/CSO
6.	Implementation of the GRM-related activities	10,000	Local Authority/PIU
7.	ESMP audits	20,000	PIU/Consultant
	<b>Total</b>	<b>190,000</b>	
	Unexpected (10 %)	19,000	
	<b>Overall cost</b>	<b>209,000</b>	

In summary, although the proposed project is without major negative environmental and social impacts, renovation works are most desirable because of the obvious socio-economic benefits. These far outweighed the negative impacts that could arise during implementation. As evident from the consultation, more than 88% of people approved the project, citing it will improve the teaching and learning environment. Mitigation measures and management plans have been suggested and developed for the negative impacts. Project staff should be sensitized on GBV and SEA/SH upon recruitment and continuous toolbox meetings onsite periodically.

An appropriate institutional framework has been drawn up to implement the mitigation measures and environmental management plan, while the proposed monitoring programmes shall be set in motion as soon as possible.

## **1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE**

### **1.1. Project Background**

The Gambia faces development challenges in terms of low levels of human development in the country, particularly high poverty rates, low access to basic social services, and high youth and women unemployment and underemployment rates. The Gambia remains one of the low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with a per capita income of USD\$ 835.6. According to the World Bank Poverty Report 2022, about 53.4 percent of the population is estimated to be poor. The poverty and vulnerability seem very evident. Income poverty remains concentrated in rural areas, particularly among households headed by subsistence farmers and unskilled workers (with poverty rates of 79.3 % and 65.4%, respectively). Consequently, inadequate access to basic social services, such as education, health, and social protection, contributes to widespread poverty.

In this context of widespread multidimensional vulnerabilities, The Government of the Gambia requested a grant of five (5) million UA from the African Development Bank Group to finance the Vulnerable Youth and Women Support Project (VYWOSP). The project's overall objective is to provide livelihood opportunities for vulnerable youth and women, allowing them to escape from poverty sustainably. To protect vulnerable groups, the government has identified social protection as a key strategic priority in the NDP (2018 - 2021) extended to 2022. Social protection and access to basic social services allied with livelihood support programs (literacy, skills development, and financial support) targeting the most vulnerable can reinforce the productive and income-generating capacities and social inclusion of those in need.

The project interventions aim to provide vulnerable groups, particularly out-of-school youth and women, with market-oriented skills and access to various services (financial and non-financial, basic social services) to tackle the multidimensional aspect of poverty and vulnerability.

The main thrust of the project is that if poor and vulnerable women and youths in rural areas have the required skills in the agricultural value chain and have access to quality basic social services, then there will be an increase in their productivity, household income, in the use of quality health and education thereby reduce poverty and improve inclusive growth. Transformative social and behavioral change communication will intervene to sustainably strengthen the achievements and bring change in populations' perception of gender equity, women's economic empowerment, use of basic social services, etc

### **1.2 Aim and Objectives of the Project**

The proposed project seeks to improve the incomes and productivity of the most vulnerable youth and women in rural areas and their access and use of basic social services, including health, nutrition, and education. This project is in line with the key strategic priority of the government NDP (2018 - 2021) to protect vulnerable groups through access to basic social services allied with livelihood support programs (literacy, skills development, and financial support); targeting



the most vulnerable has the potential to reinforce the productive and income generating capacities and social inclusion of those in need. Specifically, the project will:

- (iii) Create jobs and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable women and out-of-school youth in rural areas, increase their productivity and hence their incomes through skills development, entrepreneurship, supply of productive equipment and non-financial support (counseling, coaching); and
- (iv) Improve their use and access to better and inclusive basic social services (health and nutrition, education). The project will adopt a holistic approach to tackling multidimensional vulnerability and poverty. The project will also contribute to reducing gender inequalities by providing better economic and social prospects for young girls and women and reducing the social expectations of male youth.

### **1.3 Objective of ESIA/ESMP**

The overall objective of conducting an ESIA which will generate an ESMP & WMP is to determine the potential adverse environmental effects of the renovation/construction works of the selected ECD centers and develop mitigation measures that can be adopted to reduce or eliminate these adverse effects as well as maximize the potential benefits of the project. The assessment and management plan will be key to developing a sustainable intervention with minimal environmental and social impact. The assessment results will also provide an evidence base for policy makers and project actors.

The following are the specific objectives of the ESIA study:

- ❖ To identify project activities that have the potential to impact the environment negatively.
- ❖ To map negative environmental and social areas of concern in the renovation/construction of the selected ECD center.
- ❖ Develop mitigation measures and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).
- ❖ Identify positive practices and innovations to promote a clean environment and reduce environmental degradation.
- ❖ Identify the risks, constraints, and opportunities linked to the environment in which the project will operate.

### **1.4 Rationale for ESIA/ESMP for the Project**

The general assessment which was done for the overall project provides the guiding framework for the site-specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) in conformance with the African Development Bank Safeguard Policies and, accordingly, the project level standards.

This ESIA including the s ESMP was were prepared in line with the requirements of The Gambia Environmental and Social instruments and the Bank's Integrated Safeguards System

(ISS: NP No5) to ensure the management and mitigation of these risks. In accordance National Environmental Management (NEMA) ACT, CAP. 72.01 of Laws of the Gambia, 2009 and the Environmental Assessment Regulations (2014) in the Gambia and categorizing the national part, this project is classified as Category B. This categorization corresponds to category 2 of the Bank's Integrated Safeguards System (ISS: NP No5).

The ESIA study for the rehabilitation of selected Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centers of the VYWoSP and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will guide the project implementation and ensure that E&S adequate measures are taken to protect and minimize any potential adverse environmental and social impacts associated with the proposed construction works.

This ESMP provides the actions to be taken to manage and keep the negative impacts and risks of the proposed ECD Centers rehabilitation works at a minimum while enhancing the significant positive and beneficial impacts. Specific objectives are:

- To ensure that every project operation complies with relevant national environmental and social regulations and international best practices in managing and coordinating environmental and social issues during rehabilitation/construction.
- To identify likely environmental, social, and safety risks and impacts that may emerge as consequences of project activities during implementation and post-rehabilitation/construction period.
- To propose mitigation measures to address risks and negative impacts that have been envisaged throughout the project's life cycle, including post-rehabilitation.
- Propose institutional arrangements, relevant regulations, roles, and responsibilities of various stakeholders that will be critical in implementing and monitoring the ESMP.

### **1.5 Scope of ESIA**

The rehabilitation works likely to have environmental and social impacts and which make it necessary to draw up this ESIA are in particular:

The key renovation activities to be undertaken at the ECD facilities are (but are not limited to):

- Delimitation of the site (around the building)
- Preparatory work (scaffolding, mobilization of personnel, site base, site supply)
- Dismantling of equipment and storage
- Dismantling of roof and framework
- Dismantling of installations (electricity, plumbing, etc.)
- Management of rubble and site waste
- Masonry, electrical, plumbing, and carpentry work
- pre-commissioning testing.

Some of the key tasks to be carried out during the ESIA study of the site included but are not limited to:

- a. Conducted field visits to the selected ECD facilities to observe the existing environment, assess the proposed development and identify potential impacts.
- b. Consulted with relevant stakeholders using suitable data collection methods such as focus group discussions, key informant interviews, etc.
- c. Prepare ESIA/ESMP report for the rehabilitation of the selected facilities.

## **1.6. Methodological for the assessment process**

The Environmental & Social Impact Assessment aims to ensure the project is environmentally and socially sound and fits the community/beneficiaries' needs and aspirations well. The study, therefore, describes and quantifies the potential impacts on the biophysical environment and the beneficiary and neighboring populations before, during, and on completion of the project. Mitigation measures are proposed for any negative impacts identified, and an environmental and social management and monitoring plan has been developed covering each phase of the project site. The following strategies were adopted to achieve the objectives of the Environmental & Social Impact Assessment:

- Detailed assessment of the state of the environment in the project location
- Evaluation and prediction of positive and negative environmental and social impacts associated with the project
- Recommendation of mitigation measures to address adverse environmental and social impacts, and
- Develop an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

The methodological approach to preparing this ESIA included a desk review of AfDB Requirements, Environmental and Social Standards, Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines, National Policies, institutional and regulatory frameworks, different laws, and ministerial orders applied to this project. Institutional and community consultations/engagements were also held across the relevant regions of the country using a mixed-method approach to data collection using both quantitative and qualitative approaches (through interviews in the form of Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with National, Regional, District and village authorities). The questionnaire and Environmental and Social (E&S) screening form was designed on Survey Solutions, a Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) tool used for data collection; the use ensured that the data collected was coherent and reliable. The information from the desk-reviewed documents, the baseline information reviewed, and stakeholder interviews were analyzed and put together to prepare this ESMP. Below is a detailed description of the different methodological approaches used for this assignment:

### **1.6.1.1 Data Collection**

For this assignment, two forms of data were used for the assessment: desk review and community consultations through site visits involving FGDs and KIIs. These are very important for impact assessment.

#### **1.6.1.1 Desk review/secondary data collection**

Relevant project documents and reports were carefully reviewed to develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of the project and compile relevant biophysical and socio-economic information about the site. Some of these vital documents included the Project Proposal, Baseline report, and documents fully characterizing all aspects of the sub-projects, and similar projects in the country, among others to be provided by the project implementation team.

Relevant documents were reviewed, including the following:

- National Policies and Regulations
- National Legislations
- Relevant Environmental and Social Safeguards Standards of the AfDB
- Relevant International Instruments /Conventions
- Assessment Report for National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS) on the Vulnerable Youth and Women Support Project
- Annual Social Protection Report of The Gambia (2021)
- The Gambia Feasibility Study Report on the Vulnerable Youth and Women Support Project
- Aide-Memoire Preparation Mission Report on Vulnerable Youth and Women Support Project (VYWOSP)
- As part of the secondary information gathering to identify existing environmental conditions, proposed developments at the selected facilities, and predict potential impacts, consultative meetings were organized with key project actors. Results from this exercise informed the primary data collection.
- Early Childhood Development Policy (2016 – 2030)
- Education Sector Strategic Plan 2016 – 2030.

#### **1.6.1.2 Primary Data Collection**

This was required for the baseline information and stakeholder consultations. To gather data from stakeholders on project environment and socio-economic impacts, the following data collection activities were carried out: Survey; Expert Discussion; Focus Group Discussion (FGDs); and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). The survey targeted community leaders (including youths and women), staff, and students. Center users and service providers were targeted in the center where renovation works will occur. The survey gauged the perception of beneficiaries on the environmental and social impacts of the project.

### ***Data Collection Tools***

Three main tools were developed and used to elicit information from respondents regarding the project activities and their environmental and social impacts: a questionnaire for quantitative survey and FGD and KII guides for qualitative data collection. **See Annex 2.**

### ***Fieldwork***

The consultant team conducted observation and consultative visits to the selected site to gather information on the environmental baseline and status of the ECD Center.

The survey data collection was done using the Survey Solution CAPI tool, which was used for the overall survey data management. The survey questionnaires were administered via the tool's interviewer App via tablet phone. The interviews were in-person in the ECD and ECD Centers. Participants mobilized for FGD included 8 to 10 participants. FGDs minutes were taken analysed qualitatively. KIIs were administered using the tablet. The moderators of the KII employed the note-taking approach using the guide developed. Furthermore, the consulting team identified and interviewed stakeholders using a semi-structured interview tool.

#### **1.6.2 Quality Control**

Experienced field data collectors were recruited for interviews and FGD moderation to ensure a high degree of accuracy in the data collection. They received 1-day training on data collection tools, interview procedures, and techniques. Interview procedures were standardized through interviewer participation in a mock interview exercise during the training.

Importantly, the supervisors worked together in the field to ensure data was collected as outlined in the proposal.

#### **1.6.3 Assessment of Environmental and Social Impacts**

To identify and assess potential impacts associated with or resulting from subproject activities, the ESIA team used data collected from field consultations, professional judgment, and desktop analysis to identify potential impacts and their interactions. The significance of potential impacts that may result from the proposed Project was determined to assist in preparing recommendations for the proposed Project evaluation.

#### **1.6.4 Impact Characterization and Evaluation**

##### **1.6.4.1 Impact Identification**

The description of the planned project activities helped in identifying the environmental aspects of the proposed project. These identified environmental aspects will be matched with the existing baseline description of the project environment, which was employed to generate a checklist of potential and related impacts of the proposed project. Project impacts are identified by understanding the interaction between the planned project activities and the prevailing environment at the project site. Expert knowledge and stakeholder consultation also play a significant role in impact identification.

##### **1.6.4.2 Impact Characterization**

The potential impacts identified from the project's proposed activities were further characterized to have an in-depth understanding of the nature of the identified potential project impacts. The characterization was based on the nature, characteristics, and duration of the different project activities on the physiochemical and biological components of the environment as well as the socio-economic, cultural, human health, and safety.

Project impact on the environment occurs when the existing environment interacts with the various project activities, which may lead to environmental changes, as shown in Equation 1.

$$[\text{Environment}] + [\text{Project}] = \{\text{Changed Environment}\}$$

As presented below, the changed environments anticipated from the above interaction were direct or indirect, adverse or beneficial, cumulative or residual, and long-term or short-term.

*Positive/Beneficial Impacts:* Impacts that would produce an overall positive effect on the well-being of the people as well as the environment.

*Adverse Impacts:* Impacts that may result in;

- Irreversible and undesirable change(s) in the biophysical environment,
- Decrease in the quality of the biophysical environment,
- Limitation, restriction, or denial of access to or use of any component of the environment to others, including future generations,
- Disturbance to the social cohesion and stability, as well as the wellbeing of the people,
- Sacrifice of long-term environment viability or integrity for short-term economic goals.

*Direct Impacts:* Impacts resulting directly (direct cause-effect consequence) from project activity.

*Indirect Impacts:* Impacts that are at least one step removed from project activity. They do not follow directly from project activity.

*Normal Impacts:* Impacts are normally expected to follow a particular project activity.

*Abnormal Impacts:* An impact is considered abnormal when it follows a project activity against sound predictions based on experience.

*Short-term Impacts:* Impacts that will last only within the period of specific project activity.

*Long-term Impacts:* Impacts whose effects remain even after a specific project activity.

*Reversible Impacts:* Impacts whose effects can be addressed by applying adequate mitigation measures.

*Irreversible Impacts:* Impacts whose effects are such that the project (impacted component) cannot be returned to its original state even after adequate mitigation measures are applied.

*Cumulative Impacts:* Impacts resulting from an interaction between ongoing projects and other activities occur simultaneously.

*Incremental Impacts:* Impacts that progress with time or as the project activity proceeds.

*Residual Impacts:* Impacts that would remain after mitigation measures have been applied.

#### Table 18. Impact Significance Rubric

Criteria	Level of appreciation
<b>Intensity</b>	Major or High
	Moderate
	Minor or low
<b>Scope</b>	National
	Regional
	Local
<b>Duration</b>	Permanent
	Temporary
	Momentary
<b>Importance</b>	Major
	Moderate
	Minor or Low
<b>Reversibility</b>	Reversibility
	Irreversibility

#### 1.6.4.3 Impact Evaluation

The already identified and characterized potential impacts in the previous stages of the assessment process will be evaluated based on explicitly defined criteria to ascertain the significance of the impacts. The criteria and weighing scale adopted for the evaluation are provided below.

##### *Legal/Regulatory Requirement (L)*

The proposed project activities that trigger the identified impacts were weighted against existing legal/regulatory provisions to determine the requirement or otherwise for permits before the execution of such activities. The following rating scale was used:

Condition	Rating
No legal/regulatory requirement for carrying out project activity	Low = 1
Legal/regulatory requirements exist for carrying out an activity	Medium = 3
A permit is required before carrying out project activity that may result in an impact on the environment.	High = 5

#### 1.6.4 Mitigation Measures

In developing mitigation measures, the first focus was on measures that will prevent or minimize impacts through the design and management of the Project rather than on reinstatement and compensation measures. A ‘hierarchy’ of mitigation measures for planned activities and unplanned events is outlined below:

1. *Avoid at Source; Reduce at Source:* avoiding or reducing at source through the design of the Project (e.g., avoiding by sitting or re-routing activity away from sensitive areas or reducing by restricting the working area or changing the time of the activity);

2. *Abate on Site*: add something to the design to abate the impact (e.g., pollution control equipment);
3. *Abate at Receptor*: if an impact cannot be abated on-site, then control measures can be implemented off-site (e.g., traffic measures)
4. *Repair or Remedy*: some impacts involve unavoidable damage to a resource (e.g., material storage areas) requiring repair, restoration, and reinstatement measures.
5. *Compensate in Kind*; Compensate through Other Means where other mitigation approaches are not possible or fully effective, compensation for loss, damage, and disturbance might be appropriate (e.g., financial compensation for degrading agricultural land and impacting crop yields). It is emphasized that compensation to individuals with residual impacts on livelihood or quality of life will generally be non-financial and focus on restoring livelihoods.
6. *Control*: this aims to prevent an incident from happening or reduce the risk of it happening to as low as reasonably practicable by reducing the likelihood of the event (e.g., preventative maintenance regimes, traffic calming, and speed limits, community road safety awareness training);
7. *Reducing the consequence* (e.g., Bunds to contain hazardous substance spills); and a combination of both of these; and
8. *Recovery/Remediation* includes contingency plans and response, e.g., Emergency Response Plans and Procedures.

### 1.6.5 Risk Assessment

The health, safety, and environmental risks associated with the proposed project were assessed and ranked as “Low,” “medium,” or “high”, using the Risk Assessment Matrix (RAM), as shown in Table 19

Table 19: Risk Assessment Matrix

			Likelihood				
			A	B	C	D	E
			Remote	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Certain
Negative Consequences	5	Severe	M	H	H	H	H
	4	Major	M	M	H	H	H
	3	Moderate	L	M	M	M	H
	2	Minor	L	L	M	M	M
	1	Negligible	L	L	L	L	L
Positive impact (P)			P	P	P	P	P



The level of impact will be largely determined by a qualitative appraisal of the likely change in the receiving environment, human health/safety, and socio-economic situation, based on the matrix in Table 7, and the weighting used was as follows:

- **Low Risk:** Where the level of risk is broadly acceptable and generic mitigation measures are already assumed in a design process but require continuous improvement.
- **Medium Risk:** Where the level of risk is tolerable, but mitigation measures are required to minimise the risk to reduce the risk as much as practicable (i.e., tolerable if ALARP).
- **High Risk:** Where the level of risk is not acceptable, and mitigation measures are required to move the risk figure to the lower risk categories.
  - Positive impacts (to be enhanced if at all practicable).

### 1.6.6. Environmental and Social Management Plan

After assessing and evaluating all the significant environmental and social impacts, a management plan was formulated to implement the recommended enhancement and mitigation measures effectively. Various management plans and programmes were proposed to tackle each of the significant impacts that may emanate from project activities. Furthermore, the monitoring plan for the implementation of the ESMP was also developed by preparing indicator parameters for the proposed measures and highlighting the monitoring method and frequency as well as authorities responsible for the execution of the monitoring plan. A budget is developed for the implementation of the ESMP and monitoring plan.

In summary, the ESMP was prepared to set out: (i) actions to implement mitigation measures; (ii) a monitoring and reporting program, based on agreed performance indicators; (iii) emergency response procedures; (iv) institutional and organizational arrangements; (v) capacity development and training; (vi) implementation schedule; and (vii) cost estimates.

The ESMP matrix is presented as below:

Activities	Impacts	Indicators	Means of verification	Timelines (preparation, construction, exploitation, Closing phases)	Responsible for			Cost of implementation (US\$)
					Execution	Monitoring	Aftercare	

### 1.6.7. Complaint and Grievance Mechanism

A generic compliant and grievance mechanism was developed following the basic principles for a good grievance redress mechanism. It considers the general principles of complaint management as well as the specificities resulting from the consultation of the stakeholders of this project and the specificities of the concerned ECD centers.

#### **1.6.8. ECD facility renovation/rehabilitation waste management Plan**

During the operation phase of the rehabilitated health care facility, the generation of ECD facility renovation/rehabilitation waste is anticipated, and thus, a management plan should be prepared for the proper collection, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of these ECD facility renovation/rehabilitation waste. Therefore, a generic ECD facility renovation/rehabilitation Waste Management Plan will be prepared in this ESMP.

#### **1.6.9. Preparation and Submission of ESIA/ESMP Report**

Each section of the report was compiled and edited by the specialists from the team members for that section. However, the overall reporting and compilation of the independent chapters was done by the lead consultant for onwards submission to the NSSP team.

## 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To improve the incomes and productivity of the most vulnerable youth and women, specifically out-of-school youth and women in rural areas, the National Social Protection Secretariat developed a project proposal with the following objectives:

- Create jobs and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable women and out-of-school youth in rural areas and increase their productivity and income through skills development and financial and non-financial support.
- Improve their use and access to better and inclusive basic social services (education, health, nutrition, social protection). The project will adopt a holistic approach to tackling the multidimensional aspects of vulnerability and poverty. The project will also contribute to reducing gender inequalities by providing better economic and social prospects for young girls and women and reducing social expectations of male youth as household providers.

The project will also contribute to resilience in the country by tackling some of the key drivers of fragility. The Gambia Fragility Assessment identified low human development, including youth unemployment, poverty and inequalities, and poor access to health and social protection services, as a driver of fragility and a potentially destabilizing factor for the world. The Gambia is an important contributor to irregular migrants to Europe.

### 2.1 Current Status of the Project

The project is at the design stage. This stage includes obtaining permits and approvals; and an environmental and social impact assessment study. It is expected that the environmental and social management measures that have been prescribed in this ESIA report will be incorporated into the project activities during the renovation/construction phase of the project.

### 2.2 Project Components

Following a selectivity approach informed by the Bank's comparative advantage, the project has three (3) complementary components, described below.

#### **Component 1: Support to Youth and women empowerment to equitably access jobs and livelihood opportunities (UC 2 million)**

The component will finance activities to build skills and capabilities for decent job opportunities through entrepreneurship to increase income for vulnerable women and youth.

**Sub-component 1.1:** Functional literacy and skills development. They support interventions to allow women and youth to acquire the necessary skills and capabilities to engage in productive activities. The focus will be on building skills to support the development of agricultural value chains with a focus on processing, storage, packaging, marketing, and market access. The agriculture value chain is identified, given its high potential for employment and entrepreneurship

opportunities for the target population. The prioritized crops identified by the Government and the various stakeholders include poultry, small ruminants, horticulture, agro-processing cereals (e.g., moringa; baobab), fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. More precisely, the sub-component will have two complementary sets of interventions.

The first set of interventions will be mass skills training and functional literacy programme targeting the out-of-school youth and women. This is to be referred to a context where 80.2 percent of the youth are out of school without the relevant skills for productive jobs or self-employment. For example, 40.5 percent of the Gambian youth aged 15-35 are illiterate. The rate is higher among women (47.6 percent) than men (31.1 percent). The key activities under the first set of interventions are as follows:

- Gender-responsive awareness raising/communication campaigns to increase the demand for skilling through the project in the three targeted LGAs;
- Selection of beneficiaries and profiling baseline of the trainees to assess their level of competencies, type, and profitability of the businesses they may be engaged in.
- Develop customized training content informed by the profiling baseline. The training package includes functional literacy, soft skills (e.g., networking and self-confidence, communication, decision-making), and hard skills (e.g., basic start-up knowledge, business planning/development, financial literacy, and management skills).
- Selection and orientation of trainers (training may be delivered in local languages by professionals in literacy and entrepreneurship training).
- Training of the beneficiaries
- Assessment and Certification of competencies at the end of the training to assess capabilities in literacy, post-literacy and entrepreneurship skills.

The second set of interventions will be in the technical skills training for a core group of (a) selected “graduates” from the mass skills training who need upskilling and (b) youth who would embrace future careers in agro-processing. As a key element for project sustainability, the logic here is to ensure that the targeted LGAs have the minimum skills development infrastructure to build vocational capabilities in agro-processing among the youth and the country's labour force in the future. The key activities under the second set of interventions are as follows:

- Identify at least three (3) Vocational Training Centers (one in each of the LGAs) that should be equipped for training in agro-processing;
- One training center was already identified during the mission: the Gambia Songhai Initiative, which seems to be the unique ECD center in agro-processing/entrepreneurship located in the Kerewan LGA. This is a private institution. However, the Government could sign an MOU with the Songhai Initiative regarding the technical training of a certain number of beneficiaries. The exact targets will be defined based on the unit costs of training that are yet to be confirmed.
- The remaining two ECD centers (one in CRR North; one in CRR South) will be determined by Government ahead of the appraisal mission. In case of the nonexistence of

other ECD centers in agro-processing, the Government may explore the option of the Boarding ECD School in Ziguinchor (Senegal) to train a certain number of youths.

- Conduct a regional skills gap analysis in the selected agriculture value chains in the three targeted LGAs, to inform policy dialogue, curriculum development and possible operations to create more jobs for the youth.

***Sub-component 1.2:*** Access to productive equipment and non-financial services for economically active beneficiaries. The focus will be on providing equipment, counseling, and guidance to allow the male and female beneficiaries to run productive and sustainable businesses. Given the nature of the beneficiaries, out-of-school youth and women, the project will emphasize the provision of group equipment (storage facilities, processing equipment, machinery, solar panels, etc.), individual toolkits, and labour-saving devices.

For the non-financial support, the project will support local organizations to enhance their productive capacity and competitiveness and to develop market linkages. Youth groups and women cooperatives' access to the market will be facilitated by creating and supporting commercial partnerships between them and private enterprises such as commercial shops, hotels, and restaurants. The support will comprise technical assistance, coaching, and mentoring services to the beneficiaries for at least six months to enable them to establish, manage and run sustainable businesses.

## **Component 2: Support for better and inclusive access to basic social services (UC2.S million)**

Despite some improvement, access to basic social services is limited, particularly in rural areas. The project will support activities that will improve the vulnerable population's access to and demand basic social services such as health and nutrition, social protection, and education. The targeted beneficiaries of the component are communities in the localities where the project will be implemented.

***Sub-component 2.1:*** Improve access to quality healthcare and infrastructure: The project will finance the rehabilitation and equipment of 5-6 healthcare centers, focusing on maternity, pediatric and nutrition care. The rehabilitation will seek to renovate the Health Centers (HC) to national standards. The project will also rehabilitate doctors' and nurses' accommodation in health structures to increase the staff's retention rate, which is currently low. WASH infrastructures (latrines, access to water, etc.), washing areas, biomedical waste management areas, incinerators, and electricity (connection to government electricity network or solar) will be developed where they do not exist. To improve daily health data management in the ECD centers and maintain a dynamic interaction with the health district level, the project will provide IT materials such as computers and modems to the HC. Medical equipment, including Basic, Emergency, Obstetric, and Newborn care (BEmONC) materials and supplies, in line with the MSP standard for the technical platform of this level of health structures, will be acquired. Depending on the need and budget availability, ambulances will be procured.

In addition to rehabilitation and equipment, health workers, including nurses and midwives, will be trained to provide quality healthcare to the beneficiaries.

The sub-component will also support community early childhood development (ECD). In addition to positively impacting the development of young children, these programmes, by taking care of young children, will allow women to have more time for their economic and community management activities.

***Sub-component 2.2:*** Improve the demand for basic social services and positively change socio/norms for gender equity and improved well-being. This will be done through social and behavioural change communication (SBCC) and training on essential family practices. A focus will be on nutrition, health, education, child development, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), women's empowerment, male engagement, gender-based violence, and the benefits of gender equality.

To achieve the objective of this sub-component, the proposed interventions will include: (i) strengthening community mobilization and social and behavioral change communication for improved nutrition and health outcomes, sanitation and hygiene behaviors, child care, and gender equality; (ii) building capacity of local community structures such as Village Support Groups and MDFTs to be able to provide basic Maternal, Child and Adolescent Nutrition and health services; (iii) strengthening monitoring and supervision of community maternal, child and adolescent nutrition programmes for improved evidence-based generation and planning.

### **Component 3: Project management and institutional strengthening (UC 0.5 million)**

The component will finance activities related to project management and strengthen the coordination capacities of the National Social Protection Secretariat.

***Sub-component 3.1:*** Strengthening of the coordination capacities of the National Social Protection Secretariat. This will be done by strengthening the coordination and monitoring and evaluation capacities of the National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS). The sub-component will also finance the development of a sustainable financing strategy for the social protection sector in The Gambia and research on social protection and vulnerability-related issues to guide strategic and operational decision-making. This sub-component will also include training of NSPS staff in relevant functional areas of the Secretariat.

***Sub-component 3.2:*** Project management and monitoring. The sub-component will finance costs related to the recruitment of project staff to strengthen the capacities of the project implementation unit (project manager, value chain and entrepreneurship specialist, social and environmental safeguards specialist, monitoring and evaluation expert, gender and social development expert, procurement officer), and other operational costs such as vehicles, furniture, mission cost, procurement adverts fees, Project launching workshop, etc. The sub-component will also finance project impact evaluation, including baseline data collection, midterm, and final evaluation.

## 2.3 Selected ECD for renovation under the project

Commissioned by the National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS), the Ministry of Transport, Works and Infrastructure (MoTWI) conducted an assessment and evaluation of educational centers (ECD center and Basic cycle schools) and ECD center in Central and Upper River Region (CRR and URR) of the country and produced a report<sup>2</sup>. The purpose of the assessment was to get first-hand information on the state of repairs of facilities and how to improve the existing structures by building up new structures and renovating the existing structures. The report includes assessing, evaluating, and preparing the Bill of Quantities for all the ECD centers visited.

### 2.3.1 Identification and selection of ECD

Based on the assessments, this project will be implemented in three (3) Early Child Development (ECD) and two (2) Technical and Vocational Education Training (ECD) existing centers that will be rehabilitated in two regions (CRR and URR).

All sub-projects are on existing school (Kerr Layen, Diabugu Batapa, and Karantaba ECDs) premises. All selected centers requiring rehabilitation/expansion have vegetation, some ornamental and fruit trees that must be protected.

This environmental and social impact assessment concerns the **Diabugu Batapa ECD** center rehabilitation sub-project.

## 2.4 Primary Project Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries of the rehabilitation/construction of Diabugu Batapa ECD include the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE), the Regional Education Directorate –MoBSE, URR, school administrators, teachers, children, youth, women and men Diabugu Batapa community and members satellite communities. The project will specifically target families of both male and female out-of-school youth and returning migrants. As for women, the targeting criteria will be defined to ensure that the project prioritizes those in vulnerable situations. Particular attention will be placed on widows, women heading households, women with disabilities, elderlies, etc. Youth and women living with HIV&AIDS will also be considered.

## 2.5 Brief description of the project site

### 2.5.1 Location of the Project Area

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<sup>2</sup> Assessment Report for National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS) on the Vulnerable Youth and Women Support Project

Diabugu Batapa ECD is in Diabugu Batapa in the Upper River Region, North, located along the Lamin Koto-Passamass Road Highway. Diabugu Batapa has a population of 8000 inhabitants. The ECD School was established in 1961 with a six-classroom block, and the current student enrollment is 260 pupils. On average, 43 pupils are in a classroom.

The number of trees in the project area are: Four (4) Mango tree, three (3) Malaina tree. Non fruit tree include, Nineteen (19) Neem tree and three (3) Menthol tree. All of them are owned by the school management and users.



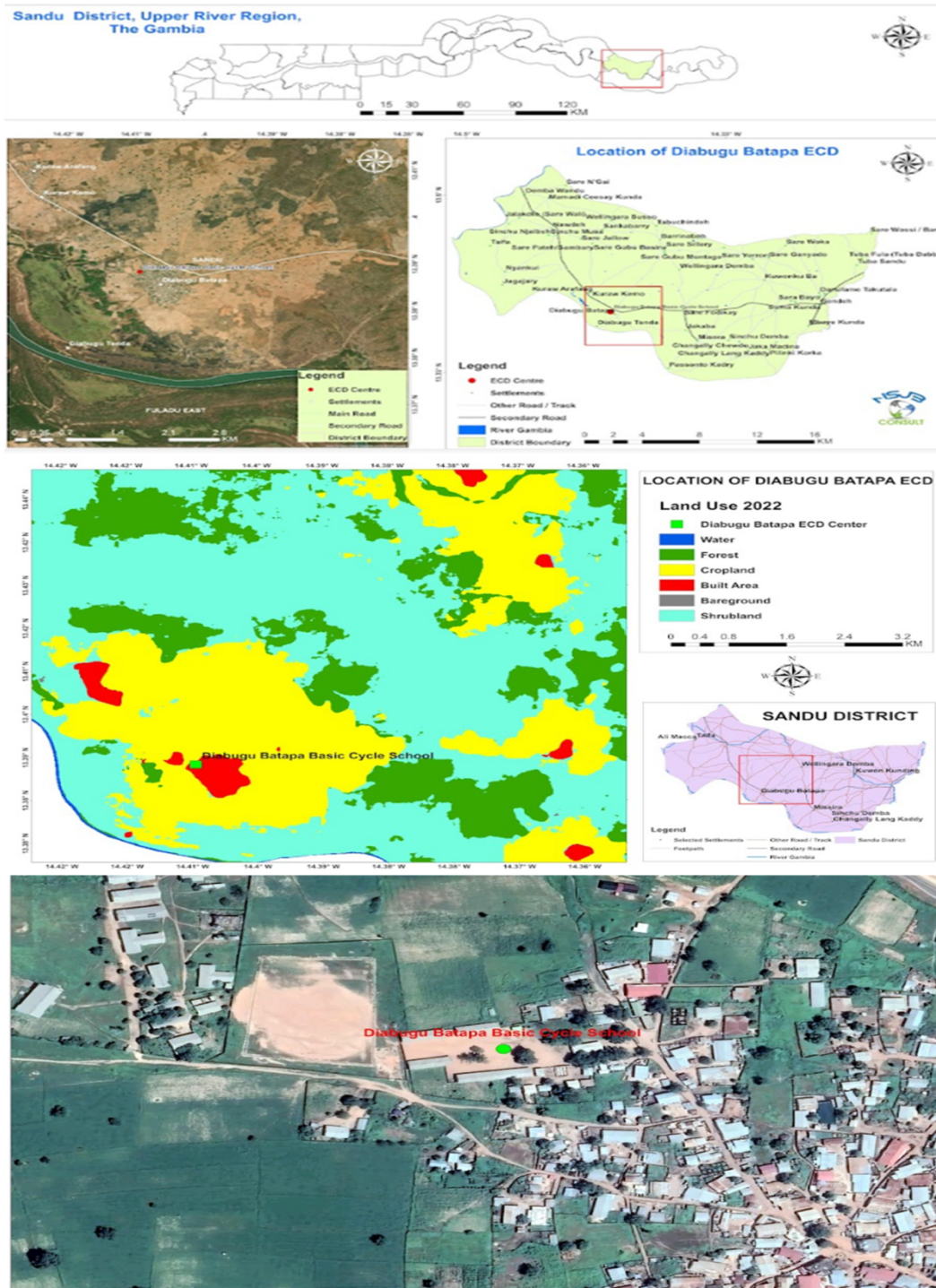


Figure 2: Location of Diabugu Batapa ECD center

Table 8. Coordinates for Diabugu Batapa ECD

MOSQUE	DIABUGU	13.39053 8	-14.407322	REHABILITATION
LIBRARY AND COMPUTERLAB	DIABUGU	13.39047 3	-14.4074	REHABILITATION
CLASS ROOM BLOCK	DIABUGU	13.39048	-14.407513	UNDER

		3		CONSTRUCTION
TOILET FACILITIES	DIABUGU	13.39047 7	-14.407875	REHABILITATION
ECD BLOCK1	DIABUGU	13.39046 5	CLASSROOM	REHABILITATION
ECD BLOCK2	DIABUGU	13.39041 7	-14.408475	REHABILITATION
CLASS ROOM SBLOCK	DIABUGU	13.39023 5	-14.408467	REHABILITATION
ADMINISTRATIVEANDCLASSROOMSBLOCK	DIABUGU	13.39011 7	-14.408065	REHABILITATION
KITCHEN	DIABUGU	13.39020 7	-14.407705	REHABILITATION
DINNING HALL	DIABUGU	13.39014	-14.407593	REHABILITATION
TEACHER SQUARTER B1	DIABUGU	13.39007 3	-14.407465	REHABILITATION
TEACHER SQUARTER	DIABUGU	13.39004	-14.407425	REHABILITATION
DEPUTY HEAD BLOCK	DIABUGU	13.39007 3	-14.407515	REHABILITATION
TEACHERS BLOCK2	DIABUGU	13.38997 5	-14.407722	REHABILITATION
SENIOR TEACHER SBLOCK1	DIABUGU	13.38994 8	-14.407803	REHABILITATION
SENIOR TEACHERS BLOCK2		13.38992 3	-14.407927	

## 2.6 Condition of the Infrastructure in the Selected ECD Center

The current conditions of the classroom blocks in this School are deplorable and not environmentally friendly for the children and staff occupying the classrooms blocks and staff quarters. There are major leakages in the buildings of the classroom blocks for the children and the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education staff. Some of the defects the buildings developed are as follows:

- The roof structure and ceiling require replacement
- Faulty doors and windows must be changed
- Repair the minor hairline and major cracks on the walls and floor
- Finish the floor tiles that are required in the classrooms
- Changing of plumbing fittings in toilets
- Painting of the facility structures



**Figure 3: Internal and external photos of Diabugu Batapa ECD Sub project site**

### **2.7 Construction & Renovation works required at Diabugu Batapa ECD Center**

This sub-project site consists of various structures (Staff Quarters, Kitchen Block, Toilets Block, and Classroom Blocks). The overall condition of these structures is poor. The staff quarters are unsuitable for housing the Diabugu Batapa key personnel, and the classroom block is also not environmentally friendly for learning. The buildings developed some defects that need rehabilitating and construction, which include:

- Replacing the ceiling structure of the buildings
- Roofing sheets with metal trusses
- Plastering needed for the building
- Tiling of the building floors is highly needed
- Electrical works

- Plumbing works
- Painting works also needed for the building
- Construction of three bedrooms bungalow house (Three structures) and dining hall

**Table 9: Identified infrastructures in Diabugu Batapa ECD and the proposed Construction/renovation works**

<b>Name of Infrastructure</b>	<b>Proposed renovation work</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Staff Quarters 1 &amp; 2</b>	Doors	External wooden pine door with frames, hinges, and locks (0.9 x 2m)
	Windows	Aluminum sliding windows (1.2m x 1.5m)
	Electrical works	Universal double sockets
		LG Air-cool inverter A/C 12,000BTU
		Electrical fittings and accessories
	Plumbing works	W.C suite, vitreous china, closed coupled, Wash down and connector, plastic ring seat, fixing pan with screws to masonry Wash hand basin, white vitreous china with pedestal, 32mm pillar taps, fixed to masonry with screw sealing at the back with mastic
		Complete shower with all accessories
		Muslim shower complete
		Plumbing fittings and pipes
	Roofing	Remove and replace existing roofing sheets with alu-zinc (5.5m x 1.1m) 2 x 3 x 4m timber (Pine) 2 x 2 x 4m timber (Pine)
		Facial board 1 x 8
		Ridges caps
		Remove the old ceiling and replace it with new laminated gypsum ceiling tiles (595 x 595 x 9mm) with all accessories
	Painting	Prepare paint two mist. Coat and render walls internally and externally
Tiling	Ceramic tiles flooring on 32mm thick cement bed in cement sand(1.3) for the ground Skirting laid in straight butt joint and pointed white cement both ways	
	Floor concrete at the back	
<b>Classroom 1, 2 &amp; 3 Blocks</b>	Doors	External metallic door with frames, hinges and locks (1m x 2m)
	Electrical Work	Universal double sockets
		LG Air-cool inverter A/C 12,000BTU
		Electrical fittings and accessories
	Painting	Prepare paint two mist. Coat and render walls internally and externally
	Ceramic tiles flooring on 32mm thick cement	

	Tiling	bed in cement sand(1.3) for the ground Skirting laid in straight butt joint and pointed white cement both ways
<b>Kitchen</b>	Roofing	Remove and replace existing roofing sheets with alu-zinc (5.5m x 1.1m) 2 x 3 x 4m timber (Pine) 2 x 2 x 4m timber (Pine)
		Facial board 1 x 8
		Ridges caps
	Doors	External metallic door with frames, hinges and locks (1.2m x 2m)
	Electrical Work	Universal double sockets
		Electrical fittings and accessories
Painting	Prepare paint two mist. Coat and render walls internally and externally	
Tiling	Ceramic tiles flooring on 32mm thick cement bed in cement sand(1.3) for the ground	
	Skirting laid in straight butt joint and pointed white cement both ways	
<b>Bungalow House</b>	Bungalow House	Construction of three bedrooms bungalow house (Three structures)
<b>Dining Hall</b>	Dining Hall	Construction of a dining hall for the students

## 2.8 Description of the Renovation work activities

### 2.8.1 Description of the planned facilities and Infrastructure

This Installment consists of various structures (Staff Quarters, Kitchen Block, Toilets Block, and Classroom Blocks).

## 2.9 Main activities per phase of infrastructure renovation

Several activities will be carried out to construct and rehabilitate the different infrastructures at Diabugu Batapa ECD Center. The activities shall be implemented in three phases: planning/preparation, construction, and operation. Details about each of the phases are provided below:

### Preparation phase

Activities during the preparation phase include identification of what needs to be rehabilitated or constructed; preparation of a master plan; preparation of detailed layout plans; preparation of building designs; tender processing, obtaining approvals under the Physical Planning and Development Control Act 1990 for the rehabilitation, construction, and operation of the proposed project facilities. The Environmental and Social Assessment study and preparing the ESMP are part of the planning phase.

**Renovation/Construction works phase**

Construction activities will involve demolition; excavation; compacting; trenching; backfilling with compaction consolidation; leveling and earth marking; transportation of building materials; and construction of a three-classroom block, dining area for children, and upgrading of the kitchen. Other infrastructure, such as sanitary facilities, shall also be constructed. This phase will also involve the mobilization of workers; transportation of equipment and construction materials (e.g. stone aggregates, steel, sand, cement, gravel, fiber cement boards, pressed metal door frames etc.).

**Operation phase**

Activities during the operation phase will include commissioning the use and regular maintenance of the different infrastructures at Diabugu Batapa ECD Center for the intended purpose. The main effect of this phase is that a lot of solid waste will be generated daily, which must be managed properly.

### **3 Alternatives to the project**

Intending to create a good teaching and learning environment, the alternative analysis of this project considers other practicable strategies that can be looked at to achieve the project objectives and eliminate adverse environmental and social impacts associated with project implementation. The scenarios are given to choose the design and rehabilitation/construction plan in accordance with the objectives and the actual natural environment and socioeconomic conditions in Diabugu Batapa ECD Center. The various alternatives to the proposed project were assessed regarding environmental acceptability and economic feasibility during the assessment process, as discussed below.

#### **3.1 Zero scenario alternatives**

In the case where the zero scenarios alternatives are considered, this means that the project will not be implemented. The forgone costs of not having the project could result in economic and social losses regarding employment development, human welfare, livelihood, and improved services. So, this option is not recommended for this project since the land area belongs to the school, and there is no other alternative plot that the developer can access without incurring additional costs. There is also evidence that the rehabilitation/construction of this land area will not have severe negative impacts on the surrounding environment and communities.

#### **3.2 Location and layout alternatives**

The location and layout alternatives were not considered since the proposed construction and rehabilitation works will take place within the premises of existing structures at Diabugu Batapa ECD Center. Also, the intended project concerns the expansion works of the Diabugu Batapa ECD Center, which already exists in the project area. This means that the site fits the proposed project. The site also has access to water but no grid electricity expansion in the area. However, Solar Energy source is a viable option.

#### **3.3 Construction**

The design considered construction techniques that use local materials as much as possible and imported materials where local ones cannot be obtained. The construction will involve the use of locally made materials like cement blocks because there is no other affordable solution available for the construction of such permanent structures, and bearing in mind that the other alternative is the use of burnt bricks that are very detrimental and destructive to the environment. Local materials made from wood, tiles, or iron sheets manufactured locally will be used for roofing which substitutes the other alternative of using imported ones. The use of locally made materials provides employment and also supports the promotion of local industries.

#### **3.4 Solid waste management**

The waste will be sorted on-site, and four categories of waste will be treated separately:

- Organic wastes that will be generated during the construction and operation phases of the project will be transformed into organic manure through composting and used in the school garden as soil dressing;
- For paper, wood, etc., a better option is to transport them to a designated waste dumping site for appropriate disposal;
- Stony and earthy materials will be converted into construction materials. This will be tried only during the construction phase;
- Artificial and non-biodegradable materials (metals, plastics, etc.) will be removed from the site, reused or sold to companies for recycling, or taken to the approved landfill site.

Several opportunities will need to be explored for reducing solid waste. The most possible option is the composting of organic wastes and their reuse.

### **3.5 Water supply**

The water supply will be connected to the school's existing solarized water supply network. However, additional capacity is required to improve cleaning, toilet flushing, or school garden irrigation. It is therefore suggested to install an additional 4000 liters water tank, high capacity pumping machine, and solar panels. This will ensure water availability throughout the project lifecycle and operational phase.

### **3.6 Energy supply**

There are many types of energy sources. The best option would be to use a renewable energy source. Solar energy would be a better option, but the high demand for energy in different building activities is also considered; hence solar energy cannot cope with the demand. Using a generator also presents many disadvantages, including high fuel prices and noise pollution. The only reliable option is to connect the building to the national grid available in the area.

### **3.6 Timing and Duration of construction works**

The construction works schedule will follow a logical building order. For the earthworks, the intention is to minimize the excavation on site and any consequential effects of soil erosion and the downstream drainage system clogging. Interruption with normal activities of school residents around the construction site, including noise and dust pollution, is anticipated since normal lessons will continue within the project implementation period. Thus, rehabilitation/construction works will be scheduled to minimize the impact of noise and dust on the school and the surrounding environment. The timing and duration of the construction works are likely to have several implications, especially if the rainy season is taken into account. Heavy rains will undoubtedly affect the duration of construction activities, especially in areas with high rainfall and soft soil. Road transport is almost impossible due to mud and sliding, hence the complication of delivering materials to construction sites.



## **4.0 LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

The Environmental Management Policy and EIA legislation and procedures of the Gambia and those of the African Development Bank, which are relevant to the project, are outlined in this chapter. In principle, the two sets of policies and procedures on environmental and social assessment have similarities.

This section examines the key national policies and legal and regulatory frameworks, and some international conventions, treaties, and protocols relevant to the proposed project. The specific objectives of the regulatory framework review are:

- To identify policies, Acts, and regulations relevant to the environmental, health, safety, human rights, and social aspects of the Project and the conduct of the ESIA
- To identify environmental standards prescribed under national legislation that are relevant to the Project (such as pollution control, waste management, wastewater discharge, and air emissions)
- To identify international conventions, treaties, and protocols to which The Gambia is a signatory that is relevant to the Project
- African Development Bank's Operational Safeguards policies and standards. Specifically, ESIA/ESMP for the proposed project has been established based on the AfBD Operational Safeguards (OS) requirements.

The project ESMP has been designed to align with requirements set out in national policies, Acts and regulations, institutional arrangements, and the capacity required to implement the framework. The objective of the Renovation/construction works ESMP is to provide the framework for environmental and social management of the planned project activities under the Diabugu Batapa ECD center sub-project rehabilitation component and to identify the positive and negative aspects occasioned by the project implementation, propose ways of managing each of the elements and present what should be used as a practical tool during project implementation. As such, any identified negative environmental and socio economic impacts can be managed appropriately. The ESMP ensures that the construction/rehabilitation works at the selected ECD and Diabugu Batapa ECD centers adhere to an environmentally and socially sustainable pattern. It also provides a framework to assist communities/beneficiaries in screening sub projects, institutional mechanisms, and responsibilities to address adverse environmental and social impacts.

### **4.1 Relevant National Policy Framework for ESIA/ESMP**

The table below summarizes the national policy framework for rehabilitation at Diabugu Batapa ECD Center.

**Table 10: Summary of relevant policies relevant to the renovation of the Diabugu Batapa ECD Center**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Implications to Diabugu Batapa ECD Center Renovation</b>
Gambia Environment Action Plan, GEAP (2019-2029)	The Gambia’s Environmental Action Plan provides the overall policy framework for sound environmental management in The Gambia. It seeks to promote and implement sound environmental policy. The GEAP emphasizes environmental management, pollution, and nuisances and the necessity to safeguard the well-being of the populations. The country's first integrated environmental and natural resources management policy framework provides an overview of the existing environmental situation. It outlines approaches to the problems, including institutional changes and other required actions. National Environment Agency implements the Gambia Environment Action Plan and all relevant institutions, including the Private Sector and NGOs. All the Environmental Laws operate under the GEAP.	The rehabilitation works at DIABUGU BATAPA ECD Center will trigger the GEAP, and it will help to guide general environmental planning and natural resources management.
National Social Protection Policy 2015-2025 (NSPP)	The policy is to contribute towards alleviating poverty and vulnerability in the country, in line with the Government of The Gambia’s Vision and National Development Plan. The Policy is a comprehensive and cross-cutting social protection reform agenda and proposes a set of priority actions to guide the gradual establishment of a coherent social protection system in The Gambia. The NSPP adopts various social protection policy instruments across four categories: protective, preventative, promote, and transformative. These interventions include social	This policy is relevant to the project. It is to facilitate the reform of the national social protection system by ensuring more efficient and effective use of resources, strengthened management and administrative systems, and progress towards a more inclusive form of social protection that makes basic income and social services available to The Gambia’s poorest and most vulnerable people. This project is all about that and, therefore, relevant.

	assistance, social insurance, labour market policies, productive safety nets, social welfare services, and legal and social equity measures – all of which aim to protect people from exploitation and discrimination. These measures are critical in addressing the multidimensional nature of poverty and the risks and vulnerabilities people face.	
The National Health Policy, 2012-2020	The vision of the policy is to attain accessible quality health care for the Gambian population. It is mandated to protect the public and environmental health, including nuisance and other risks associated with this Project. It has a mission to ensure quality healthcare services within an enabling environment, delivered by appropriately trained, skilled, and motivated personnel at all levels of care. The mission will be accomplished with the involvement of all stakeholders to ensure a healthy nation. The fundamental guiding principles of the policy are equity, health system reform, and partnerships.	The rehabilitation works at Diabugu Batapa ECD Center trigger this policy as it will ensure the health of every person within the project influence areas. Health Promotion activities and enforcing health-related Laws will also be applied in prospective project sites. The Ministry of Health implements the policy with allied health-related Institutions and Programs.
The Gambia Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ECD) Roadmap2020-2024	The ECD Roadmap will serve as a guiding compass for the Government to equip young people with relevant skills to seize existing economic opportunities. The roadmap is the need to ensure that ECD delivery reflects labour market needs	Relevant to the project since Diabugu Batapa ECD center is part of the project intervention sites
National Policy for the Advancement of Gambian Women and Girls (1999-2009)	The policy provides a legitimate point of reference for addressing gender inequalities at all levels of government and all stakeholders	Relevant to the Diabugu Batapa ECD center rehabilitation project since it will benefit both boys and girls, men and women equitably, including the youth.
Gambia National Gender & Women Empowerment Policy	To mainstream gender issues in the national development process to improve the social, legal/civic, political, economic, and cultural	This policy would especially apply to recruiting labour for rehabilitation works at the Diabugu

(2010–2020)	<p>conditions of the people of the Gambia, particularly women. In infrastructure development, this policy aims to redress imbalances arising from existing gender inequalities. It promotes the participation of both women and men in all stages of the project cycle and equal access to and control over significant economic resources and benefits.</p> <p>The policy aims to contribute significantly to improving the status of Gambian women and ensure gender equality and thus help achieve the SDGs.</p>	<p>Batapa ECD Center. Women should ideally have equal opportunities as men for available jobs.</p>
National Development Plan (2018-2021) <sup>3</sup>	<p>This is the principal national Policy blueprint that provides the overall direction for the country from 2018 to 2021. It emphasizes priority areas for development within this planned period, including building and quality education which cannot be realized without proper and good infrastructure for a better teaching and learning environment.</p>	<p>The project aims to rehabilitate Diabugu Batapa ECD Center in the Upper River Region. The implementation rehabilitation of this center is in line with helping cover the infrastructure gap in line with the expectation of the NDP, which sets to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhancing access to early childhood education,</li> <li>○ improving quality learning, with special emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Health, Agriculture, and special needs at the basic, postsecondary/tertiary, and higher education levels, promoting ECD and other skills-enhancing initiatives to match the job market; and</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> The Government of The Gambia is in the process of formulating the successor of current NDP namely Green Recovery-focused National Development Plan (2023 - 2027) and also successor of Vision 2020 - Long-Term Development Vision (Vision 2050)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ take measures to enhance access to non-formal education to build a more skilled and productive workforce</li> </ul>
National Youth Policy (2009–2018)	The policy aims to mainstream youth issues into the advancement of all sectors.	Successful project implementation will enhance the youths’ skill development, which could reduce youth underemployment and engagement in negative social menace. Providing a good foundation at the ECD stage of life
Education Sector Policy 2016 – 2030	This policy aims to promote a broad-based education at the basic level for lifelong learning and training.	In line with the National Development Plan (NDP), if successfully implemented, it will allow for the growth of educational opportunities and improve the effectiveness of education at all levels, from Early Childhood Development (ECD) to tertiary and higher education. Essentially, as enshrined in the policy, it will promote accessible, equitable, and inclusive quality education for sustainable development.

## 4.2 National Legal and Regulatory Framework

### **National Environment Management Act (NEMA) 1994**

The NEMA, 1994, was promulgated as the primary legislation in environmental management, providing a structured institutional and legal framework for sound management of the environment and natural resources in The Gambia. It empowers the National Environment Agency (NEA) with powers to:

- Establish criteria and set standards for environmental quality for effluent discharges and solid waste disposal. Identify materials, processes, and wastes that are dangerous to human or animal health and the environment, and recommend regulations and guidelines for managing materials, processes, and wastes.
- Prepare guidelines for managing environmental disasters, including major oil spills, gas leakages, and spills of other hazardous substances. The NEA can decide who would be responsible for any clean-up and what should be done when such discharges occur.
- Appoint environmental inspectors who are empowered, among other things, to take samples of articles or substances that the Act prescribes and submit them for testing or analysis; and to conduct periodic inspections of establishments whose activities are likely to impact the environment significantly.
- Part V of the NEMA stipulates the requirements for EIA of proposed projects, and for more specific EIA guidance, regulations were passed under this Act.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIA) 2014**

These Regulations provide the regulatory framework for projects requiring environmental impact assessment by virtue of their environmental and social impacts. It took into account the processes and procedures that should be undertaken by project proponents, on the one hand, and the Agency, on the other hand, to make sure that projects are thoroughly screened for their environmental and social viability before their implementation. Consequently, the National Social Protection Secretariat must submit a project brief to the NEA and a duly completed EIA Screening Form for Environmental Approval. Based on the brief and screening form information, NEA will decide if a complete environmental impact study is required. The EIA Regulations, 2014 state exactly which projects require EIA, the procedure, the responsibilities of stakeholders, and fees. Furthermore, regulation Section 3 (1) (b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 states the scope of application, including the Regulations, applies “to any major repairs, extensions, alterations, or non-routine maintenance for any existing project,” such as infrastructural works or activities. The Regulations also makes provision for the different classification for projects as follows:

- Projects are classified as ‘A,’ meaning a full EIA study is required; because there will be a significant impact;
- Temporarily, projects are classified as ‘B’ because the impacts are not as significant as those of the A class; however, Developer will require to carry out a limited impact study and an environmental management Plan formulated; and
- when more information is needed to decide; and Projects are classified as ‘C’, the anticipated impacts are all but negligible





Table 11: Summary of the national legal frameworks relevant to the renovation of the Diabugu Batapa ECD Center

Legislation	Description	Implications to Diabugu Batapa ECD Center Renovation
National Environment Management Act, 1994	The most relevant legislation for this study is the Law on Environment. The legislation sets out the general legal framework for Environment protection and management in the Gambia. Principal legislation in environmental management; Part V of the Act provides for specific projects listed under Schedule A to be considered for ESIA/ESMP/ESIA. It centers on avoiding and reducing disastrous consequences on the environment. National Environment Agency (NEA) approves ESIA reports and ESMPs.	This Project falls under Schedule A, which requires an ESMP/ESIA. The project will observe the environmental law by conducting Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and/or preparing Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) to ensure the reduction of disastrous consequences on the Environment in its activities. The project will also monitor compliance with environmental safeguards at all sites.
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014	The EIA Regulations elaborate on the requirements for EIA procedure, environmental impact statements, approval, environmental monitoring, etc.	The Regulations provide more details for the ESIA and implementation of the ESMPs.
Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides Control and Management Act, 1994	The act provides for the control and management, manufacture, distribution, and use of hazardous chemicals and pesticides and makes provisions for the matters connected in addition to that. It also protects human health and the environment by controlling hazardous chemicals.	Hazardous chemicals could be used in the construction /rehabilitation works of the Diabugu Batapa ECD center, and also some of the equipment can contain hazardous chemicals.
Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Regulations 2000	Sets out rules on the production, import, export, placing on the market, use, recovery, recycling, reclamation, and destruction of substances that deplete the ozone layer	This Regulation will guide the potential for the Project to use ODS. It is essential to consult with NEA to comply with the national phase-out in line with the Kigali Agreement regarding installing certain gadgets during the rehabilitation/construction phase.
Local Government Act, 2002	make provisions for decentralized administrative structures, including devolution of functions, powers, and duties to local authorities	Implementation of the Project will require the participation of decentralized institutions, including the Regional Education Directorate, Offices of the Governors as well as their respective Technical

		Advisory Committees (TACs) and also Village development committees
Biodiversity and Wildlife Act, 2003	Provides for the protection of biodiversity and the establishment of protected areas.	Although seven gazetted national parks and wildlife reserves are in various parts of the country, the current project location is within or near any protected area. Still, the fauna and flora of the subproject need to be protected.
Public Health Act, 1990	Protects public and environmental health, including abatement of nuisances and any condition that may be detrimental to health.	The Public Health Act is relevant because Diabugu Batapa ECD centers Rehabilitation works will have social and environmental issues that will trigger the Public Health Act. Public nuisance during construction, e.g., noise, vibration, dust, fumes. Potential contamination during construction. Pollution Prevention measures are reflected in the ESMP.
Labour Act (2007)	Provides the legal framework for the administration of labour, recruitment and hiring of labour, and protection of wages.	The project hiring and managing its labour force should adhere to this act.
The Children's Act 2005	The act sets out the rights and responsibilities of children and provides for their care, protection, and maintenance.	The rights of children impacted by the Project need to be protected.
The Women's Act 2010	It aims to advance women's rights to resources and services to promote economic and social empowerment.	Relevant to this Project because of the potential impact of skills development and related matters, which is a source of livelihood for women; they need to avoid gender-based violence (GVB) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)
Anti-littering Regulations, 2007	Addresses waste management and pollution issues concerning environmental health and hygiene.	The Project must ensure that all waste produced during all phases is well managed, including e-waste.
Environmental Quality Standards Regulations 1999	Regulations declare standards in Schedule 1 concerning ambient air, saline waters, surface freshwaters, and groundwater.	Project implementation can generate dust and pollute surface freshwaters and groundwater within the project's area of influence.
States Land Act 1995	This Act clearly and unambiguously makes the State the owner of all land. Provisions in the Act also state that where customary land is designated under the act, occupiers shall be	The project implementation must adhere to these provisions to avoid land conflicts in project sites.

	deemed to be lessees of the land for a renewable term of 99 years.	
Physical Planning and Development Act, 1990	The Physical Planning and Development Act provides under the Ministry of Lands and Regional Administration for the systematic preparation and approval of physical development plans and control of developments in different areas in The Gambia. Guidelines regarding the location of urban and rural settlements, traffic and transportation routes, resource utilization and economic activities, and preserving national and environmental reserves are spelled out in this Act.	Since Diabugu Batapa ECD center Rehabilitation may require some expansion, as in the construction of new infrastructures, this Act is triggered.
Hazardous Chemicals Regulations 1999	These Regulations provide the control of manufacture, trade-in, importation of, and handling of hazardous chemicals. They provide for registering hazardous chemicals and licensing persons wishing to carry out such activities.	Relevant to Project since some chemicals in rehabilitation/construction works may be used and associated with human and environmental health.
Sexual Offences Acts 2013	The provision of this Act applies to the trial of rape and other sexual offenses under this Act and any other enactment.	The Projects can potentially increase the risk of GBV in different settings and ways in the Diabugu Batapa ECD center sub-project. Thus, preventive measures must be in place to avoid such occurrences.
National Council for Arts and Culture Act, 2003	This Act protects historical monuments and objects of archaeological, paleontological, ethnographical, and traditional interest. The Act prohibits anyone from carrying out activities on or concerning any object declared to be preserved or protected.	This does not affect the Diabugu Batapa ECD center rehabilitation sub-project since activities will be carried out in the existing center that does not contain historical monuments and objects of archaeological, paleontological, ethnographical, and traditional interest. Still relevant as there may be a chance finds as it is an old settlement.

### **4.3 The Relevant International Conventions and Protocols**

In joining the global world in addressing environmental issues, human rights, and other emerging issues, The Gambia is a signatory to several international, regional, and sub-regional conventions, treaties, and agreements. In Table 12 are relevant international, regional, and sub-regional laws and conventions, treaties, and agreements in which The Gambia is a signatory and are considered applicable to Diabugu Batapa ECD center Rehabilitation.



**Table 12: Relevant international conventions and Protocols**

<b>Convention/Protocols</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Implications to the Diabugu Batapa ECD Center Renovation</b>
United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Convention has three main goals, including the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components;	Minimal land clearing might be required with the potential loss of trees/vegetation and dependent biodiversity. Measures need to be taken for the protection of the environment.
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	To combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought	Project activities such as potential land clearing and burning in preparation for the rehabilitation/construction works of relevant infrastructure could create environments prone to encouraging desertification
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	As a party to the convention, Gambia seeks to contribute to stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system	Since the project will be implemented in the existing school environment, no complete cutting of trees is required. Only tree branches obstructing construction will be trimmed if necessary.
United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (OP-CEDAW)	The convention highlights women's right to be protected and given equal opportunities and is central to their financial independence. It may be critical to their ability to earn a livelihood through skills acquisition/development.	Women are one of the main targets of the Project and will ensure that they have access to the benefits of this Project in the same way as men.
Stockholm Convention on (POPs)	Deals with Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	The Project could potentially affect the right to health of the child, women, and men by releasing hazardous chemicals, e.g., POPs. Appropriate measures should be taken for proper waste management to protect the environment and human health.
Vienna Convention ( Convention on the Protection of the Stratospheric Ozone Layer)	Deals with the protection of the Stratospheric Ozone layer	This convention will guide the potential for the Project to use ozone-depleting substances (ODS) as the Gambia is a party

## 4.4 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Process

### The National EIA Process

In The Gambia, the National Environment Agency coordinates the environmental and social impact assessment process, from project brief submission to approval and subsequent implementation monitoring.

Part V of the National Environment Management Act (NEMA) 1994 outlines the requirements for environmental impact assessment, and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, provides more specific guidance on carrying out the ESIA.

At the NEA, the EIA team will screen the proposed project after submitting a completed EIA Screening Form with information on the planned activities and confirm if the Project requires EIA. The successive steps are followed based on the classification outlined in Table 13.

Table 13: EIA classification system in the Gambia

Classification	Impact Significance	Decision on EIA Requirement
<b>Class A</b>	Significant negative or adverse impacts	A full Environmental Impact Assessment is required based on the information provided. There will be High risks of adverse impacts.
<b>Class B</b>	Insufficient information to make a decision	Where the information provided is inadequate to screen the project, a temporary classification is given pending such information. The NEA will request, in writing, the specific additional information required to determine if the project falls Under Class A or C. Class B projects may be required to provide specific Information such as an ESMP.
<b>Class C</b>	Minimal / no significant impact OR Not in line with laws of The Gambia	Where the Project has potential negligible potential impacts, Environmental Approval may be granted without a full study (an environmental management plan or other conditions may still be required). When there are no significant adverse impacts, the project proponents may proceed without any further analysis. For projects with significant irreversible adverse impacts and not in line with the laws of the Gambia, the project will be rejected without needing an EIA study.

This subproject falls under Schedule A of the NEMA, which lists the types of projects requiring an ESIA. Before the study commences, a scoping session is carried out with the support of the

NEA-led multisector EIA Working Group to determine the scope and the terms of reference for the environmental impact study. The scoping report and terms of reference will be presented to the developer responsible for identifying a consultant for the study.

Upon completion of the studies, the ESIA report is submitted to the NEA for review by the EIA Working Group, other stakeholders, and the public concerned to ensure the terms of reference were addressed. The developer’s consultant subsequently revised the report to incorporate the valid comments. Once the EIA Working Group is satisfied with the report, including its ESMP, a decision is made by the NEA to give approval or not.

**Table 14:EA Classification system of AfDB**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Impact Significance</b>	<b>Decision on EIA Requirement</b>
<b>Category 1</b>	Bank operations likely to cause significant Environmental and social impacts	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment the study required, including cases where a Full Resettlement Action Plan is required.
<b>Category 2</b>	Bank operations likely to cause less adverse environmental and social impacts than Category 1	Some level of environmental assessment is required to evaluate the potential environmental and social risks and develop an ESMP for its management. Category 2 projects require an Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan (ARAP).
<b>Category 3</b>	Bank operations with negligible adverse environmental and social risks	Category 3 projects do not directly or indirectly Affect the environment adversely and are unlikely to induce adverse social impacts. Such projects do not require an ESIA. Sometimes no further action is required; however, some analysis may be required to manage specific unexpected impacts.
<b>Category 4</b>	Bank operations involving lending to financial intermediaries for subprojects that may produce adverse environmental and social impacts.	Bank lending to financial intermediaries. Financial intermediary subprojects equivalent to Category 1 and Category 2 are subject to the relevant OS requirements.

#### **4.5The African Development Bank’s Environmental and Social Standards**

The AfDB has developed various policies and strategies with the aim of integrating environmental and social considerations into the implementation of development projects. Environmental and social sustainability are fundamental to achieving development outcomes and



shall be systematically mainstreamed into AfDB's Program and Project Management Cycles. The AfDB policies and strategies take the form of an ISS for "integrated safeguard system" (ISS), which is also based on the following documents:

- Environmental and Social Assessment Procedures, supported by guidelines that clearly define how the Bank and the borrower or client should implement operational safeguards during the project cycle. They provide information on the specific procedures that the Bank and its borrowers or clients must follow to ensure that the Bank's operations meet the conditions of operational safeguards (OS) ;
- Sectoral directives: guidance documents providing technical directives relating to methodological approaches or standards and management measures necessary to meet operational safeguards.

This ISS brings together the five specific safeguard criteria the Bank's clients must respect when dealing with environmental and social impacts and risks. These five criteria correspond to five Operational Safeguards (SOs) - a set of brief and focused policy statements that clearly define the operational conditions to which Bank-financed operations must comply - which are as follows.

**Table 15: AfDB's operational safeguards**

AfBD Operational Safeguards	Key requirements	Project Compliance Plan
SO1: Environmental & Social Assessment	This overarching SO determines a project's environmental and social category and the resulting environmental and social assessment requirements. During the project identification phase, AfDB-financed projects are categorized according to their level of potential environmental and social impacts, positive and negative, to classify them into one of categories 1, 2, 3 or 4.	The rehabilitation/construction of the Diabugu Batapa ECD center subproject is classified as category 2 (Bank operations likely to cause less adverse environmental and social impacts). It involves some level of environmental assessment to evaluate the potential environmental and social risks and develop an ESMP for its management. For this purpose, this ESIA is elaborated for the present Diabugu Batapa ECD Center sub-project.
SO2: Involuntary resettlement	This SO consolidates the political conditions and commitments set out in the Bank's involuntary resettlement policy and incorporates several enhancements intended to increase the operational effectiveness of these conditions.	Based on the assessment and the site occupation analysis, no involuntary resettlement regards the implementation of this subproject.
SO3: Biodiversity and ecosystem services	This SO sets goals to conserve biological diversity and promote the sustainable use of natural resources. It also translates the	The rehabilitation and construction works for the Diabugu Batapa ECD centers subproject triggers SO-3, and ecologically some trees

	political commitments of the Bank's policy on integrated water resources management and operational requirements.	could be thinned or cut down, .
SO 4: Prevention and control of pollution, greenhouse gases, hazardous materials, and efficient use of resource	This SO covers the full range of impacts related to pollution, waste, and key hazardous substances, for which international conventions are in force, as well as comprehensive industry-specific or regional standards, which are applied by other MDBs, particularly for the greenhouse gas inventory. All the pollution control measures taken as part of this impact study will go toward this SO. The operation of a solar power plant and an electric line cannot produce greenhouse gases, significant discharges, or a quantity of waste.	Given the subproject implementation, rehabilitation/construction activities, including the demolitions and civil works, will constitute a source of various pollutants emissions (dust and noise), solid waste (rubbles and other packaging waste), effluents (wastewater, paint residues, etc.), from the work activities, that must be managed adequately.
SO 5: Working conditions, health and safety	SO 5 defines the Bank's requirements of its borrowers or clients regarding workers' conditions, rights and protection against abuse or exploitation. It also ensures better harmonization with most other multilateral development banks.	The rehabilitation/construction works requires hiring qualified and unqualified workers, who must be framed by specific recruitment, health, safety and hygiene procedures to meet the needs of this SO.

#### 4.6 Institutional framework

The institutional framework relevant to the implementation of this Project is as indicated in table 16 below.

Table 16. The institutional framework relevant to project

Institutions	Specific Responsibilities	Interests and roles in this Project implementation	Level of intervention
National Environment Agency (NEA)	The NEA enforces the NEMA,1994 and ESIA Regulations 2014	-Evaluation of the ESIA report -Grant Environmental Approval for the Project Disclosure and publication of the ESIA, Issuance and renewal of environmental certificates/permits - Monitoring the	All phases of the Project from planning and design to the renovation and operation

		environmental aspects of the ESMP implementation	
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources	Oversees the NEA and implementation of environmental laws and policies of The Gambia	Policy guidance oversees the Department of Forestry and Department of Parks and Wildlife Management are key to this Project	All phases of the Project, from planning and design to the renovation and operation
Ministry of Lands and Regional Administration	Oversees all the local government authorities. Its regional representatives are the TACs located in the Regional Governors' offices.	The Ministry will support the coordination of involuntary settlement as it enforces all legal regulations on land administration and land use.	Pre-renovation, renovation, and operation phases
Governor's Office (URR)	Oversee the region's Regional Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) (URR).	The TACs will support the implementation and monitoring processes at the Regional levels	Pre-renovation and renovation phases
Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education	Responsible for overall formulation and direction of the national Secondary education agenda, planning and education infrastructural development	Provide alternatives for continuity of class lessons during the project implementation.	Pre-renovation, renovation, and operation phases
National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS)	Under the Office of the Vice President, NSPS provides leadership and coordination across social protection efforts in The Gambia.	NSPS is the executor of this Project in The Gambia And coordinates and monitors the Project ESMP implementation.	All phases of the Project
Women's Bureau	Under the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, the Women's Bureau promotes gender equity and	-Ensures the rights of women affected by the Project are protected -Participates in sensitization on gender issues.	Pre-renovation, renovation, and operation phases

	women's empowerment in The Gambia.		
Department of Social Welfare	This department protects and promotes the rights of vulnerable people such as children, women, and people with disabilities.	Supports and guides the process during related grievances and participates in sensitization on GBV, SEA, VAC, etc.	Pre-renovation, renovation, and operation phases
Department of Labor	Enforces employment laws and combats child labor	Protection of employee rights; Protection against child labor; Response to complaints and reports such as accidents, abuse, and discrimination at work	Pre-renovation, renovation, and operation phases
ECD center managers/ Headmasters	Responsible for the day-to-day operation of the ECD facilities	Oversight is responsible of all the activities carried out during the rehabilitation in consultation with the PIU, Regional Education Directorate, and Contractor.	All phases of the project
Construction companies in charge of the rehabilitation works	In charge of the implementation of the rehabilitation work in accordance with the signed contract.	Execute the project as designed and agreed, keeping in view the environmental and social safeguards.	Pre-renovation, renovation,
NGOs and civil society	These voluntary groups or organizations are determined to protect the community's rights and promote awareness creation.	Support the community to ensure that the right thing is done in terms of project implementation and advocate for zero incidents, no environmental degradation, and social disorder.	All phases of the project

## 5. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL BASELINE CONDITIONS

This section describes the general environmental and social baseline conditions of the potential areas to host the sub-project activities within the administrative regions identified. Looking at the size of the country where most environmental and social conditions have marginal differences; as a result, the report describes the baseline environmental and social conditions of the Upper River Region (URR). In this regard, the description will be specific.

### 5.1 Climate and Weather Conditions

Located at an elevation of 23.11 meters (75.82 feet) above sea level, Upper River Region (URR) has a Tropical wet and dry or savanna climate (Classification: Aw). The city's yearly temperature is 31.85°C (89.33°F) and it is 2.27% higher than The Gambia's averages. Upper River typically receives about 60.75 millimeters (2.39 inches) of precipitation and has 78.18 rainy days (21.42% of the time) annually.

In URR, relative humidity is generally moderate, becoming higher during the rainy season.

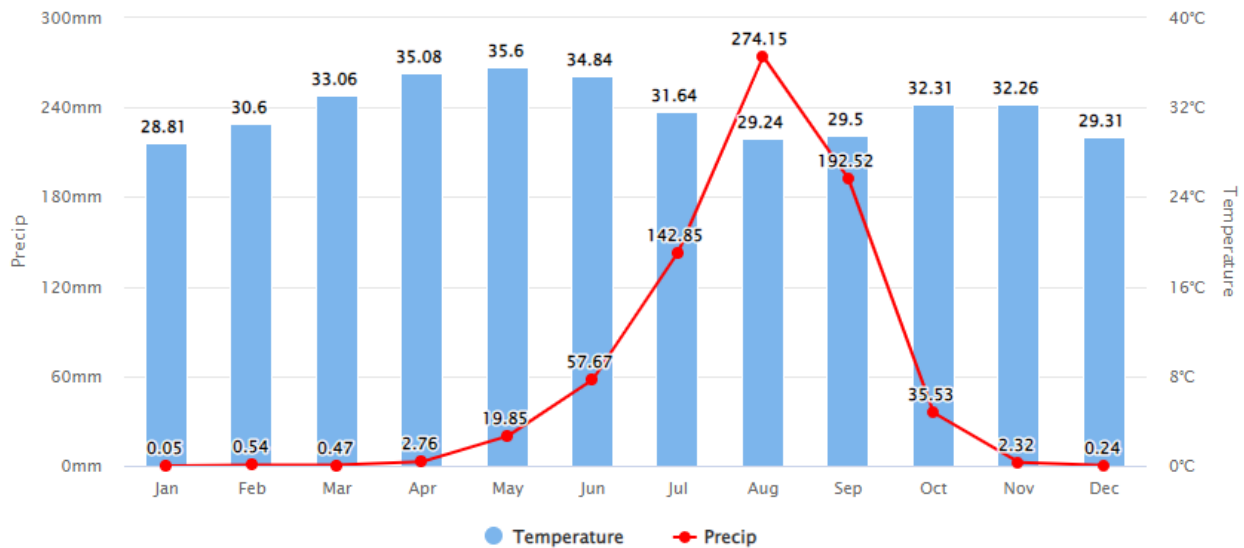


Figure 4: The mean monthly temperature and precipitation of URR

### 6.1.1 Air Quality

Air quality in The Gambia is generally acceptable for most individuals. It is usually clean and dry especially in the rural area of the Gambia. However, it becomes dusty and windy during the dry season and humid during the rainy season. At the time of the visit, the air quality in the Diabugu Batapa ECD area was classified as not clean. However, most respondents cited agricultural waste burning as impacting air quality in rural areas. During the assessment, the air

quality at Diabugu Batapa ECD Center was classified as good, with ambient levels typically below World Health Organization (WHO) air quality standards and specifications.

### 5. 1.2 Water quality

The main water quality parameters comprise physicochemical, biological, and heavy metals of relevance as far as the water source in The Gambia are concerned.

Diabugu Batapa ECD Center has a borehole erected within the center, which serves as the source of water supply for drinking and watering vegetables and trees. During the assessment, the quality at Diabugu Batapa ECD Center was classified as good, with levels typically below World Health Organization (WHO) quality standards and specifications.

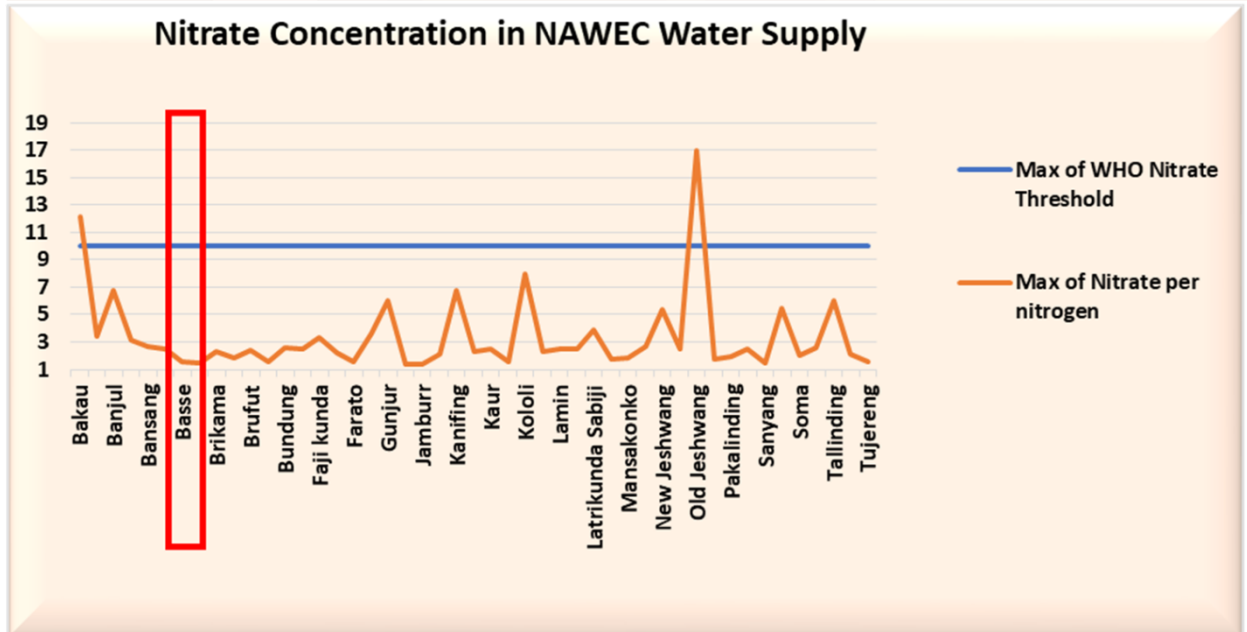
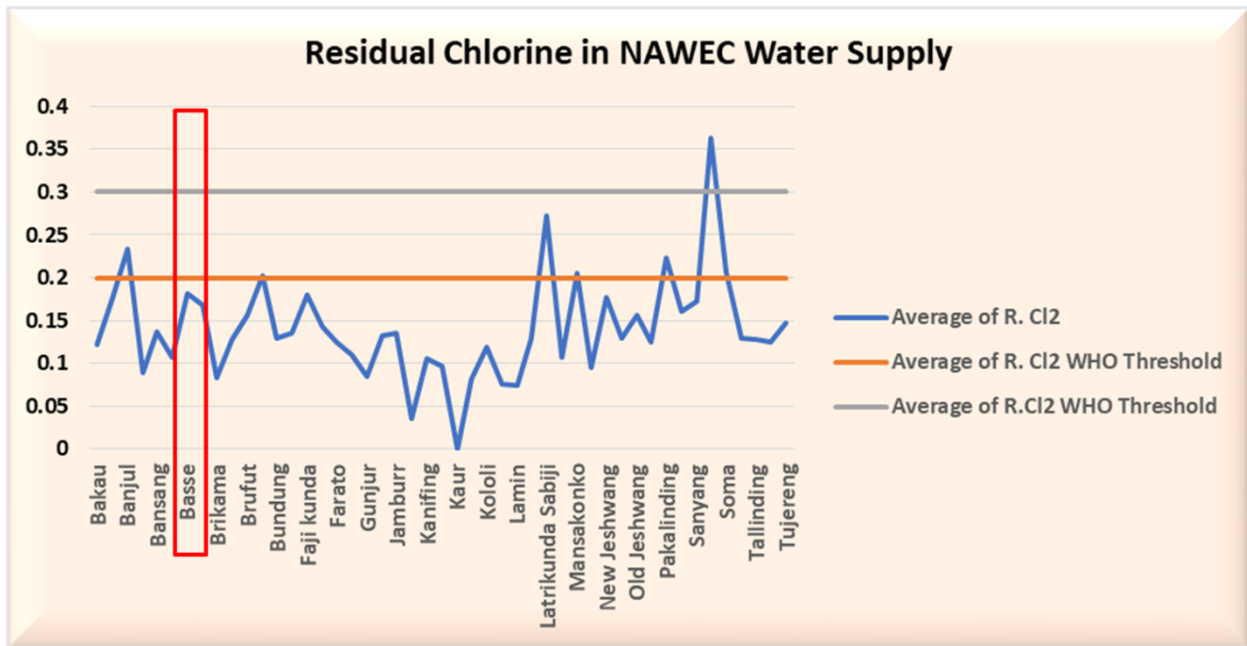


Figure 5: Residual Chlorine and Nitrate Concentration in NAWEC Water Supply

### 5.1.3 Flora

URR is defined as the Eastern Transition Zone and South Bank Zone, characterized by vegetation dominated by shrubs, often including grasses, herbs, and tree savannas. Most of the more wooded landscapes are found on the south side of the river, where the South Bank Zone extends seamlessly into Senegal's Casamance (CAS) ecoregion. These are remnants of the Sudanian woodlands, wooded savannas, and gallery forests that once blanketed most of the country more than a century ago. The predominance of lateritic plateaus has spared the region from the more intensive human pressures of the western regions.

Different ornamental and fruit tree species exist in the Diabugu Batapa ECD center, such as neem, eucalyptus, and mango.



Figure 6: Ornamental and fruit tree species in Diabugu Batapa ECD center

### 5.1.4 Fauna

Over decades, the Upper River Region has lost most of its faunal species to environmental degradation. This is because of over-exploiting natural vegetation to logging, slashing, and burning agricultural practices. Most species have migrated to the Casamance Region, which provides a safe haven due to its vegetation cover. Despite the openness of the land cover of the region towards the northern part of Senegal, the southern part of the region towards the Gambia River, especially in the Jokadu area, is endowed with rich different varieties of fauna (mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians).

Although there was no observation of the presence of wildlife, there are possibilities of rodents and other small mammals in the center premises.

## 5.2 Socioeconomic Environment

### 5.2.1 Demography (population, approximation of households)

According to The Gambia's 2013 population and housing census, the national population is estimated at 1.8 million (GBoS, 2013). The 2013 Population and Housing Census indicated that, regionally, the population of URR was 239,916. The ethnicity in the region is composed of mainly eight officially recognized groups; Mandingoes, Fulani, Wolofs and others (Jolas, Sarahuley, Serer, Manjago, and Akus). About 90% of the population practice Islam in terms of religious affiliation, while the remaining 10% practice Christianity or traditional beliefs.

### 5.2.2 Agriculture

Like other rural regions in the Gambia, URR is primarily an agricultural region with its population dependent on agriculture for its food and cash income. Agriculture is characterized by subsistence production of food crops (rice, millet, sorghum), semi-intensive cash crop production (groundnuts, cotton, sesame), and traditional livestock production. Horticulture is also important; it is practiced largely by women during the dry season as a counter-seasonal activity and constitutes an important source of income for them. Individual lands for gardens are obtained mostly on loan from the village chief, referred to as Alkali/family heads; however, when village associations (women, youth) develop a plan for agricultural activity, they are typically given the requested piece of land or equivalent, for temporary or indefinite use, depending on the time they need to use it. The horticultural crops include onions, tomatoes, small and large pepper, cabbage, lettuce, garden egg, bitter tomatoes, and okra. The agricultural activities noted in the project area are usually rain-fed agriculture. The main crops are groundnuts, millet, maize, and sorghum. Agriculture provides both the main food products of households and generates income through marketing. In rural agriculture, men do ploughing, and women sow and weed. Women primarily practice rice and subsistence farming to supply household consumption and engage in local sales of outputs (i.e., clothing, cosmetics, cooking ingredients, etc.).

### 5.2.3 Education level

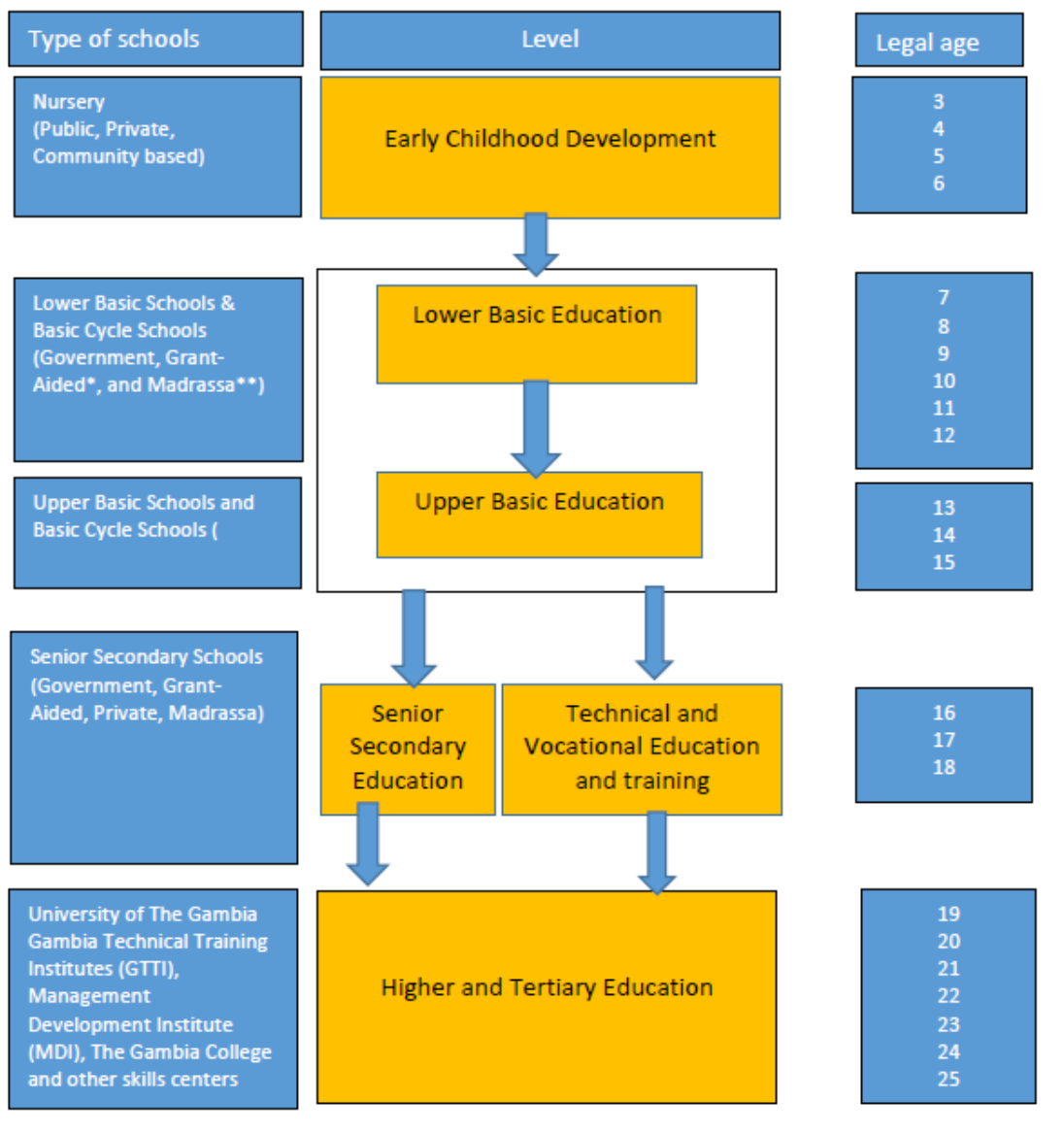
The Gambia's current formal education system follows a 6-3- 3-4 structure with six years of Lower Basic (LBE) officially beginning at age 7, followed by three years of Upper Basic Education (UBE). LBE and UBE cover grades 1-9 and constitute the basic education level. This is followed by three years of senior secondary education and four years of tertiary or higher<sup>10</sup> education (Figure 7). The government encourages participation in Early Childhood Development (ECD) programs and has been proactive in expanding access as highlighted in its sector policy 2004-2015 and reiterated in the joint Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP 2014-2022)<sup>4</sup>,

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<sup>4</sup> Education Sector Strategic Plan 2016 – 2030. Ministries of Basic and Secondary Education and Higher Education Research Science and Technology . <https://www.globalpartnership.org/sites/default/files/2018-09-the-gambia-essp-2016-30.pdf>



although this level of education remains facultative.



*Education Sector Strategic Plan 2016 – 2030*

Figure 7: The education system in The Gambia

In URR, many boys and girls start school; however, more girls than boys drop out of primary school. Overall, however, the literacy rates in the region are low – only around 50 percent of the population can read and write. This is much lower than in other areas of the country, where 62.9 percent are literate.

The share of children in Basse LGA shows the opposite tendency, shrinking from 22 percent at the primary level to 11 percent at the upper secondary.

Under its Early Childhood Development Policy 2016-2030, the country plans to increase preschool coverage to 60% by 2030<sup>5</sup>. The early learning assessment conducted on Gambian children who recently entered grade one of the primary cycle is part of this effort.

### 5.2.3.1 Early Child Education in The Gambia

Early Childhood Development (ECD) is a three-year program provided for children aged 3 to 6 years by the public and private sectors. It will help further stimulate the development of their psycho-motor and mental faculties and provide them with pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills. Until 1995, 125 registered preschool centers were mainly found in the Capital City, Banjul, and the immediate surroundings. By 2016 there were 1141 centers located in all regions of the country, mainly in urban and peri-urban areas (**Table 17**). In addition, recognizing that ECD is a key strategic choice for further development of the education sector and the economy, the Gambia Education Policy 2004/2015, with an agenda to ensure equitable access to quality Education at all levels of education and contribute to promoting equitable economic growth, included ECD as a key priority. The target in the policy was to increase ECD gross enrolment rate from 36.4 percent to 50 percent by 2019. Besides the huge number of centers, ECD enrolment increased by about 76 percent from about 43,000 in 2008 to about 76,000 in 2013. By 2016, there were over 100,000 children enrolled in The Gambia’s ECD centers; an increase of about 133 percent of the enrolment in 2008. Similarly, the GER for ECD increased to about 46 percent in 2016, as shown in Table 17.

This expansion is partly attributable to the policy that requires attaching the ECD centers to existing Lower Basic Schools in deprived communities. However, the overall ECD enrolment fell short of the policy target by four percentage points, with significant differences in urban and rural settings and across the six regions, including URR, where the -sub-project site is located.

**Table 17. Number and percentage of students enrolled in The Gambia’s ECD, 2013-2016**

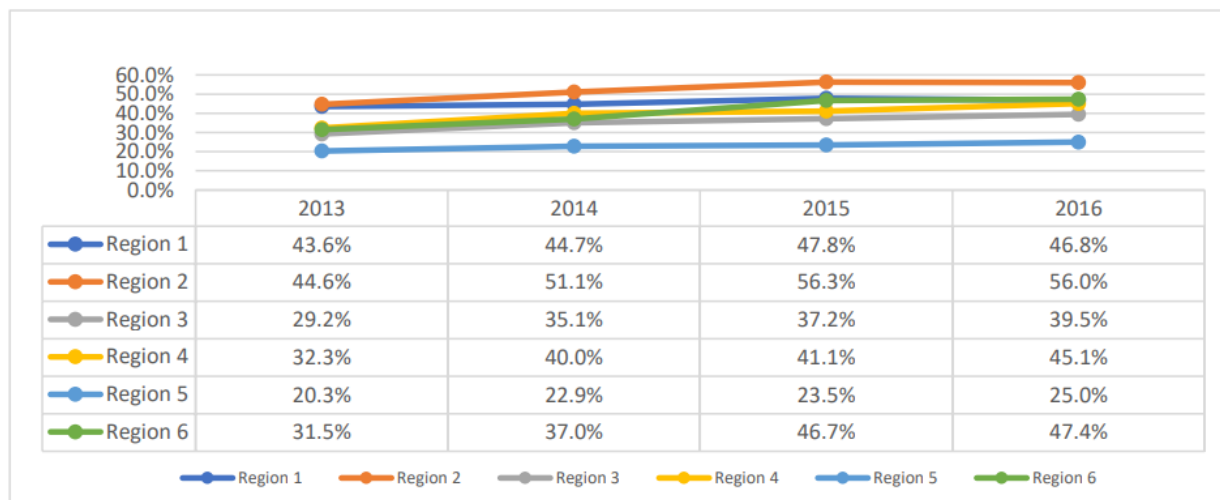
Year	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Total
2013	37,004	38,845	75,849	35.40%	37.50%	36.50%	892
2014	42,625	44,396	87,021	40.10%	42.10%	41.10%	1014
2015	48,118	49,436	97,554	44.50%	46.10%	45.30%	1115
2016	49,255	51,094	100,349	44.80%	46.80%	45.80%	1141

*Source: Education Sector Strategic Plan 2016 – 2030*

<sup>5</sup>The Gambia Early Childhood Development Policy 2016-2030 <https://www.unicef.org/gambia/media/526/file/Early-Learning-Assessment-of-Primary-Education-Entrants-in-The-Gambia.pdf>

There are considerable regional disparities in both the number of centers and enrolment rates. Regions 1 and 2 accounted for 54 percent of the total ECD centers, with Region 4 having the lowest number (74). Figure 5 below shows the regional disparities in GER for ECD in 2016, ranging from 25 percent in Region 5 to 56 percent in Region 2. Region 5 was a bit of an outlier, with the other regions showing GERs of about 40 percent and above.

Figure 5: Regional disparities in GER for ECD in 2016 EMIS Data

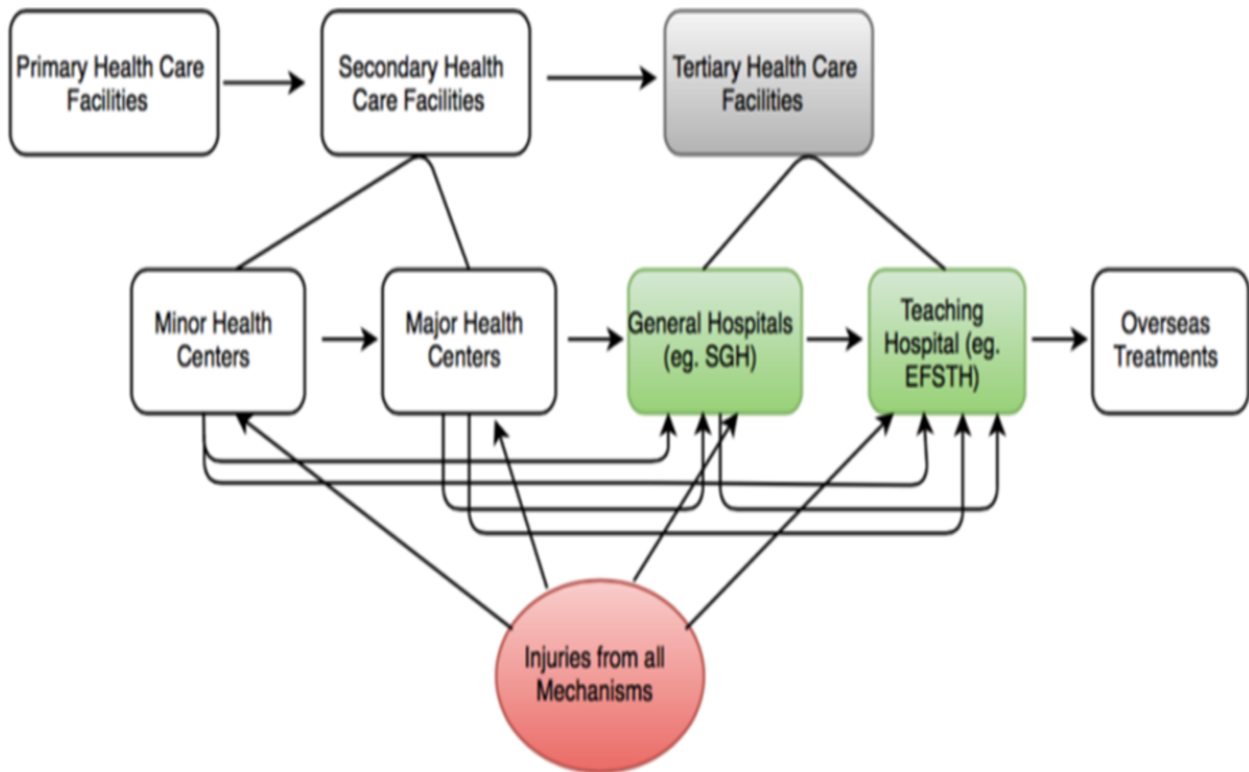


Source: Education Sector Strategic Plan 2016 – 2030

Figure 8: Regional disparities in GER for ECD in 2016 EMIS Data

### 5.2.4 Health

The health service delivery system in URR is three tiers based on the Primary Health Care Strategy and covers the proposed project area. It is divided into seven health administrative regions, each comprising public and private healthcare facilities. The government coordinates and funds public health centers and operates around the Primary Health Care model of 3 levels: Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary (Figure 8). Primary healthcare is the medium through which basic healthcare services are provided, especially to those in remote rural villages; while health service provision is virtually free at public health centers, especially for women and children, proximity to major facilities remains a problem for the majority of the communities within the regions. NGO and privately run facilities complement public service delivery. One of the health policy goals is to empower communities to be active partners in managing their physical health and health services.



**Figure 8: Healthcare system and referral protocols in The Gambia**

*Source: (Edrisa Sanyang, 2016)*

### 5.2.5 Economic Activities the people undertake

Outside agriculture, commerce is an important source of income among the local population in URR. Provincial growth centers such as Basse in URR are major trading centers for the surrounding communities outside The Gambia. Petty trading is also important at the village level, especially after the rainy season. In addition to domestic trade, cross-border trade in agricultural and food products, clothes and some imported consumer goods are important at the traditional weekly open markets known as the "lumo" along the border with traders from other regions and neighbouring Senegal. The work of the sub-project will not impact lumo markets.

### 5.2.6 Land Tenure

Generally, the Land Tenure System in the Gambia is complex and sensitive. The typical tenure system is communal in most communities, including the URR; however, this kind of ownership can result in land fragmentation which does not support large-scale investment in production. The land tenure system in URR is generally based on a dual system due principally to the colonial past, which introduced the statutory title and customary tenure (UNDP).

The Lands (Region Act) provides for the proper upkeep of lands in the regions for public goods and accords the Minister Powers to designate lands in any part of the provinces as state lands.

The customary land tenure system in URR is based purely on the traditional system of ownership, which is entirely dictated by the custom and traditions of the people. According to the customary laws, where an original piece of land is cleared by a Kabilo (a collection of families), the ownership of land is vested in the head of the Kabilo. This is the basis of the customary land tenure system, which has evolved. Customary land tenure exists mainly in rural areas. The women folks are particularly discriminated against by the customary laws, which are male-dominated, and this is common in the entire rural Gambia, including URR.

The women typically have user rights and can cultivate the land but can never own it to have the right to dispose of it anyhow but done communally, with each receiving shares accordingly. The land belongs to the clans (Kabilo), and those clans are headed by males, who are the ultimate decision-makers regarding the land and related matters.

### **5.2.7 Gender Empowerment**

The National Gender Policy has identified emerging development issues of the Gambia, such as poverty reduction, a sector-wide approach to planning, effective service delivery through decentralization, public-private partnership, and civil service reform, all necessitating a shift in policy direction from women empowerment to the promotion of gender equality and equity. This National Gender Policy 2010-2020 aims to guide and direct all levels of planning and implementation of development programmes, with a gender perspective, including resource allocation geared towards equitable national development. The policy will contribute to realizing NDP, SDGs, Vision 2020 and its successor.

The ultimate focus is addressing the vast disparities between women and men regarding work opportunities in the economic and social spheres. The womenfolk have been left out of competing with their male counterparts in many areas. There are gender gaps observable in access, skills, and leadership development. A number of the barriers to gender skills development generally relate to the availability of infrastructure and ECD centers. The strategic actions for addressing some of these findings relate to measures for addressing affordability, education on digital skills, and online safety measures.

## **5.3. Utility Facilities**

### **5.3.1. Electricity**

Most social and economic activities require energy in various forms and quantities. Energy in URR is important to households for basic use. Inhabitants of the region get energy supply from the national grid with few households using renewable energy.

At Diabugu Batapa, the electricity supply is from the national grid. The center is also solarized.

### **6.3.2. Water supply**

Nearly all households in The Gambia (95%), including URR, have access to an improved source of drinking water, mostly from a public tap or standpipe or privately dug boreholes and wells. In URR, nearly three-quarters of household use improved sanitation facilities, including facilities shared with other households. URR is also endowed with fresh water from the river Gambia, mostly used for domestic purposes such as laundry and bathing.

Diabugu Batapa ECD's water source is from a solarized borehole with a water tank capacity of 2000 liters. However, this capacity is small considering the fact that near households get their water from the school.



Figure 9: Water tank in Diabugu Batapa ECD Center

### 5.3.3. Waste management

Generally, waste management at the Diabugu Batapa ECD center is manageable with minimal littering on the school premises. However, the disposal must be stopped by burning within the ECD premises. We need to have a proper waste management plan in place.



**Figure 10: Waste management status at Diabugu Batapa ECD center**

## **6. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

Public consultations and stakeholder engagement are requirements by law to generate concerns about the environmental and social impacts of any development project or programme. During the preparation of this ESMP, significant consultations and public participation were carried out. Further consultations are anticipated during the subsequent parts of the project development and implementation.

Stakeholder engagement is a very important aspect of the project. It allows the administrative heads of the beneficiary schools to contribute input and feedback information to strengthen the development project and avoid negative impacts or mitigate them where they cannot be avoided.

Public participation and involvement demonstrate to all stakeholders that fairness and transparency have been integrated into all aspects of the project. Stakeholder involvement demonstrates the selection process's openness and enriches all stakeholders' project value, acceptance, and participation. The list of the people consulted during the assessment to prepare this ESMP is given as an annex.

### **6.1. Objectives of Consultation**

The main objectives include but are not limited to the following:

- Provision of relevant and timely information about the project;
- Optimizing the potential benefits of the project to the beneficiary schools;
- Elimination or minimization of future long-term liabilities;
- Identification of probable mitigation to potential negative impacts by the affected people;
- Avoidance of conflicts by addressing issues promptly;

In fulfillment of the above objectives, consultations have been held with the relevant stakeholders to facilitate the identification of key environmental concerns associated with the proposed project. Stakeholder identification and mapping entailed identifying all interest groups and institutions that could be impacted by the project and determining their interest levels, involvement, and impact on the project's success.

For the Vulnerable Youth and Women Support Project on rehabilitating selected ECD and ECD centers, consultations began on March 12th, 2023, and ended on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. They will continue throughout the implementation phase to the occupancy and maintenance phase. The stakeholder consultations for this EDC involved a total of ..... including the following institutional stakeholders consulted:

- Heads of Beneficiary Schools
- Local authorities
- National Environmental Agency (NEA)
- Ministry of Basic and Upper Education
- Ministry of Higher Education and Research



- Ministry of Works
- Ministry of Gender,
- NGOs.

**Table 20. Summary of concerns highlighted during consultations**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Comment/Concern/Question</b>	<b>Mitigation/Action to be Taken</b>
1	Project benefit (public appreciation and concerns of the ECD Center Renovation project due to their importance)	Expectations about the project implementation from all (regional education officials, teachers, students, community leaders, mothers club, parents, etc.) are high. They all cited the benefit of its successful implementation in increasing enrollment and retention and ensuring a conducive teaching and learning environment. Construction of new classrooms to accommodate pupils/students will reduce overcrowding.
2	Noise and dust emissions,	To minimize noise pollution during school working hours, carry out construction activities that will generate disturbing sounds to be restricted to the weekend or during break time.
3	Waste management problems,	Sensitization of community members and contractors, contractor to ensure proper waste management. Contractors should ensure that all construction waste is removed and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. To promote waste management in schools, the Project should consider procuring waste bins for the sites.
4	Sexual abuse, harassment, the introduction of STIs, community conflicts as a result of closeness to contractors, teenage pregnancy	Sensitization of contractor workers and community members on sexual exploitation and risk of STI/STD infection. Community members should be encouraged to speak out on cases of abuse meted out by contract workers for the project's necessary actions. The need to develop a code of conduct by contractors under the project's supervision with the sole objective of regulating workers' behavior in communities.
5	Cutting down trees can cause desertification.	Planting trees to replace those cut-down
6	Environmental impacts due to non-compliance with mitigation measures outlined	Efforts should be made to make contractors aware of the mitigation commitments outlined in this report. Commitment to comply with these measures for the best environmental outcome should be a precondition for contract award. Include the sensitization in the PGES sites of the contracting companies and their subcontractors to this effect. There should be regular monitoring of the sites to verify compliance by the project E&S expert as well as the EIA Working Group.
7	Influx of migrant labourers from other regions thereby limiting employability opportunities for locals/residents.	Community members at various intervention site should be prioritized for any employment opportunities requiring unskilled local labour. Migrant labourers should be sensitized to communities' ethos to avoid potential conflict.
8	Illegal sand and gravel mining	Construction materials should be sourced from existing approved

		mining areas. Where no such sites exist near from project intervention site, and there is a need to open a fresh site, the project team/contract should ensure that necessary assessment and approvals are obtained beforehand.
9	Child labour	Verification of the age of potential employees, enforce the terms and conditions of employment enforcing work standards and conditions to ensure that workers' rights are respected
10	Overcrowded classroom	Construction of new classrooms to accommodate pupils/students To make renovated classrooms that provide living conditions for students during class
11	Capacity for ESMP implementation and monitoring and the need for relevant training	Training and capacity building of relevant parties

## **7. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

The sub-project has been screened, environment and social impact assessment undertaken, and environmental and social risks and impacts identified. The project implementation associated with impacts mainly occurs during the rehabilitation/construction. The environmental risks associated with the sub-project are assessed as Moderate, with mainly short-term, temporary, predictable, negative impacts that can be readily mitigated and overall significant long-term positive impacts.

The social risks associated with the sub-project are assessed as Moderate, with mainly predictable short-term negative impacts that can be readily mitigated. Social risks include the potential to impact cultural heritage/sacred sites during construction, potential conflict associated with land tenure, and potential for exclusion of or adverse impacts to women and vulnerable groups.

### **7.2 Identification, analysis, and evaluation of Potential impacts and Risk**

The analysis of the impacts is done following a step-by-step approach based on :

- identification of the environmental components affected (using ),
- identification of positive and negative impacts and risks,
- analysis of the impacts by evaluating their significance using the grid adapted from the NEA,
- the proposal of mitigation measures and,
- evaluate the costs of implementation and those responsible for their implementation.

#### **7.2.1 Identification of environmental and social impacts**

This consists of identifying all the environmental and social components of the receiving environment before the subproject is carried out and expressing the trends observed regarding integrity or degradation during the subproject's execution.

#### **7.2.2 Environmental and social components that may be affected**

The environmental components that will be influenced by the subproject directly or indirectly, negatively or positively to different degrees during and/or after the development and construction of the ECD center and during operation are soil, water, air, human environment (population, socio-economic activities, and safety).

#### **7.2.3 Activities causing impacts.**

*During the preparation/implementation phase*

During the preparation and implementation period, the sources of impact will be

- recruitment of site staff and workers ;
- site preparation (cleaning of the host site)
- the installation of the site;
- Deployment of work materials and equipment.
- Movement of machinery and vehicles
- Presence of workers (non-native)
- Transportation of construction materials (i.e. Sand, gravel, cement etc.)
- dismantling of the roof, demolition, and stripping of equipment
- generation of construction site waste (gravel and other construction scraps)
- Construction of structures (masonry concrete, framework, electricity, etc.).
- Use of construction equipment and tools
- Waste generation
- Consumption of resources (water, energy etc.)
- Repair of equipment and machinery

### **During the operational phase**

In the operational phase, the sources of impact will be :

- Commissioning of the ECD center (operation, cleaning, waste management) ;
- Movement of vehicles.
- Waste generation
- Consumption of resources (water, energy etc)

### **During the closure**

At the closure, the activities will concern:

- demolition and stripping of equipment
- generation of construction site waste (gravel and other construction scrap)

The identification (table 21) of the environments affected by the project activities is based on the application of the matrix and a cross-reference of the project activities with the elements of the environment.

Table 21: Matrix for identifying the impacts of the sub-project on environmental and social components

Implementation activities (sources of impact)	Natural environment (biophysics)									Human environment		Landscape	
	Air		Water			Ground		Flora and Fauna		Livelihood/Economnet opportunity	Social influx, GBV, cultural, Occupational Health, Safety	Visual field	Other Special elements
	Air quality and dust	Gaseous emissions (NO <sub>x</sub> , SO <sub>x</sub> , CO <sub>x</sub> , etc.)	Runoff and infiltration	Water quality surface	Groundwater quality	Soil quality	Profile and slope	Vegetation/forest	Degradation of Habitat				
<b>1. PREPARATION AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE</b>													
Site clearing & site préparation (clearing of the host site)	X	X		X	X	X	X			XX	X	X	X
Recruitment of site staff and workers ;	X	X				X				XX	X		
Installation of the site base (Installation of office & stores, mobilization of equipment, materials and labour, transportation of construction materials (ie. Sand, gravel, cement etc.)	X	X									X	X	
Work at height (construction of scaffolding, dismantling of roofs and structures at height)	X										X		
Demolition (excavation/digging, demolition of the concrete structure and clearing)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		XX	X	X	
Transportation of materials and equipment	X									X	X		
Influx of foreign workers in the community										X	X		
Waste generation	X				X						X		
<b>2. OPERATIONAL PHASE</b>													
Commissioning of the ECD center (operation, cleaning, waste management) ;											X		
Movement of vehicles.	X	X									X		
Waste generation	X		X	X	X					X	X		
Consumption of resources (water, energy etc)				X									
<b>3. CLOSURE PHASE</b>													
Demolition and stripping of equipment	X	X								X	X		
Generation of construction site waste (gravel and other construction scrap)	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	

## 7.3 Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

### 7.3.1 Impact on Air Quality

Table 22: Air Quality Impact Assessment and mitigation measures Summary

Impact Assessment Summary	
Types of impacts	Air pollution (dust and gaseous emissions)
Project activities	movement of machinery and vehicles, dismantling of the roof, demolition and stripping of equipment, generation of construction site waste (gravel and other construction scraps)
Impact characterization	Adverse, Direct, Normal, Short-term, Reversible
Impact Significance	Medium
Mitigation Measures/Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the demolition in periods of low wind</li> <li>• isolate the demolition area with stains to contain the propagation of dust and dust particles</li> <li>• Cover gravel and other construction scrap or wet materials such as sand, and gravel to prevent dust pollution.</li> <li>• Where unavoidable, construction workers working in dusty areas should be provided and fitted with dust masks (N95 respirators)</li> <li>• Vehicles carrying earth materials should be covered.</li> <li>• Facility users and service providers should wear face masks.</li> <li>• Movement of facility users should be restricted, and visitors controlled during the renovation activities.</li> <li>• Proper housekeeping to keep the rooms and environment clean</li> </ul> <p>Gases emissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all vehicles involved in the transport of construction material and staff and machinery used in construction is properly maintained and serviced.</li> <li>• Reduce the idling of vehicles that may occur and thus reduce the gaseous emission from vehicles in the area.</li> <li>• Reduce vehicle speed within the facilities.</li> <li>• Promote fuel-efficient vehicles with the proper emission standards and more eco-friendly fuel types.</li> </ul>

### 7.3.2 Impact on Water Quantity and Quality

Considering the limited water storage capacity at the center and dependence on solar energy for water pumping, the construction/renovation activities may cause scarcity in the center.

For quality, releasing hazardous substances (e.g., spilled cement, accidental diesel spills, and leaks) may lead to surface or groundwater contamination. Machinery maintenance engine oil

may accidentally spill, causing water contamination. Additionally, the repair of equipment has the potential to leak hydraulic fuels, oils, etc., and potentially contaminate the water.

**Table 23: Water Quantity and Quality Impact Assessment and mitigation measures Summary**

Impact Assessment Summary	
Types of impacts	Water Resources
Project activities	Excavation activities increase demand for construction/renovation activities,
Impact characterization	Adverse, Normal, Short-term, Reversible
Impact Significance	Low
Mitigation Measures/Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cover or protect all water and drinking water tanks</li> <li>• Increase water capacity onsite and install additional water tanks.</li> <li>• Directly contaminated wastewater from washing/maintenance to a drain pit in the construction workshop, collected by a vacuum truck and transported to the nearest approved waste disposal facility.</li> <li>• Caution is to be strictly taken during repair works to avoid preventable oil leaking that contaminates the water.</li> <li>• Ensure waste is not disposed of close to the water source to avoid contamination.</li> </ul>

### 7.3.3 Waste Generation

The solid and liquid waste generation will occur during the construction/renovation activities. In particular, the presence of workers onsite will necessitate providing temporal sanitary facilities. Without those facilities, the workers might result in open defecation, which could cause an unpleasant odor around the center and contaminate the water source.

The indiscriminate disposal of renovation/construction waste materials, such as cement bags, debris, concrete, metal scraps, etc., may adversely impact the environment and safety of the workers.

The planned civil works will generate reduced quantities of solid and liquid waste but must be managed rigorously (collection, disposal, and treatment). This cumulative number of wastes will be added to the wastes produced by the ECD center users. Although the assessment has shown the presence of waste bins onsite, a waste Plan Management plan is necessary for the sustainability of a sound waste management system during the implementation and operational phase of the center.

**Table 24: Waste Generation Impact Assessment and mitigation measures Summary.**

Impact Assessment Summary	
Types of impacts	Waste Generation (hazardous and nonhazardous wastes)
Project activities	Demolition activities, packaging materials, roof removals, project personnel onsite and general housekeeping

Impact characterization	Direct, Normal, Long-term, Reversible
Impact Significance	Medium
Mitigation Measures/Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Segregate storage for different types of waste, such as hazardous, non-hazardous recyclable construction material, plastic, paper, etc., to facilitate proper disposal per the waste management plan.</li> <li>• Provide a separate storage area for hazardous materials. The hazardous materials/products must be labeled to identify their hazardous properties properly.</li> <li>• Provide different types/colors of trash bins onsite to prevent littering within the project and surrounding areas.</li> <li>• Establish regular waste collection and disposal intervals per the waste management plan.</li> <li>• Ensure sanitary and organic wastes are collected and disposed of daily.</li> <li>• Ensure waste generated from excavation activities is recycled to the extent possible, sold to contractors, or disposed of in a designated landfill.</li> <li>• Provide sufficient sanitation facility to workers, wastewater collected and disposed of.</li> <li>• Unusable construction waste is to be disposed of at an approved dump site.</li> <li>• Proper solid waste receptacles and storage containers provided</li> <li>• Organic waste generated can be composted and used as manure</li> </ul>

### 7.3.4 Public Health

The renovation/construction-related activities will undoubtedly negatively affect the human health of the project workers and community members. Dust-borne infectious diseases, respiratory infections, and minor throat and eye irritations are expected, especially when the project is implemented during the dry season because of dust emission during civil works and vehicular movement pollutants (carbon monoxide and particulates). The presence of workers and the related increase in disposable cash makes the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) a possibility. Additionally, during project implementation influx of workers locally and from outside in large numbers will be required to assemble together in meetings, and even at work sites could be an avenue for infectious disease transmission among workers and the project host community.

Improper waste management may create conditions for the growth of vectors of diseases such as malaria, diarrhea and dysentery. The outbreak of these diseases would have far-reaching negative implications for the health of workers and residents and put pressure on the limited health facilities in the area. Similarly, exposure to long work hours may result in accidents and injuries.

Table 25: Public Health Impact Assessment and mitigation measures Summary



Impact Assessment Summary	
Types of impacts	Public Health (Community Health and Safety)
Project activities	Construction of structures (concrete mixing activities, masonry-concrete, framework, electricity, handling of hazardous materials and chemicals, Use of construction equipment and tools for the building finishing works, etc.), , maneuvering of construction equipment and machinery.
Impact characterization	Adverse, Direct, Normal, Short-term, Reversible
Impact Significance	Medium
Mitigation Measures/Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that health and safety standards are respected</li> <li>• Equip workers and visitors to the site with PPE</li> <li>• Ensure the Construction vehicles comply with speed limits. Speed limits for heavy vehicles within the construction site shall be restricted to 20 km/hr.</li> <li>• Install fences, barriers, and dangerous warning/prohibition signs around the construction area. Traffic control measures shall be implemented, including road signs and the use of flag persons to warn of dangerous conditions.</li> <li>• Ensure that no children are allowed around the construction area, particularly during excavation and the installation of structures.</li> <li>• Sensitization of the workers and the community on appropriate behaviours, expectations, and disciplinary actions against workers who do not follow the established protocol.</li> <li>• Ensure any material dumps or other obstructions likely to cause injury to any person or thing shall be suitably fenced off and marked by red warning lights at night,</li> <li>• provide the construction sites with insurance covering damages to third parties</li> <li>• Have first aid equipment and sign contracts with the nearest ECD centers.</li> </ul>

### 7.3.5 Impact on Occupational Health and Safety

Since the renovation works may be labour intensive, including civil works such as earthworks, floor concrete, and electrical, plumbing, and metal fabrication, the risk of accidents might lead to serious injuries and deaths.

Table 26:Occupational Health and Safety Impact Assessment and mitigation measures Summary

Impact Assessment Summary	
Types of impacts	Occupational Health and Safety
Project activities	Excavation and digging activities, Site clearing and removal of vegetation, movement of machinery and vehicles

Impact characterization	Adverse, Direct, Normal, Short-term, Reversible
Impact Significance	Hight
Mitigation Measures/Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working arrangements will be formal, with all workers duly registered as part of the contractor team and in line with relevant OHS and labour laws.</li> <li>• All workers can access protective measures such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).</li> <li>• Ensure that work at heights is carried out on scaffolding that meets the standards,</li> <li>• Ensure that health and safety standards are respected,</li> <li>• Equip workers, Facility users and service providers, and visitors to the site with PPE,</li> <li>• Isolate the demolition area with stains to contain the propagation of dust and dust projectiles,</li> <li>• Workers are regularly sensitized to occupational health and safety regulations,</li> <li>• Regular toolbox meetings to ensures abide by the safety worksite regulations,</li> <li>• Area should be dampened within suitable intervals (4 – 6 hours) to prevent a dust nuisance, and this frequency should be increased during hotter days,</li> <li>• provide the construction sites with insurance covering damages to third parties,</li> <li>• Have first aid equipment and sign contracts with the nearest ECD centers,</li> <li>• Vehicles carrying earth materials should be covered,</li> <li>• Movement of facility users should be restricted and visitors controlled during the renovation activities,</li> <li>• Proper housekeeping</li> </ul>

### 7.3.6 Impact of In-migration of workers on Community Health and Socio-cultural Conflicts

The construction/renovation activities are implemented at the Diabugu Batapa ECD center anticipated to increase labour demand. Some of the labour workforces are expected to be provided by neighboring communities and others from other parts of the country. Thus, this is expected to attract the inflow of the workforce from other areas for job opportunities. These workers may influence the sociocultural living of the community. Working and staying groups could also facilitate the spread of infections such as COVID-19 and other infectious diseases and increase the perpetration of GBV and SEA/SH.

**Table 27: In-migration of workers on Community Health and Socio-cultural Conflicts Impact Assessment and mitigation measures Summary**

<b>Impact Assessment Summary</b>	
Types of impacts	In-migration of Workers on Community Health and Socio-cultural Conflicts
Project activities	Workers recruitment
Impact characterization	Adverse, Direct, Normal, Short-term, Reversible
Impact Significance	Medium
Mitigation Measures/Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority of employment shall be given to the local people</li> <li>• Compliance with national laws (workers with contracts, wages, no workers below the age of 16 years, and no discrimination against women or other vulnerable).</li> <li>• Establish a Grievance Redress Mechanism for GBV and SEA/SH</li> <li>• Sensitize the personnel of project sites concerning the habits and customs of the populations.</li> <li>• Ensure all workers on site sign codes of conduct and get sensitized and their awareness raised on challenging issues such as SEA/SH, GBV, HIV-AIDS, COVID-19 protocols, STIs, etc.</li> <li>• Provide site rules to all workers.</li> <li>• Sensitize all workers on acceptable behaviour concerning community interactions.</li> <li>• Prioritize recruitment of local labour for unskilled jobs to prevent sociocultural conflicts.</li> </ul>

### **7.3.7 Social Exclusion, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Exploitation And Abuse And Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) And Violence Against Children (VAC)**

Projects with a minor labour influx of workers may increase the demand for sex work, including the risk of trafficking of women for sex work; or the risk of forced early marriage for girls. Furthermore, higher wages for workers in a community can lead to an increase in transactional sex.

The risk of incidents of sex between workers and minors, even when it is not transactional, can also increase during the project implementation. Risk of SEA/SH by project personnel, e.g., officials who may ask for sexual favors from women and girls to be included in the project's economically supported activities, women groups, and other beneficiary groups or to receive cash for compensation. Additionally, project support can create a backlash and unintentionally heighten the risk of GBV amongst female participants, especially given the existing high gender inequality and norms that do not promote women's economic independence.

**Table 28: Social Exclusion, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH), and Violence against Children (VAC) Impact Assessment and mitigation measures Summary**

<b>Impact Assessment Summary</b>	
Types of impacts	Social Exclusion, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Exploitation And Abuse And Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH), and Violence Against Children (VAC)
Project activities	All project activities involving the mass recruitment of workers
Impact characterization	Adverse, Direct, Normal, Short-term, Reversible
Impact Significance	Medium
Mitigation Measures/Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure project workers are sourced from the local population as far as possible. This will benefit the local community in terms of income generation and will also reduce the influx of transient workers to the host community, which will result in SEA/SH.</li> <li>• Monitor changes in women's status and the project's potential impacts on them by conducting regular focus group consultations with women in a sample of villages (in small groups facilitated by a woman).</li> <li>• Ensure a GRM fully includes mechanisms for reporting GBV and SEA/SH. In addition, GBV and SEA/SH will be regularly monitored on the project site and neighboring community.</li> <li>• Ensure GRM will apply along transportation routes of the project and will be widely publicized to ensure coverage.</li> <li>• Ensure the project site/construction camp management plan makes consideration of GBV and SEA/SH when planning the lighting on and around the site and along routes that workers may use to access and exit the site.</li> <li>• Ensure that SEA/SH Action Plan is developed and implemented prior to the physical start of civil works. Develop and implement a complaint/grievance mechanism (GM) sensitive to GBV, SEA/SH, VAC, and other forms of discrimination with accessible entry points to submit complaints, referral to GBV service providers and confidential, survivor-centered procedures for verifying and managing complaints.</li> <li>• Sensitization of both project workers and host community members on possible GBV and SEA/SH and its implications for the prosecution</li> </ul>

#### **7.4 Potential Risk and risk management measures**

## Disaster Risks

Disasters are unplanned events that may occur and negatively affect sub-project components, workers, users, communities, and properties. The disaster risks associated with this sub-project are evaluated in the Table below based on the exposure level, severity, probability of the disaster occurring, risks and possible control. The potential disasters may have direct impacts on the extent at the site. The magnitude of all the disasters is high as significant loss of lives or property may be involved. The impacts' duration is usually short sudden emergencies to medium-term crises such as the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The significance will also depend on the available resources, personnel, technologies and procedures to prevent and respond to such disasters at the sub-project site.

Table 29: Evaluation of Disaster Risks

Disaster aspects	Significance
Road traffic accidents	Yellow
Accidental oil spills/leakages	Amber
Disease outbreaks	Red
Extreme weather conditions	Red
Public outrage	Yellow
Fires and explosions	Amber
Workplace accidents and injuries	Red

Key:

**Yellow:** means the low significance of risk

**Amber:** means the medium significance of risk

**Red:** means a high level of concern

## Technical risks

The goal is to identify and analyze technological risks related to the sub-project site activities during the different phases and put safety and prevention measures in place.

Analysis of Risks related to the equipment used and the processes

### During the preparation and renovation/ construction phase

At this level, the risk of height accidents can occur during the renovation/construction works, including painting, roofing, ceiling, electrical system activities, use of equipment for clearing, and working on the electrical system at the sub-project site.

During the work of the renovation, many risks can also occur. Other associated risks in the sub-project area and activities include workers' accidents using equipment and traffic accidents in vehicle traffic that can increase the risk of accidents with residents and livestock on their own

### **In the operation phase**

During this phase, the concern and risk are proper and effective waste management and no littering by users and visitors at the intervention site. Therefore is a need for regular and proper housekeeping all the time at the sub-project site. There is the tendency to have electrical hazards, particularly during the rains. Toolbox meetings with workers and signs around the facility should be held to mitigate.

### **Professional Risks and Hazards**

There is always the need to mitigate against occupational risks and hazards. PPE, proper equipment handling, and good housekeeping and training are important.

### **7.5 Risks in the operational phase**

#### *Sanitary and social risks*

- Risk of increase in STI/HIV-AIDS, COVID-19, early pregnancy, and negative effect of morals
- Risk of accidents at work and traffic

#### *Socio-environmental risk*

- Risk of environmental pollution
- Social risks

#### *Technological Risk*

- Risks related to equipment and structures
- Risk of leakage at the level of the structures

### **7.6 Subproject vulnerability to climate change**

The project is considered Category 2 due to potential moderate vulnerability to climate change. Extreme weather conditions such as storms and flooding may also affect the subproject component concerning accessibility, efficient means of communication, and possible damage to infrastructure, particularly electrical works and fittings.



Table 30: Summary of impacts and proposed project measures

Phase/Activities	IMPACTS		Scope of negative impacts (low, medium, high)	MEASURES	
	Positive	Negative		Mitigation (a)	Maximisation (b)
<b>1. SITE PREPARATION</b>					
Recruitment of workers	Job creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labour Influx that could be associated with GBV and SEA/SH</li> <li>• Threat to community culture, safety and security due to the presence of workers</li> <li>• Increase demand on existing community health and sanitation infrastructure</li> <li>• Threat to community culture, safety and security due to the presence of workers</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitization of project workers and community members</li> <li>• Ensure a GRM approved fully includes mechanisms for reporting GBV and SEA/SH. In addition, GBV and SEA/SH will be regularly monitored throughout the Recruitment of workers processes</li> <li>• Ensure GRM approval will apply along Recruitment of workers processes and it will be widely publicized.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental and social aftercare programmes</li> <li>• Recruit according to the labor standards in force in The Gambia</li> <li>• Prioritizing the local workforce with equal skills</li> </ul>
Installation of the site base (Installation of office & stores, mobilization of equipment, materials, and labour, transportation of construction materials (ie. Sand, gravel, cement, etc.)	Income for transporters and associates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dust pollution and traffic crash risks,</li> <li>• Noise and vibration disturbances from the operation of heavy-duty vehicles</li> <li>• Traffic congestion and risk of road traffic crashes</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear PPE such as masks</li> <li>• Enforce appropriate speed limits to reduce vehicle noise levels.</li> <li>• Restrict noise-generating activities strictly to after normal working hours (i.e., 8am – 4pm).</li> <li>• Respond promptly to noise complaints.</li> </ul>	Include local carriers in subcontractors and suppliers as much as possible.
		• Air and dust pollution	Medium	•	Environmental



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occupational accidents and injuries to workers and risk to community health and safety</li> <li>Loss of vegetation, removal of trees and shrubs and habitat destruction</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suppress dust during pneumatic drilling/wall destruction by ongoing water spraying and/or installing dust screen enclosures at site.</li> <li>Wear PPE such as masks</li> </ul>	and social aftercare programmes
<b>2. RENOVATION/REHABILITATION PHASE</b>					
Work at height (construction of scaffolding, dismantling of roofs and structures at height)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> <li></li> <li></li> </ul> <p>risk of falls that can result in temporary disability, disability or death Workplace accident falling objects</p>	Hight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working arrangements will be formal, with all workers duly registered as part of the contractor team and in line with relevant OHS and labour laws.</li> <li>All workers can access protective measures such as personal protective equipment (PPE).</li> <li>Ensure that work at heights is carried out on scaffolding that meets the standards,</li> <li>Ensure that health and safety standards are respected,</li> </ul>	
Demolition (excavation/digging, Demolition of the concrete structure and clearing)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air and dust pollution</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep demolition debris in a controlled area and spray with water mist to reduce debris and dust.</li> <li>Suppress dust during</li> </ul>	Environmental and social aftercare programmes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occupational accidents and injuries to workers and risk to community health</li> </ul>	High		

		and safety		during /wall destruction (demolition), clearing and stripping of the roof and ceiling by ongoing water spraying and/or installing dust screen enclosures at site.	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep demolition debris in a controlled area and spray with water mist to reduce debris and dust.</li> <li>• Suppress dust during wall destruction by ongoing water spraying and/or installing dust screen enclosures at site.</li> </ul>	
Transportation of materials and equipment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vibration and noise</li> <li>• nuisance</li> <li>• Air and dust pollution</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear PPE such as masks</li> <li>• Minimize noise from construction equipment by using vehicle silencers, fitting jackhammers with noise-reducing mufflers.</li> </ul>	Environmental and social aftercare programmes
Influx of foreign worker in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• availability of cheap labor and also not enough qualified</li> <li>• improvement of the income of small traders and food/meal sellers</li> </ul>	Gender-based violence (GBV), Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), Violence against Children (VAC)	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that code of conduct (CoC) are developed and signed by all personnel and workers and that they attend regular training on SEA/SH, the content of CoC and sanctions.</li> <li>• Action Plan for Implementing ESHS and OHS Standards and Preventing Gender Based Violence (GBV) and</li> </ul>	Environmental and social aftercare programmes

				<p>Violence Against Children (VAC) must be rigorously applied and monitored for compliance. These Codes will also be included in the Contractors ESMP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that SEA/SH Action Plan is developed and implemented before the physical start of civil works. Develop and implement a complaint/grievance mechanism (GM) sensitive to GBV, SEA/SH, VAC, and other</li> </ul>	
				<p>forms of discrimination with accessible entry points to submit complaints, referral to GBV service providers and confidential,</p>	
				<p>survivor-centered procedures for verifying and managing complaints.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct regular awareness-raising campaigns about the project and the risks of GBV, SEA/SH, VAC with workers and community members (and with women in separate groups with a woman facilitator)</li> </ul>	

Waste generation		Water source contamination, risk of injury to workers onsite, hiding place for reptiles and vermins	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The skips and bins at the construction and operation phase should be adequately designed and covered to prevent access by vermin and minimize odor.</li> <li>• Waste segregation in different bins should be practiced, and ensure that workers adhere to the practice.</li> <li>• The skips and bins at the construction and operation phases should be emptied regularly to prevent overfilling.</li> <li>• Disposal of the contents of the skips and bins should be done at an approved disposal site.</li> <li>• Reuse waste plastic materials (deform bottle containers) as feedstock for plastic product production.</li> <li>• Organic waste generated can be composted and used as manure.</li> <li>• Appropriate storage, handling and management of waste</li> </ul>	Environmental and social aftercare programmes
3. ECD REHABILITATED EXPLOITATION PHASE					
Commissioning of the ECD center (operation, cleaning, waste		Air and dust pollution	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of waste management plan following the waste</li> </ul>	Environmental and social aftercare

management) ;				<p>hierarchy and ensuring proper implementation, supported by staff training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a detailed Solid Waste Management Plan for the construction site (including adequate placement of waste bins, sanitary staff requirements, waste transportation, and identification of designated site for final disposal).</li> <li>• Waste will be collected and disposed of in municipal waste dumping points.</li> <li>• Enforce the use of garbage bins and prevent littering of the site.</li> <li>• Disallow the burning of any of type of waste.</li> <li>• Do not burn materials such as plastics and polyethylene, which may release toxic or hazardous substances.</li> <li>• Waste will be collected and disposed of in designated dumping sites.</li> </ul>	programmes
Movement of vehicles.		Increase in emission of air pollutants from vehicles, dust pollution and possibilities of accidents and injuries	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit the speed of machines and trucks involved in the work.</li> <li>• Securing the areas for</li> </ul>	Environmental and social aftercare programmes

				manoeuvring the machines	
Waste generation		Risk of injury to pupils, hiding place for reptiles and vermins	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste segregation in different bins should be practiced, and ensure that workers adhere to the practice.</li> <li>• Orientation provided to all users, workers and daily on-site waste management practices are carried out on site.</li> <li>• Preparation of waste management plan following the waste hierarchy and ensuring proper implementation, supported by staff training.</li> <li>• Adequate skips and bins should be strategically placed within the campsite and construction site.</li> <li>• Proper housekeeping to cleanse dust particles in classrooms and offices</li> <li>• The skips and bins at both the construction and operation phases should be emptied regularly to prevent overfilling.</li> </ul>	Environmental and social aftercare programmes
Consumption of resources (water, energy etc.)		More pupil enrollment requires more water and energy usage	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase water holding (tank) capacity</li> <li>• Adopt renewable energy</li> </ul>	Environmental and social aftercare

				as an energy source	programmes
<b>4. CLOSURE PHASE</b>					
demolition and stripping of equipment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise pollution, occupational accidents, worker injuries, and community health and safety risk.</li> <li>Heaps of solid waste may cause disturbance in mobility.</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scattered solid waste should be properly managed in order to avoid contamination</li> </ul>	<p>Environmental and social aftercare programmes</p> <p>Good housekeeping</p>
generation of construction site waste (gravel and other construction scrap)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obstruction of walkways and possibilities accidents and injuries to workers, students and staff and risk to community health and safety</li> <li>Scattered solid waste may affect visual and aesthetic environment and provide breeding place to mosquitoes.</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that the project contractor has properly disposed of all remaining waste, including leftover material and hazardous waste.</li> <li>Managing contaminated media with the objective of protecting the safety and health of occupants of the site, the surrounding community, and the environment post construction or post-decommissioning.</li> <li>Implementing good house-keeping practices, such as sorting and placing loose construction materials or demolition debris in established areas away from footpaths</li> <li>Cleaning up excessive waste debris and liquid</li> </ul>	<p>Environmental and social aftercare programmes</p>

				spills regularly.	
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## **8. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (ESMP)**

### **8.1. Introduction**

The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) identifies measures to address any potential environmental and socio-economic impacts that might occur during the implementation of the rehabilitation/construction of the Diabugu Batapa ECD center in the Upper River Region of the Gambia.

Responding to the environmental and socio-economic impacts, detailed mitigation measures have to be identified and evaluated to avoid, reduce or remedy the impacts during the construction and operation phases. This ESMP aims to ensure the integration of environmental and social requirements and proposed mitigation and monitoring measures into the construction contractor's obligations. The ESMP shall be fully integrated into the rehabilitation/construction activities, hereby addressing the responsibilities of the contractor, the Engineer and the Employer. Furthermore, an ESMP has been developed for impacts resulting from the rehabilitation/construction and operational phases, which shall be fully integration in operation activities that respond adequately to the nature of the envisaged Diabugu Batapa ECD rehabilitation/construction; the ESMP is referring to the following issues:

- Environmental and Social Mitigation Measures during Construction, and
- Environmental and Social Mitigation Measures during Operation,

The institutional setup for implementing the ESMP, roles and responsibilities of the focal persons, monitoring mechanisms, and training and capacity-building programs have also been detailed in this section.

Successful contractors will undertake the rehabilitation/construction of the Diabugu Batapa ECD center, delivering according to the approved project design details. Rehabilitation/construction phase environmental and social management and mitigation measures will be spelled out clearly for contractors under a Contractors' Clauses document, to be issued as part of the contract documents that contractors will sign off. The Project Management Team ensures compliance with the relevant local and AfDB Bank safeguard policies. The African Development Bank has the role of reviewing and approving safeguards documents regarding this project. At the same time, the National Environment Agency (NEA) will ensure that all compliance standards and measures are met in line with the national environmental laws.

### **8.2 Mitigation Measures**

The main short-term negative environmental impacts, which inevitably occur during the rehabilitation/construction works, will be minimized by proper planning and application of preventative measures and mitigated by restorative actions after the works are completed, as listed in Table 30. Additionally, it defines the mitigation measures that shall be implemented

during the operational phase to mitigate the anticipated adverse environmental and social impacts. In practice, proper planning means that environmental and social requirements become an integrative part of the construction contractor's obligations and must be approved by the supervision engineer and competent authorities/ies before any construction works.

The potential physical impacts of the Diabugu Batapa ECD rehabilitation work and the subsequent use of the facilities are limited to noise, air quality, soil and land modification and hydrology. As the project is being undertaken on existing centers where teaching and learning take place, the negative physical impacts will be relatively minor and of short duration, predominantly associated with renovation. Typical negative impacts and their appropriate mitigation measures are presented in Table 31.

Table 31: Environmental and social impacts and mitigation measures

Activities	Impacts	Indicators	Means of verification	Timelines (preparation, construction, exploitation, Closing phases)	Responsible for			Cost of implementation (US\$)
					Execution	Monitoring	Aftercar	
Prioritizing the local workforce with equal skills	Job creation	Number of local workers recruited	Hiring record	Site Preparation	Enterprise/	Project Implementation Unit (PIU)	-NEA -Labour Department School mgt	5000.00
Installation of the site base (Installation of office & stores, mobilization of equipment, materials and labour, transportation of construction materials (i.e., Sand, gravel, cement, etc.)	Income for transporters and associates	Equipment engines properly tuned All equipment fitted with mufflers All workers working in a very noisy environment equipped with earplugs	Monitoring reports	Site Preparation	Project Contractor	PIU, National Environmental Agency (NEA)	PIU and NEA	3500.00
Work at height (construction of scaffolding, dismantling of roofs and structures at height)	Risk of falls that can result in temporary disability, disability or death Workplace accident falling objects	All workers under the platform are always equipped with safety helmets and shoes. No visitors without PPE are allowed in construction sites	Monitoring reports/ Visual Observation. Interview with workers. Accident report	Renovation/Rehabilitation Phase	Project Contractor	PIU and NEA	PIU and NEA	3000.00

Demolition (excavation/digging, Demolition of the concrete structure and clearing)	Occupational accidents and injuries to workers and risk to community health and safety	Number of injuries	Monitoring report	Renovation/Rehabilitation Phase	Project Contractor	PIU, NEA ESIA Working Group, Regional Education Directorate	School Management Committee (SMC)	4000.00
Transportation of materials and equipment	Vibration and noise nuisance Air and dust pollution	Monitoring reports	Monitoring reports	Renovation/Rehabilitation Phase	Project Contractor	PIU, NEA ESIA Working Group	PIU and NEA	3000.00
Influx of foreign workers in the community	availability of cheap labor and also not enough qualified improvement of the income of small traders and food/meal sellers Gender-based violence (GBV), Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), Violence against Children (VAC)	Number of foreign workers recruited  GBV, SEA, SH Complaint report  Report on GBV/SEA/SH sensitization	Monitoring report/Grievance report	Renovation/Rehabilitation Phase	Project Contractor	PIU, NEA ESIA Working Group	PIU and NEA	3000.00
Presence of workers on site, Onsite civil work/floor concrete, Painting and coating, Disposal of construction/renovation waste, Domestic and sanitary waste generated by workers	Waste generation and its contamination of water sources, risk of injury to workers onsite, hiding place for reptiles and vermin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste tracking slip</li> <li>Existence of labelled bins for waste collection</li> <li>Existence of clean-up kit on site</li> </ul>	Records on waste management and housekeeping observation	Renovation/Rehabilitation Phase	Project Contractor	Local Council, PIU, NEA	PIU and NEA	5000.00

<p>All civil works Material transportation and handling Working conditions Workers' behaviour</p>	<p>Occupational Health and Safety (increased accident potential)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site workers' induction meetings</li> <li>• Number of awareness toolbox meetings conducted</li> <li>• Number of accident cases involving site activities</li> <li>• Number of workers equipped with PPE</li> </ul>	<p>Report on work-related accidents, injuries, near misses and illnesses</p>	<p>Renovation/Rehabilitation and Operational Phase</p>	<p>Project contractor</p>	<p>PIU, NEA ESIA Working Group, RED</p>	<p>SMC/RE D</p>	<p>4,000</p>
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Commissioning of the ECD center (operation, cleaning, waste management) ;	Air and dust pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic watering of site and spoil (at least twice a day in the dry season)</li> <li>• Number of covered trucks</li> <li>• Up-to-date maintenance booklet for machinery</li> <li>• Waste tracking form</li> <li>• Number of cases where speed limits were exceeded</li> <li>• Percentage of staff wearing the correct PPE</li> </ul>	Records on waste management and housekeeping observation	ECD Rehabilitation Exploitation Phase	Project Contractor	PIU, NEA ESIA Working Group	Regional Education Directorate (RED)/ SMC	4500.00
Movement of vehicles	Increase in emission of air pollutants from vehicles, dust pollution and possibilities of accidents and injuries	Monitoring reports	Monitoring reports	ECD Rehabilitation Exploitation Phase	Project Contractor	PIU, NEA ESIA Working Group	PIU and NEA	2500.00

Waste generation	Risk of injury to students, hiding place for reptiles and vermins	Existence of an approved and implemented WMP  Waste Stockpiles on site Reuse or recycle a maximum of the waste the school generates by producing compost or through their reuse. School users know have to sort the waste generated Private company hired to collect and dispose of the waste	Visual Observation -interview with the school users	ECD Rehabilitation Exploitation Phase	Project Contractor	Local Council, PIU, NEA	SMC	4000.00
Consumption of resources (water, energy etc)	Additional demand for water causes scarcity. Workers onsite create more demand for energy use.	Water and energy use tracking form	Monitoring reports	ECD Rehabilitation Exploitation Phase	Project Contractor	NEA, PIU, Department of Labour and MoBSE	PIU and NEA	3000.00

All civil works Material transportation and handling Working conditions Workers' behaviour	Occupational Health and Safety (increased accident potential)	Site workers induction meetings. Number of awareness toolbox meetings conducted. Number of accident cases involving site activities. Number of workers equipped with PPE.	Report on work-related accidents, injuries, near misses and illnesses	ECD Rehabilitation Exploitation Phase	Project contractor	PIU, NEA ESIA Working Group, RED	SMC/RE D	4,000
Demolition and stripping of equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise pollution and Occupational accidents and injuries to workers and risk to community health and safety.</li> <li>Heaps of solid waste may cause a disturbance in mobility.</li> </ul>			Closure Phase	Project Contractor	NEA and PIU	PIU, NEA	2000.00
Generation of construction site waste (gravel and other construction scrap)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scattered solid waste may affect visual and aesthetic environment and provide breeding place to mosquitoes.</li> </ul>			Closure Phase	Project Contractor	Local Council, PIU, NEA	NEA and PIU	3000.00



### **8.3 Institutional Arrangements and Capacity Building for Environmental and Social Management Plan**

The ECD center' rehabilitation/construction implementation oversight will be the National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS) under the Gambia's Office of The Vice President (OVP). NSPS deals with the existing and proposed institutional arrangements that would facilitate environmental and social soundness and sustainability. Monitoring of the ESMP is paramount as it ensures that mitigation and enhancement measures are implemented. Monitoring assists to:

- Improve environmental and social management practices.
- Check the efficiency and quality of the environmental processes
- Compliance with the environmental and social screening requirement

The monitoring shall be viewed in three phases: compliance, impact monitoring, and cumulative impact monitoring. The National Environment Agency is responsible for monitoring compliance, and resources should be made available by the project for the Agency to execute this task, followed by reporting. The project team does impact monitoring, and cumulative monitoring does impact monitoring and cumulative monitoring.

Furthermore, it will also identify the capacity-building needs of the various institutions and persons involved in implementing the ESMP. The following institutions and focal persons are responsible for implementing the ESMP.

Table 32:roles and responsibilities for the ESMP implementation

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Mandate</b>	<b>Interest in Project</b>	<b>Possible Role/Responsibility In the implementation of ESMP</b>	<b>Gaps in the Delivery of its ESMP Responsibility</b>	<b>Nature and title of Capacity Building to achieve its Mission in The ESMP</b>	<b>Budget (US\$)</b>
<b>National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS)</b>	The Secretariat is mandated to provide social protection, including access and use of basic social services such as Basic Education	This project will be implemented through the NSPS.	It is the responsibility of NSPS to ensure that the enhancement and mitigation measures in the ESMP are implemented.  The Secretariat will work with other stakeholders to monitor the E& S safeguards.  They will shoulder the E&S monitoring of the project.	NSPS does not currently have an Environmental and Social Specialist who can help monitor the implementation of the ESMP.	Hire a competent Environmental and Social Specialist	30,000.00
<b>Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE)</b>	Responsible for the policy drive of basic and secondary education in the Gambia  The ministry is the implementing partner of this project	MoBSE interface between the benefiting sector and NSPS  Works closely with the NSPS to ensure the project is successfully implemented while adhering to E&S safeguards	MoBSE also supports all initiatives that gear towards quality basic and secondary education to the Gambian population.  Through the Regional Education Directorate (RED), the Ministry ensures the project is implemented as planned.			
<b>National Environment</b>	The NEA, through the EIA	Project has the potential to	Direct monitoring of the enhancement and mitigation	The Agency lacks basic	Need to purchase and train staff on	50,000.00

<b>Agency (NEA)</b>	working group is a mandated government Agency for ensuring compliance of projects with national environmental management laws	generate negative environmental and social effects if proposed surveillance activities are not properly implemented.	measures implementation and submission of quarterly monitoring reports to PIU. To advise the PIU on required adjustments to the enhancement and mitigation programs.  Quarterly environmental monitoring with key stakeholders	testing devices to monitor site air, water, noise and soil quality.	the use of these devices.	
<b>Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Resources</b>	This Ministry oversees the implementation of the environmental policies adopted by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC)	The Project in line with policy goals in the sound management of the environment and conservation of natural resources	The Ministry co-opted in the monitoring to ensure adopted policies are in line with our national environmental laws.  Support in the monitoring of greenhouse gases (i.e., methane) and waste management in intervention sites	Most of the staff are overwhelmed with many assignments	Identify a focal person to work closely with the ESIA working group on the project.	4000.00
<b>Department of Water Resources</b>	Responsible for dealing with water resources and hydrological issues	Support in the design, installation and operationalization of the irrigation system and effective use of water resources	Ensure water resources are used wisely  Support in preventing water contamination and monitoring water quality			
<b>Local Government</b>	Regional authority within	Project compliments	Potential contributor towards the cost of sustainability of	Lack of expertise to	Train key staff on monitoring the	4000.00

<b>Authorities</b>	whose administrative area the project falls and a potential supporter in both project and post-project era	responsibilities to the beneficiaries	the project after implementation and life cycle in terms of technical and human resources as this would not be the project's responsibility	monitor the social aspect of the project	project's social aspect such as GBV/SEA/SH, Child labour etc.	
<b>Directorate of Public Health Services</b>	Project has implications on public health issues.	Monitor and help in controlling public health issues relating to the project activities.	Key stakeholders in the monitoring of controlling public health issues			
<b>School Management Committee</b>	Ensure school-going children are enrolled for ECD	Ensure that the renovation work is done properly according to the contract and standards	Monitoring the workforce and the work activities at the ECD center	Lack of expertise in environmental and social safeguards	An environmental and social safeguard specialist should be attached to school during the renovation phase of the project	2500.00
<b>Beneficiaries' communities</b>	communities within the selected school catchment areas	Project will enhance enrolment and teaching and learning environment of beneficiaries communities through easy access to quality education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in-kind contributions, especially free labour towards plan implementation</li> <li>• record keeping aiding monitoring program.</li> <li>• Provide relevant information during project monitoring.</li> </ul>	Lack knowledge on construction related environmental and social impacts and mitigations	Sensitize the beneficiary communities of the negative impacts of the project and mitigation measures as well as monitoring techniques	4000.00

<b>Non-governmental Organizations:</b>	those organizations working with beneficiary communities in the area of education	Project complements efforts in supporting Regional Education Directorate (RED), providing basic education to the communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• share and provide expertise in implementing the mitigation and monitoring programs.</li> <li>• Share expertise and resources in building the capacity of the beneficiaries.</li> </ul>			
<b>Total</b>						<b>94,500.00</b>

## **8.4 Institutional Training and Sensitization**

The principal objective of the training and sensitization is to ensure the sound and sustainable implementation of the ESMP. Social conflict can best be addressed by bringing all stakeholders on board through sustained and regular consultations. The training will equip project personnel for effective communication and empower the community for social conflict resolution. The following entities are proposed institutional strengthening and training activities

### **8.4.1 Government Institutions**

Implementing project activities is expected to be the responsibility of the National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS) under the Office of the Vice President. Government institutions need to participate in the Project as per their mandates. For example, NEA is responsible for directly monitoring the implementation of the enhancement and mitigation of environmental impacts arising from the project activities. Thus, the role of government institutions in any project activity should be largely defined by their statutory mandates.

### **8.4.2 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

There are several NGOs working in the area of education, and their capacity building is very important to the successful implementation of this project in terms of sustainability of infrastructures. Other matters core to the project includes gender, health, and sanitation issues. NGOs are particularly helpful in capacity building and sensitisation but more so in the latter and the Project should seek partnerships, especially with NGOs operating in the Region.

### **8.4.3 Community institutions**

The focus here is on the School Management Committee (SMC) and Village Development Committees (VDCs) of the community of the sub-project and satellite communities that are government-instituted bodies for the coordination of development support at the school and community levels. These are entry points at the school and community levels. Establishing any Project-related at that level depends largely on their cooperation thus making them central to the Project's success.

The successful implementation of the enhancement and mitigation measures, as well as the monitoring program, requires partnerships and collaboration among all stakeholders that could be categorized as follows

### **8.4.4 Institutional Arrangements**

In view of the diverse ministries and institutions involved in the project, it will be institutionally anchored in the Office of the Vice-President (OVP). The executing agency will be the National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS), within the OVP. The NSPS was established by the

National Social Protection Policy, through a cabinet decision. A Project Steering Committee and a Technical Working Group in relevant key sectors to the project will be set up to ensure proper coordination of project implementation and provide guidance to the project to meet its objectives. The Steering Committee will meet twice a year, and the Technical Working Group quarterly.

The NSPS will coordinate the implementation of activities. The actual implementation of healthcare facility rehabilitation activities will be the responsibility of the specialized agencies and/or line ministries (in this case, the Ministry of Health). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the project and implementing partners will be signed. The NSPS will be responsible for monitoring activities covering the preparation, contracting and contracting phases, financial procedures, physical implementation, and preparation of status reports. The NSPS will be the Bank’s main interlocutor. An administrative management procedures manual will be prepared to ensure a flexible and effective intervention system.

The project will cover the cost related to recruiting additional experts to strengthen the capacities of the NSPS to implement the project (deputy project manager, value chain and entrepreneurship specialist, social and environmental safeguards specialist, and a procurement specialist). The project manager (Coordinator of the NSPS), the communication officer, the financial management specialist, the accountant, the monitoring and evaluation expert are already in the post in the NSPS. An assistant procurement officer is also in post. She will have her capacities strengthened by a recruited procurement officer during at least the first two years of implementation before eventually taking the lead in the project procurement.

#### 8.4.5 Capacity Building and Training

The principal objective of the capacity building, training and sensitization is to ensure the sound and sustainable implementation of the ESMP, among others. The training will equip project personnel and other stakeholders for effective communication and empower the community for social conflict resolution.

##### - Major Institutions

Institution	Roles in the implementation of ESMP
NEA	Oversight responsibility for the ESMP compliance To coordinate the efforts of the ESIA working group for quarterly monitoring and related compliance issues
MoBSE	To take part in the supervision of works in line with national requirements in creating ideal learning environment
NSPS	To facilitate the implementation of the ESMP through the provision of requisite funds To implement compliance directives issued by

### - *Capacity Building Requirements*

Project institutions need to understand the purpose of the ESMP, their expected roles and the extent to which the ESMP will facilitate the respective statutory functions. This will engender the required collaboration for the ESMP implementation.

Competence of government i.e., the ability of active government parties to carry out their respective design, planning, approval, permitting, monitoring and implementation roles will largely determine the project's success and sustainability or otherwise.

The objectives and provisions of the ESMP therefore cannot be achieved in the absence of relevant competencies on environmental and social management within the major institutions above, the PIU and other stakeholders. The following sections provide recommendations on capacity building to support the program's environmental and social management objectives.

#### Identification of Capacity Building Needs

The first step in pursuing capacity building will be to identify the capacity-building needs of the various stakeholders. Capacity building should be viewed as more than training. It is human resource development and includes equipping individuals with the understanding, skills, and access to information, knowledge, and training that enables them to perform effectively. It also involves organizational development, the elaboration of relevant management structures, processes, and procedures within organizations and the management of relationships between the different organizations and sectors (public, private, and community).

The capacity building requirements will mostly be in the form of training workshops as follows:

(1) A training workshop on the E&S Safeguards should be organized for the major stakeholders identified above.

(2) A training workshop for the key project implementers should cover the following:

- Inclusion of environmental mitigation measures & penalties in contract documents of contractor and contractor supervision;
- Environmental screening and monitoring; and
- Public/community participation techniques and procedures.

For each group, training will be provided at a different level of expertise in different areas and would include:

- In-depth training to a level that allows trainees to go on to train others, including environmental and social procedures where relevant; and
- Sensitization or awareness-raising in which the participants are familiarized with the significance or relevance of the issues, to the extent that they can identify potential or emergent problems and request further assistance as necessary.



It is recommended to hold training workshops at the regional and community levels for the Regional Education Directorate (RED) Officials and School Management Teams (SMCs). These workshops will focus on identifying and discussing environmental and social issues that will arise during the implementation of the ESMP. These will also sensitize participants about environmental and social obligations under the ESMP, manage the site's relevant problems, and strategize the implementation of the ESMP activities.

Similarly, at the national level, every quarter during which key stakeholders are involved in the Vulnerable Youth and Women Support Project (VYWSP) field implementation will focus primarily on policy issues and share ideas and experiences. The Environmental and Social Safeguard consultants at NSPS will be responsible for organizing and reporting on this training. At the national level, it is also recommended that contractors working at the project site are trained. The training of contractors will focus on their responsibilities toward complying with the ESMP requirements.

#### Public Engagement/Sensitization

To ensure proper implementation of the project and to avoid public agitations which could affect the project execution, the project implementers should engage/sensitize key stakeholders and the public, particularly those whose property or livelihood may be affected. The engagement/sensitization should be carried out ahead of construction works and any grievances addressed.

#### Training topic

Training is essential for ensuring the ESMP provisions are implemented efficiently and effectively. Based on the assessment of the institutional capacities of the different agencies that will be involved in the implementation of the ESMP, the following broad areas of capacity building have been identified and recommended for the NSPS/PIU and other relevant agencies for effective implementation of the ESMP.

Capacity building is an evidence-driven process of strengthening the abilities of individuals, organizations, and systems to perform core functions sustainably and to continue to improve and develop over time. Individual/workforce level capacity building activities improve the performance of staff according to ESMPs depending on specified activities and executing body.

**Table 33: Sensitization Measures & Capacity Building**

Module	Capacity Building Activities	Proposed Themes	Target Beneficiary	Trainer	Budget (USD)
1	Training on Environmental and Social Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Process</li> <li>Overview of Potential Environmental and Social Impacts of Project</li> </ul>	Relevant Officers of PIU-Environmental	Environmental and Social Consultant/	16,000.00

	Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Pollution &amp; Control</li> <li>• Environmental Engineering</li> <li>• Environmental and Social Management Plan</li> <li>• Environmental Performance Monitoring – Monitoring Mitigation Measures in ESMP</li> <li>• Environmental and Social</li> </ul>	Specialist/Social of URR, NGOs, CBOs., Project Contractor	NEA	
2	Training on Construction HSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Construction HSE</li> <li>• Overview of Health and Safety Hazards in Construction</li> <li>• Incidents: Causation, Investigation &amp; Reporting</li> <li>• Excavation Safety</li> <li>• Construction Site Inspection</li> <li>• Personal Protective Equipment</li> </ul>	NSPS/PIU, Regional NEA Staff, School mgt staff NGOs, CBOs, Project Contractor	Environmental and Social Consultant/NEA	10,000.00
3	Beneficiary Communities Awareness Raising Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising public awareness on project issues (environmental and social issues, GBV, SEA/SH, VAC and GM, Emergency preparedness, etc.)</li> <li>• Assessment and prevention of accidents related to civil works and the movements of machines.</li> <li>• Prevention and management of GBV/SEA/SH/VAC, GM</li> <li>• Public awareness on diseases (HIV-AIDS/STI, COVID-19).</li> </ul>	Local communities, CSOs/NGOs The public, especially the communities where the project will be implemented	PIU/Environmental and Social Consultant/NEA	15,000.00
<b>TOTAL Forty thousand US Dollars</b>				<b>128,000 USD</b>	

### 8.5 E&S Monitoring for the Renovation of Diabugu Batapa ECD Center

The overall objective of environmental and social monitoring will be to ensure that mitigation measures are implemented and are effective. Environmental and social monitoring will also enable the response to new and developing issues of concern during the project implementation, ensuring that project activities comply with and adhere to environmental provisions and standard specifications of the Bank and those of the Government of The Gambia. The monitoring plan

shall be implemented and maintained to ensure these mitigation measures are effective and properly implemented. This chapter discusses the environmental and social performance monitoring that shall be undertaken to evaluate the efficiency of mitigation measures and provide feedback about the actual environmental and social impacts of rehabilitation/construction activities. Monitoring will also ensure compliance with environmental and social standards, facilitate any required changes, and seek solutions to emerging environmental and social problems. The monitoring requirements are discussed for each environmental and social aspect during rehabilitation/construction works in Table 35.

### **8.6 Environmental and social aftercare programmes**

To reduce and manage the impacts of the proposed project, the surrounding local communities and the environment, the following are recommended for implementation as environment and social aftercare programmes in line with the ESMP for sustainability:

- Community and environmental education programme
- Water quality management programme
- Waste management programme
- Air quality management programme
- Occupational Health and Safety management programme
- Gender, SEA/SH& Social Management Programme

It should be noted that the proposed ESMP under this assessment will form the benchmark for any upcoming management programmes and related plans and address the monitoring factor in line with relevant laws and good practices for sustainable development.

Table 35: Monitoring Arrangements

Issue	Monitoring	Method	Frequency	Responsibility	Performance Indicator	Cost (US\$)
<b>Air Quality (air pollution)</b>	Emissions from vehicles and equipment  Dust generated from construction activities, construction vehicle movement, stockpiles, storage of construction materials, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Visual monitoring</li> <li>○ Interview of workers and communities on and around project sites</li> </ul>	Quarterly	Contractor/NSPS Environmental Safeguard and Social Specialists/NEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complete records of monitoring activities</li> <li>○ Regular vehicle maintenance records.</li> <li>○ No visible dust plumes originating from construction sites.</li> <li>○ No irregular exhaust (heavy black or white smoke) from equipment and vehicles.</li> </ul>	5,000
<b>Water Pollution</b>	Visual inspection of any erosion from the construction area and transport of sediments and contaminants (e.g., oil, grease).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Visual monitoring</li> </ul>	On demand run-off after heavy rainfall events	Contractor/NSPS Environmental Safeguard and Social Specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Up-to-date and complete records as required by spill prevention and response procedures</li> </ul>	5,000
<b>Waste</b>	Site clean and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Visual monitoring</li> </ul>	Daily throughout	Contractor/NSPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Current and</li> </ul>	

<b>Generation and Disposal</b>	<p>proper storage and handling of (hazardous) waste and sewage.</p> <p>Segregated waste disposal or storage areas are marked. Toilet facilities are readily available near the construction site for all workers.</p>		<p>preparation, rehabilitation/construction phase</p>	<p>Environmental Safeguard and Social Specialists/Public and Environmental Health Officers/NEA</p>	<p>complete records of regular waste collection and disposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Records of workers attending follow-up health and safety training on a monthly basis.</li> <li>○ Compliance with applicable regulations, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Anti-littering Regulation of Solid Waste</i></li> <li>○ <i>Regulation of Harmful and Hazardous Waste Management</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>5,000</p>
<b>Community Health and Safety</b>	<p>Monitor health, safety and security requirements are considered and respected Ad hoc intervention in case any of the workers show symptoms of a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ On-site visits and communication; interviews with community leaders As per government's recommendations</li> </ul>	<p>Monthly and When necessary</p>	<p>Contractor/NSPS Environmental Safeguard and Social Specialists/Public and Environmental Health Officers/NEA/EIA working group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No identified non-compliances of health and safety procedures.</li> <li>○ Regular training records of personnel on health &amp; safety</li> </ul>	<p>2,000</p>

	COVID-19 infection				<p>procedures on site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review of grievance register Minimal rate of infection with positive COVID-19</li> </ul>	
<b>Occupational Health and Safety</b>	<p>Visual inspection of compliance with health and safety procedures Monitor working conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ H&amp;S training provided</li> <li>○ Use of personal protective equipment for workers</li> <li>○ Accessibility of workers to a grievance mechanism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Visual Check training records Visual</li> <li>○ Grievance mechanism in place and grievances recorded</li> </ul>	Monthly	Contractor/NSPS Environmental Safeguard and Social Specialists/Public and Environmental Health Officers/NEA/ EIA working group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No identified non-compliances with health and safety procedures.</li> <li>○ Regular training records of personnel on health &amp; safety procedures on site.</li> <li>○ Injuries or accidents to workers/personnel on site are reported and investigated promptly and in compliance with the health and safety procedures.</li> <li>○ H&amp;S training</li> </ul>	2,000

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ provided</li> <li>○ PPE used on-site by workers</li> <li>○ Review of grievance register</li> </ul>	
<b>Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Harassment (SEA/SH)</b>	Monitor the existence of workplace Violence, Sexual Exploitation, and Abuse/Harassment (SEA/SH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interview with the workers</li> <li>○ Interview with the local community</li> </ul>	Monthly during the preparation and rehabilitation/construction phase and, if necessary, randomly	Contractor/NSPS Environmental Safeguard and Social Specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Whether cases of discrimination, GBV, and indiscipline are reported</li> <li>○ Number of grievances addressed</li> <li>○ All workers to comply to the Code of Conduct</li> </ul>	8,000
<b>Total</b>						<b>27,000</b>

## 8.7. Grievance Mechanism (GM)

It should be expected that grievances could arise in implementing the measures at the community level. Therefore, the following mechanism is proposed to redress any grievance or complaint.

1. Set up a grievance redress committee easily accessible to the beneficiaries; the composition needs to be discussed between the Project team and the beneficiaries.
2. Sensitise the beneficiaries on the existence of the Committee and its roles, how to contact the Committee, and register grievances.
3. The following process should be followed in receiving and responding to grievances.
  - i. The grievance is received by the Chairperson of the Committee and recorded in a grievance register.
  - ii. The Chairperson summons a meeting within seven calendar days of receiving the grievance, inviting the representative of the Project in the Region
  - iii. If the Committee agrees to an immediate action to satisfy the complainant, the latter shall be briefed by the Chairperson of the remedial action and how it will be implemented.
  - iv. For a corrective action that requires a longer period, the Chairperson will inform the complainant of the action and proposed timeline for correction.
  - v. In either 'iii' or 'iv' above, the Chairperson gets written satisfaction from the Complainant on the action taken and formally closes the case in the Register.

In managing grievances, a Grievance Redress Mechanism will be employed, and it will include:

- Setting up a site-level GRM/Grievance Redress Mechanism Committee (GRMC) for the adaptation and implementation by the contractor with regular reporting to the PIU.
- The PCU will constantly engage project affected persons through its Stakeholder and Public Disclosure Plan. This will keep the communities informed of developments on the project, including planned activities, project impacts and mitigation measures, grievance mechanism, the right to submit complaints and the compensation process.
- Building capacity of the project team and site-level GRMC to ensure they can engage the communities, record and resolve grievances.
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms will also be used as a key element of the GRM.

Grievances are expected to be communicated either verbally (in a language of choice) or in writing to the GRC. Upon receipt of complaints, timely responses are expected to be given. If grievances cannot be resolved locally, they are expected to be referred quickly to the region for resolution.

Actions to be taken to address the grievance will be agreed upon by the GRMC, and the progress of implementation of agreed measures will be reported to the Local community PCU.



A grievance management procedure indicating activities and timeframe for resolution of issues is shown in **Figure 9**.

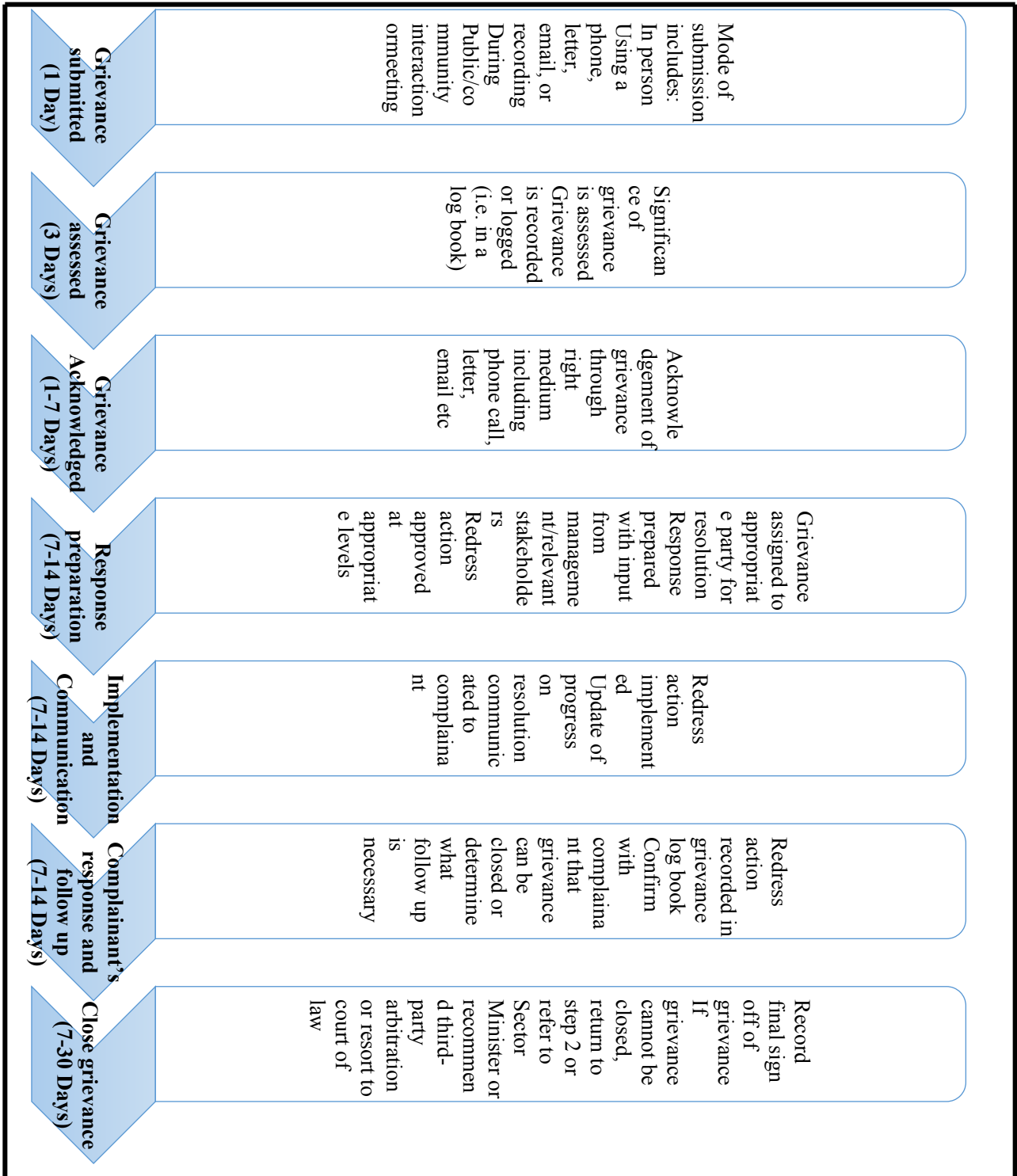


Figure 9: Procedure for Grievance Redress

## 8.7 Waste Management Plan

The generation of waste is anticipated during the implementation and operation phases of the Diabugu Batapa ECD Center. Thus, a Waste Management Plan (WMP) is important for sustainable waste management, including proper collection, storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal. It addresses the management of all solid and liquid refuse, including hazardous and non-hazardous waste, produced as a result of Project activities in the ECD center.

As per the renovation/construction activities, some waste will always be generated regardless of the project's scope and size. Thus, a Waste Management Plan (WMP) is key to sustainable waste management. It addresses the management of all solid and liquid refuse, including hazardous and non-hazardous waste, produced as a result of Project activities.

### 8.7.1 Legislative Requirements

Although, there is not detailed general Waste Management Plan developed for The Gambia, this Waste Management Plan (WMP) is based on several legislations in the Gambia, including:

- **National Environment Management Act 1994**

*The act specifies that “waste includes any matter prescribed to be waste, and any rejected matter, whether liquid, solid, gaseous, or radioactive, which is discharged, emitted, or deposited in the environment in such volume, composition or manner likely to **adversely affect** the environment<sup>6</sup>;...*

- **Anti-Littering Regulations, 2007**

*The regulation states that waste "includes any substance or object, whether or not intended as waste that, when deposited in a place other than a litter receptacle or other place lawfully designated for the deposit, is or is likely to become unsightly, nauseous or unsanitary, whether by itself or with any other substance or object and regardless of its size or volume or the extent of the deposit;<sup>7</sup>*

### 8.7.2 Waste Management Principles

The waste principle presents a waste management hierarchy commencing with the preferable option to the least preferable option. Waste prevention is the most preferred option for reducing volumes of waste is a priority, followed by reuse, recycling, and recovery, including energy recovery, and the last option is safe disposal. This Plan is the primary tool to guide employees toward waste management.

An integrated waste management flow on site is needed. Such a waste management flow is presented in the table below.

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<sup>6</sup> National Environment Management ACT. 1994. <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gam6275.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> The Gambia Anti-Littering Regulations, 2007. <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gam173305.pdf>

Table 36. Waste Flow Management Options

Stages	Waste Management Options	Description
1	<b>Prevention</b>	Minimize the production of waste materials in the construction process by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assessing and taking into consideration the resultant waste from different design and construction options</li> <li>○ Purchasing materials that will result in less waste and minimal packaging are pre-cut or fabricated.</li> <li>○ Not over-ordering products and materials</li> </ul>
2	<b>Reuse</b>	Ensure that, where ever possible, materials are reused either onsite or offsite. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify all waste products that can be reused</li> <li>○ Put systems in place to separate and store reusable items</li> <li>○ Identify the potential applications for reuse both onsite and offsite and facilitate reuse</li> </ul>
3	<b>Recycling</b>	Identify all recyclable waste products to be produced on site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide systems for separating and stockpiling recyclables</li> <li>○ Provide clear signage to ensure recyclable materials are separated</li> <li>○ Process the material for recycling either onsite or offsite</li> </ul>
4	<b>Recovery</b>	Recovery of waste is usually most successful when done in bulk. Therefore, a centralized recovery facility is preferable. Forms of recovery include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ anaerobic digestion,</li> <li>○ incineration with energy recovery,</li> <li>○ gasification and pyrolysis produce energy (fuels, heat, and power) and materials from waste.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Disposal</b>	Waste products that cannot be reused or recycled will be removed and disposed of. The following will need to be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensure the chosen waste disposal contractor complies with OEH requirements</li> <li>○ Implement regular collection of bins</li> </ul>

### 8.7.3 Analysis of Waste Generation by the ECD Renovation/Construction Project

Throughout the cycle, including site preparation, renovation, exploitation, and closure phases, different categories of reusable and recyclable wastes will be generated from every construction process in connection with temporary or permanent works. Solid waste generation from project activities will generally include domestic waste, commercial waste, construction and demolition debris, sanitation residue, and street waste. These wastes will be in solid or semi-solid form and potentially include very low quantities of industrial hazardous wastes. Solid waste generation in

the project will include domestic waste, commercial waste construction and demolition debris, and sanitation residue. The major waste generation anticipated will include:

- Biodegradable waste (food and kitchen waste, green waste (vegetables, flowers, leaves, fruits), etc.);
- Recyclable material (Plastic, paper, and cartons from pre-formed products and packaging, cardboard, wood, glass, bottles, cans, metals, certain plastics, etc.);
- Inert waste (construction and demolition waste, dirt, rocks, housekeeping, debris, etc.)
- Scrap metals from off-cuts, rebar, steel pipes unusable/surplus concrete/grout etc;
- Chemical waste - engine oils, hydraulic fluids, cleaning fluids, used oil filters and car batteries etc., and
- General refuse - generated from the onsite workforce.

#### **8.7.4 Waste Assessment / Inventory**

- The NSPS Environmental Safeguard specialist must develop, implement and maintain a waste inventory reflecting all waste generated during construction for general and hazardous waste streams.
- Given waste reduction, reuse, and recycling opportunities, construction methods and materials should be carefully considered.
- Once a waste inventory has been established, targets for waste recovery (minimization, reuse, recycling) should be set.

#### **8.7.5 Waste Collection, handling, and Storage**

- The project contractor must implement their waste recycling system, i.e., separate bins for food waste, plastics, paper, wood, glass, cardboard, metals, etc.
- In the case of fixed and portable toilets, they must be monitored and maintained daily.
- Below-ground storage of septic tanks must withstand the external forces of the surrounding environment. The area above the tank must be demarcated to prevent any vehicles or heavy machinery from driving around the area.
- The project contractor must provide waste collection bins and hazardous waste containers and place in various areas around the site to store organic, recyclable, and hazardous waste.
- A dedicated waste area must be established onsite to store all waste streams before removal.
- Signage/ colour coding of waste bins must be used to differentiate disposal areas for the various waste streams (i.e., paper, cardboard, metals, food waste, glass, etc.).
- The location of all temporary waste storage areas must aim to minimize the potential for impact on the surrounding environment, including prevention of contaminated runoff, seepage, and vermin control.

- Waste storage shall be in accordance with all Regulations and best-practice guidelines, and under no circumstances may waste be burnt on site.
- Vegetation removed from the site must be chipped, removed, and disposed of at an appropriate waste disposal facility or used as mulch onsite.
- A dedicated waste management person/team must be appointed and responsible for ensuring the continuous sorting of waste and maintenance of the area. He/she must be trained in all areas of waste management and monitored by the project contractor.

### 8.7.6 Management of waste storage areas

- The position of all waste storage areas must be located away from water courses and ensure minimal degradation to the environment. The main waste storage area must have a suitable stormwater system separating clean and dirty stormwater.
- Waste storage areas must be under the roof, or the waste storage containers must be covered with tarpaulins (or similar material) to prevent water ingress.
- Collection bins placed around the site and at subcontractors’ camps must be maintained and emptied regularly by the principal contractor.
- Waste must be stored in designated containers and not on the ground.
- Inspections and maintenance of bunds must be undertaken daily. Bunds must be inspected for leaks or cracks in the foundation and walls.

The Project Contractor will practice necessary design, proper planning, and good site management to minimize specific waste generated during the project cycle. Table 2 presents proposed waste management strategies for specific waste types.

**Table 37. Specific waste management strategies**

<b>Waste Type</b>	<b>Management</b>
Chemical Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Repair and maintenance of plants and vehicles on site are not encouraged but minimized as far as practicable to reduce the generation of chemical waste on site.</li> <li>○ Plants in poor condition will not be deployed onsite.</li> <li>○ Chemical wastes expected from the Contract include engine oils, hydraulic fluids, waste fuel, spent solvent, spent cleaning fluids, spent lubricating oil, contaminated sawdust/sandbags, paint residual, and used oil filters.</li> <li>○ All chemical waste generated by the construction works should be properly labelled, packaged, and temporarily stored at designated chemical waste storage areas within the construction site.</li> </ul>
Solid/General Refuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enclosed bins for general refuse other than construction and chemical wastes should be provided at convenient locations within site to collect general refuse from the workforce.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The bins and their storage areas should be cleaned regularly. Refuse should be removed from the site by a reputable waste hauler regularly. Burning of refuse on site is strictly prohibited.</li> <li>○ Suppose volumes are large enough to warrant such collection. In that case, outside waste recycling companies will provide three-colored recycling bins to collect and segregate aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and paper waste onsite for subsequent collection.</li> </ul>
Packaging Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construction materials will be ordered as far as practicable in bulk quantity or in a container that requires the least packaging or wrapping.</li> <li>○ For materials delivered to the site, reusable and recyclable cardboard, packaging materials, and pallets will be reused, recycled or returned to the supplier. Suppliers who accept the return of pallets and reusable and recyclable cardboard and packaging materials should be identified and given priority for the business.</li> <li>○ Sufficient space will be provided for a proper stockpile of such recovered materials in dry condition and with cover to prevent cross-contamination by other Renovation/Construction materials.</li> <li>○ The recovered materials will be arranged to be collected by or delivered to recycling contractors on a regular basis.</li> </ul>
Plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As plastic is now considered a highly recyclable material, much of the plastic generated during construction will be diverted from landfill and recycled.</li> <li>○ The plastic will be segregated at the source, kept clean as possible, and stored in a dedicated skip.</li> </ul>
Timber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Timber waste will be generated from the construction work as off-cuts or damaged pieces of timber or from demolished buildings. Timber that is uncontaminated, i.e., free from paints, preservatives, glues, etc., will all be recycled. It will be collected onsite in a designated area and collected recycled.</li> </ul>
Scrap Metal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Steel is highly recyclable, and numerous companies will accept waste steel and other scrap metals.</li> <li>○ A segregated skip will be available onsite for steel/metal storage, pending recycling.</li> </ul>
Bedrock, Blocks, and Concrete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Most of the renovation/construction waste will be clean, inert material and is proposed to reuse it for construction purposes where possible. If bedrock is encountered during excavations, it will either be crushed onsite and used for infill during construction or be removed from the site by appropriately permitted waste collectors.</li> </ul>

	Rock recovered from the site will be recovered at an authorized site locally.
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### **8.7.7 Disposal**

The strategy for management and disposal of all renovation/construction materials arising from the project will be based on the principle of avoidance, minimizing, segregation, and salvage for reuse or recycling on or offsite wherever practicable, followed by the last resort of disposal to landfill as appropriate. The following approach should be adopted.

- Waste generated on-site must be removed regularly, as determined by the Project Contractor. This frequency may change during construction depending on waste volumes generated at different stages of the construction process.
- Waste must be removed by a suitably qualified contractor and disposed at an appropriately licensed landfill site. The contractor must provide proof of appropriate disposal.

### **8.7.8 Training**

Although designated individuals shall be assigned to manage waste to ensure commitment, operational efficiency, and accountability during the renovation/construction phases of the project, training and awareness regarding waste management shall be provided to all employees and contractors as part of the toolbox talks or onsite awareness sessions. All site employees and sub-contractors will be required to attend a site-specific induction that will outline the components of the WMP and explain the site-specific practicalities of the waste reduction and recycling strategies outlined in the WMP. All employees must clearly understand which products are being reused/recycled onsite and where they are stockpiled. They are also to be made aware of waste reduction efforts in regard to packaging. The site manager will post educational signage in relation the recycling activities on site in breakout areas, lunch rooms etc

### **8.7.9 Record Keeping**

Records will be kept for all waste material that leaves the site, either for reuse on another site, recycling, or disposal. A system will be put in place to record the construction waste arising onsite. The waste manager or delegate will record the following:

- Waste taken offsite for reuse
- Waste taken offsite for recovery
- Waste taken offsite for recycling
- Waste taken offsite for disposal
- Waste (soil & stone) accepted onsite for recovery

For each movement of waste offsite, a signed waste collection docket will be obtained by the waste manager (or delegate) from the contractor. This will be carried out for each material type. This system will also be linked with the delivery records.

### 8.7.10 Monitoring of Waste Management Activities

Records must be kept of the volumes/ mass of the different waste streams collected from the site throughout the project's life. The appointed waste contractor is to provide monthly reports to the operator containing the following information:

- Monthly volumes/ mass of the different waste streams collected;
- Monthly volumes/ mass of the waste that is disposed of at a landfill site;
- Monthly volumes/ mass of the waste that is recycled; and
- Data illustrating progress compared to previous months.

This report will aid in monitoring the progress and relevance of the waste management procedures.

### 8.7.11 Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities inherent to the WMP are presented in Table 3 below.

**Table 38. Roles and Responsibilities**

Entity	Responsibilities
Local Government Area Council/NEA/NSPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enforce the Waste Management Plan.</li> <li>○ Contractually obligate the Enterprises to meet the requirements of the Waste Management Plan.</li> <li>○ Manage the Solid Waste Management Area or appoint an appropriate contractor.</li> </ul>
Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide a minimum of two garbage receptacles for wet and dry waste segregation. An additional bin for hazardous waste is highly recommended.</li> <li>○ Develop a site-specific Waste Management Plan for the Contractor's activities.</li> <li>○ Site-specific Waste Management Plan must be aligned with the full site WMP and approved by the NSPS ESS before work commences.</li> <li>○ Educate all members of staff on the waste hierarchy.</li> <li>○ Educate all staff members on site-specific WMP and the Waste Management Plan for the ECD center renovation/construction project.</li> <li>○ Education is to be provided to each staff member before the commencement of work. Regular refresher sessions will be undertaken through toolbox talks or training sessions throughout the contract period.</li> </ul>

### 8.8 ESMP Disclosure

After this ESMP is approved, the NSPS will ensure that it is published on the NSPS and Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education websites. NEA will also publish it on its website, including its Library at its head office in Kanifing and the various NEA Regional offices where subprojects are located, Regional Education Directorates. The Africa Development Bank will disclose it on its website. Additionally, hard copies of the report will be made available at designated locations



for review by members of the general public. This will enable all interested stakeholders to read and understand how they stand to be affected by the project

A key element of sustaining stakeholders' support in any project execution is to consult and communicate with the stakeholders effectively and to engage them as early as possible with the project, which has been done in the course of preparation of the intervention work and further enhanced during the preparation of this ESMP.

## 8.9 ESMP Implementation Budget

Table 39: budget for implementation of the ESMP

N°	Designation	Cost (US\$)	Responsibility
8.	Mitigation measures	40,000	Contractor/SMC
9.	Environmental and Social Monitoring Programme	30,000	PIU/NEA/RED
10.	Environmental and Social aftercare Program	25,000	PIU/NEA/SMC/RED
11.	Capacity-building measures	40,000	PIU/NEA/RED
12.	Information and awareness-raising of stakeholders	25,000	Public/CSO
13.	Implementation of the GRM-related activities	10,000	Local Authority/PIU
14.	ESMP audits	20,000	PIU/Consultant
	<b>Total</b>	190,000	
	Unexpected (10 %)	19,000	
	<b>Overall cost</b>	<b>209,000</b>	

## 9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ESMP has critically evaluated the individual sub-projects under the Vulnerable Youth and Women Support Project on the renovation of Diabugu Batapa ECD Center, having reviewed the project documents and taken the project location's environmental and social characteristics into account. The potential environmental and social impacts have been assessed and are all considered to have minimal environmental impacts and are, thus, classified as Category A projects. Appropriate mitigation measures have been designed for these impacts. This ESMP, estimated to be US\$209,000, is set to guide the implementation process. Given the nature and location of the project development activities, the conclusion is that the potential impacts associated with the proposed development are of a nature and extent that can be avoided, reduced, and eliminated by the application of the proposed appropriate mitigation measures

The ESMP has revealed the following with appropriate recommendations:

- The proposed renovation works are most desirable because of the obvious socio-economic benefits. These far outweighed the negative impacts that could arise during implementation.
- Compliance with construction works with site management and landscape plans. Inspection of quarry licenses to ensure earth materials are obtained only from licensed operators.
- Ensure transportation of earth materials is done by covered trucks.
- Stockpiles of fine materials are placed away from drainage features and are not washed into the marine environment.
- As evident from the consultation, more than 88% of people who were consulted approved of the project, citing that it would improve the teaching and learning environment.
- Priority should be given to local workers in the recruitment of unskilled labour. There is a need to involve the community during project implementation.
- **Given the hot weather condition at the project site, there is a need for consideration on the use of suitable construction materials locally available (non-cement blocks and roof) that will ensure conducive teaching and learning environment.**
- Mitigation measures and management plans have been suggested and developed for the negative impacts.
- Project works should be sensitized on GBV and SEA/SH upon recruitment and continuous toolbox meetings onsite periodically.

An appropriate institutional framework has been drawn up to implement the mitigation measures and environmental management plan, while the proposed monitoring programmes shall be set in motion as soon as possible.

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## **Annex**

## Annex 1. List of Stakeholders Consulted

CONSULTATION REGISTER FOR RED 5 SOUTH\NORTH							
No	Nmaes	Gender	Name of District	Name of Community	Contact\Telephone		
152	Ebrima Fatty (Education Officer)	M	Janjngbureh	RED 5 South	3146594		
153	Lamin NS Sanneh(SEO)	M	Janjngbureh	RED 5 South	7494504		
154	Kawsu AJ Sama	M	Janjngbureh	RED 5 South	3538539		
155	Anthony Correa(Senoir Cluster Monitor)	M	Janjanbureh	RED 5 South	7048666		
156	Paa Sait Ceesay	M	Janjangbureh	Janjangbureh Area Council	7338279		
157	Alagie Gaye	M	Janjangbureh	Department of community dev..	3967309		
158	Fali Fofana	M	Wassu	RED 5 North	3578896		
159	Fatim A. Jallow	F	Wassu	RED 5 North	7001050		
CONSULTATION REGISTER FOR RED 1 KANIFING MUNICIPAL COUNCIL							
No	Name	Gender	Name of District	Name of Community	Contact Number		
160	Lamin A Manneh	M	Kanifing	RED 1	2163511		
161	Matarr Jagne	M	Kanifing	RED 1	3587748		
162	Abdul Kadir Sanneh	M	Kanifing	RED 1	7780694		
163	Fanny Njie	F	Kanifing	RED 1	3988541		
CONSULTATION REGISTER AT THE MINSIRTY OF HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY							
No	Name	Gender	Name of District	Name of community	Contact Number		
164	Anthony G Mendy	M	Kombo North	MOHERST	3948166		
165	Marie Mendy	F	Kombo North	MOHERST	3140875		
166	Lamin Ceesay	M	Kombo North	MOHERST	3052150		
CONSULTATION REGISTER AT THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY							
No	Name	Gender	Name of District	Name of Community	Contact Number		
167	Dawda Badjie	M	KM	NEA Executive Director	9966093		
168	Lamin Samateh	M	KM	Senoir programme officer NEA	2159036		
169	Kemo Kijera	M	KM	NEA	7272357		
CONSULTATION REGISTER SOCIAL PROTECTION OFFICE							
No	Name	Gender	Name of District	Name of community	Contact Number		
170	Momodou Dibba	M	BJL	National Cordinatotr Social protection office	7987858		
171	Ramatulie Sillah	F	BJL	National Social Protection Office	3041750		
172	Sulayman Fatty	M	BJL	Natioanl Social Protection Office	2643100		
CONSULTATION REGISTER AT MINISTRY OF GENDER AND SOCIAL WELFARE							
No	Name	Gender	Name of District	Name of Community	Contact Number		
173	Filly Nyassi	M	KM	MOGCSW	3063660		
174	Modou Sumareh	M	KM	MOGCSW	3681775		
CONSULTATION REGISTER AT GAFNA							
	Yusufa Gomez	M	KM	GAFNA	9924278\7984278		
CONSULTATION REGISTER AT MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE							
175	Lamin S Kuyateh	M	KM	MOTWI	2017828		
176	Ebrima Suwareh	M	KM	MOTWI	6692633\3557457		
CONSULTATION REGISTER AT CRS							
177	Amulai Touray	M	KM	CRS	7296009		

CONSULTATION REGISTER FOR THE REHABILITATION\CONSTRUCTION OF ECDs AND TVET CENTERS in URR A and North Bank Region						
Consultation Register in Julangel TVET Center URR						
No	Name	Gender	Name of District	Name of Community	Contact Number	
1	Jabu Faye	F	Jimara	Julangel	7391372	
2	Bubacarr Bah (Lecturer)	M	Jimara	Julangel	7118998	
3	Simbara Sannoh	M	Jimara	Julangel	7954504	
4	Aja Maimuna Jawo	F	Jimara	Julangel	2246982	
5	Faramba Jaiteh	M	Jimara	Julangel	2897153	
6	Momodou Baldeh (Head of the C	M	Jimara	Julangel	7112907	
7	Nyima Njie	F	Jimara	Julangel	7438200	
8	Mariama Dansira	F	Jimara	Julangel	7026747	
9	Isatou Magasi	F	Jimara	Julangel	7244190	
Consultation Register from Diabugu Batapa URR ECD Centre						
No	Name	Gender	Name of District	Name of Community	Contact Number	
1	Bintou Camar	F	Sandu Cluster	Diabugu Batapa	5019964	
2	Haja Drammeh	F	Sandu Cluster	Diabugu Batapa	3214868	
3	Sira Camara	F	Sandu Cluster	Diabugu Batapa	2082986	
4	Numo Drammeh	M	Sandu Cluster	Diabugu Batapa	2369494	
5	Sulayman Drammeh	M	Sandu Cluster	Diabugu Batapa	3014632	
6	Ibrahim Ceessay (Chairman)	M	Sandu Cluster	Diabugu Batapa	9932326\3932326	
7	Yahya Ceessay	M	Sandu Cluster	Diabugu Batapa	3662044	
8	Sutay Jallow (Teacher)	F	Sandu Cluster	Diabugu Batapa	7607697	
9	Jankey Jallow (Teacher)	F	Sandu Cluster	Diabugu Batapa	5871306	
10	Omar H Bah (Teacher)	M	Sandu Cluster	Diabugu Batapa	7017842\3181919	
11	Karim Darboe (Head Teacher)	M	Sandu Cluster	Diabugu Batapa	5332016	
12	Penda Jallow	F	Sandu Cluster	Diabugu Batapa	2260257	
13	Moriba Camara (Public Health Official M		Sandu Cluster	Diabugu Batapa	3922195	
Consultation Register taken from Tumana Agency for Development (TAD) TVET center in Tinkingo village URR						
No	Name	Gender	Name of District	Name of Community	Contact Number	
1	Muhammadou B Drammeh	M	Tumana	TAD	3200258	
2	Alhagie Jefang	M	Tumana	TAD	3173107	
3	Muhammadou Touray	M	Tumana	TAD	7377147	
4	Mayanding Seklibe	F	Tumana	TAD	2060623	
5	Faye Camara	F	Tumana	TAD	3188574	
6	Fenda Kora	F	Tumana	TAD	3577337	
7	Tida Balisa	F	Tumana	TAD	7471862	
8	Aminatta Demba	F	Tumana	TAD	2159423	
9	Kumba Drammeh	F	Tumana	TAD	7241083	
10	Manneh Sowe	M	Tumana	TAD	2025287	
11	Mustapha Sanneh	M	Tumana	TAD	7004337	
Consultation Register from Basse Regional Education Directorate						
No	Name	Gender	Name of District	Name of Community	Contact Number	
1	Nfally Badjie	M	Fulladu East	Basse Mansajang	7990660	
2	Ebrima Sanyang	M	Fulladu East	Basse Mansajang	2355234	
Consultation Register taken from Tamba San Sang Village URR (ECD Centre)						
No	Nmae	Gender	Name of District	Name of Community	Contact Number	
1	Hawa Kijera	F	Tumana	Tambasansang	3295819	
2	Kumba Kora	F	Tumana	Tambasansang	3032801	
3	Kaddy Jagne	F	Tumana	Tambasansang	3837271	
4	Isatou Jawara	F	Tumana	Tambasansang	0	
5	Mamu Drammeh	F	Tumana	Tambasansang	3372669	
6	Sona Trawally (Teacher)	F	Tumana	Tambasansang	3225550	
7	Binta Njardo(Teacher)	F	Tumana	Tambasansang	7737405	
8	Ebrima Suso (Teacher)	M	Tumana	Tambasansang	3720082	
9	Muhammed Sisawo (Teacher)	M	Tumana	Tambasansang	3361676	
10	Musa Sillah	M	Tumana	Tambasansang	0	
11	Faye Sillah	M	Tumana	Tambasansang	3653221	
12	Morry Kanuteh	M	Tumana	Tambasansang	2153201	
13	Yankuba Gibba	M	Tumana	Tambasansang	3653296	
14	Mutarr Bah	M	Tumana	Tambasansang	3777434	
15	Mariama Mballow	F	Tumana	Tambasansang	0	
16	Mustapha A Kuyateh (Teacher)	M	Tumana	Tambasansang	5015219	
Consultation Register from Songhai Initiatives TVET Center						
No	Name	Gender	Name of District	Name of Community	Contact Number	
1	Mbye saine	M	Upper Badibu	G S I	3870222	
2	Amie .M. Badjie	F	Upper Badibu	G S I	3927109	

## **Annex 2. Interview guide**

### **Introduction**

*For the Government of The Gambia to improve the quality and utilization of essential health services in the country, funds were provided by the Gambia Government and Africa Development Bank in support of the proposed rehabilitation works of selected ECD center, ECD centers, and early childhood education centres*

*The development is anticipated to positively impact the health and livelihood of the local community and beyond and attract numerous other developments and opportunities. On the other hand, the project might pose adverse negative impacts and thus there is a need to conduct an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study. The ESIA study identifies and assesses the potential impacts of project activities and develops enhancement and mitigation measures.*

*Stakeholder consultation is a core activity in the ESIA process. Thus, this consultation is initiated to enhance public awareness about the proposed project development, assess public views and perceptions about the project, and get their recommendations for the improvement of the project.*

*In order to develop a robust Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), this questionnaire is geared towards finding out your view/opinion on the proposed project activities. The information you provide will assist the study team in appreciating your concerns/fears, proffer better operative procedures, and ensure sound environmental and social management practice in the course of the execution of the project.*

*Please, kindly answer honestly and complete the questions contained herein. Please, be assured that all information provided will be kept strictly confidential and used in combination with other opinions gathered.*

*If you have any concerns about privacy, please contact 'The Consultant team:+220 3331719/5255184/5327279'.*

*Thank you for taking time to do this interview.*



The preferred methodology is focus group discussions with (i) a mixed group, (ii) women only group and (iii) men only group. Note: questions can be asked in groups and/or on an individual basis. This form is a guide to relevant questions.

Name of community			
For groups: Type of Group	Mixed	Women	Men
For individuals: Name of interviewee(s)			
Gender			
Position in the community group			
Place			
Date / time			
Interviewer(s)			

**1. Please tell us briefly about your background.**

- ✓ *For individuals:* social background and areas of responsibilities in your community
  - i. Age:
  - ii. Marital status:
  - iii. Education level:
  - iv. Economic activity/Employment:
  - v. Role in the community:
  
- ✓ *For community group:* about the community:
  - i. Population size:
  - ii. Number of households:
  - iii. Language/ethnicity:
  - iv. Religion (Majority and minority):
  - v. Economic activities/Employment:
  - vi. Social amenities (*School, health facility, playground etc*):
  - vii. Source of domestic water (*borehole or NAWEC*):
  - viii. Source of electricity (*NAWEC, generator, solar system*):

<p><b><u>Transcript:</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p>
---

**2. What is the state of the environment in your community now?**

*i. Air quality (i.e. clean air or polluted air):*

.....

*Water quality (i.e. clean or polluted water):*

.....

*ii. Water quantity (scarce or abundant):*

.....

iii. Soil quality (fertile or infertile soil, contaminated soil):

.....  
iv. Vegetation (rich or poor vegetation; dominant types of trees):

.....  
Animal species (wildlife, livestock animals):

.....

**3. What do you think about the rehabilitation of the ECD centers, and early childhood education centres in your community and expected results/outcomes?**

i. Project Perception (support or not in support):

.....

Give reasons:

Good/Support	Bad/Not in support

ii. What are the positive impacts the project might bring to your community?

.....  
How do you think the project can enhance the above positive impacts for the benefit of the community?

.....What  
are the negative impacts the project might bring to your community?

.....  
How do you think the project can mitigate the above negative impacts to minimize the effect on the community?

.....

**4. Do you think the project activities (pre-rehabilitation/construction, rehabilitation/construction, and operation) will impact the community's physical and biological environment?**

i. Air Quality (yes/no): If no, explain why?

.....  
If yes, explain how?

.....

i. Water Quality and quantity (yes/no): If no, explain why?

.....  
If yes, explain how?

.....

i. Soil quality (yes/no): If no, explain why?

.....  
If yes, explain how?

.....

- i. *Biological environment (vegetation and animal species) (yes/no):*
- ii. *If no, explain why?*
- iii.

.....  
 .....

- iv. *If yes, explain how?*
- v.

.....  
 .....

**5. Do you think the project activities (pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning) will have impact on the socio-economic condition of the community?**

- i. *Employment opportunities (yes/no): If no, explain why?*

.....  
*If yes, explain how?*  
 .....

- ii. *Public health (yes/no): If no, explain why?*

.....  
*If yes, explain how?*  
 .....

- iii. *Improve livelihood and income earning (yes/no): If no, explain why?*

.....  
*If yes, explain how?*  
 .....

- iv. *Incidents and accidents (yes/no): If no, explain why?*

.....  
*If yes, explain how?*  
 .....

- v. *Waste generation (yes/no): If no, explain why?*

.....  
*If yes, explain how?*  
 .....

- vi. *Social stability/cohesion (yes/no): If no, explain why?*

.....  
*If yes, explain how?*  
 .....

- vii. *In-migration of workforce (yes/no):*

*If no, explain why?*  
 .....

.....*If*  
*yes, explain how?*

.....  
viii. Change in lifestyle and culture (yes/no): If no, explain why?

.....If  
yes, explain how?

.....  
v. Increase traffic congestion & road accidents (yes/no)

If no, explain why?

.....  
If yes, explain how?  
.....

**6. Is there anything important you think we have forgotten to ask about?**

**Transcript:**

**7. Do you have any questions, feedback or concern you want to raise?**

**Transcript:**

*Thank you for taking time for the interview. Please feel free to contact us if any other issues you think we should be aware of come to mind.*

**Observation of the environment:.....**

...

**Interview guide – experts (government, NGOs, private sector)**

The preferred methodology is individual semi-structured interviews.

Name of institution	
For individuals: Name of the interviewee(s)	
Gender	

Position	
Place	
Date / time	
Interviewer(s)	

**1) What do you think about constructing or rehabilitating ECD centers and early childhood education centres and its expected results/outcomes?**

○ *Project perception*

.....  
.....  
.....

**2) What positive impacts might the project pose on the environment and socio-economic condition of the host community and the country?**

.....  
.....  
.....

**3) How do you think the project can enhance the above positive impacts to benefit the host community and the country?**

.....  
.....  
.....

**4) What negative impacts might the project pose on the environment and socio-economic condition of the host community and the country?**

.....  
.....  
.....

**5) How do you think the project can mitigate the above negative impacts to minimize the effect on the host community and the country?**

.....  
.....  
.....

**6) What do you think of the current state of the ECD centers/early childhood education centres?**

.....  
.....

**7) What role does your institution have or offer in the implementation of this proposed project activities?**

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
**8) Any Capacity Building needs to be addressed to enable other partners and your active participation in the implementation of the proposed project development?**

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
**9) How can your Institution support enhancing the positive impacts and mitigating the negative impacts of the proposed project activities?**

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
**10) Does your Institution have any legal document (Policies, Regulations, Acts etc) relevant to the implementation of the proposed project?**

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
**11) Are there anything more you would like to share on issues related to the proposed project and the way forward (Projects Impacts/Concerns and Recommendations)?**

*Thank you for taking time for the interview. Please feel free to contact us if any other issues come to mind that you think we should be aware.*

Perception Survey - Individual Questionnaire (Including Staff, Students and Community Members)	
No	Section A. Demographic Information
	Name of respondent
	Age of respondent
	Gender of the respondent ①Male    ②Female
	Region of respondent
	District of Respondent
	Community of Respondent
	Facility Type ①ECD Center    ②ECD center
	What is your marital status? ①Single    ②Married    ③Divorced    ④Widow
	What is your highest educational level? ①No formal education    ②Primary    ③ secondary    ④ Tertiary ⑤ Others (specify)..... .....

What is your employment status?	① Student ② Fully employed ③ Partially employed ④ unemployed
What is your occupation specialty in Building construction?	① Agricultural farming ② Non-agricultural labor ③ Large/Medium business/Small business ④ Industrial worker/factory Worker ⑤ Service (Govt./NGO/Private) ⑥ Fisherman ⑦ Others
What is the average monthly Income level in your household?	
What is your household size? ( <i>Household size should include respondent and all children</i> )	
Do you have any member of your household who is into any of the following occupations	① Farming ② Trading ③ Civil servant ④ Service, Shop and Market Sales Workers ⑤ Technician/Carpentry/Welding or related fields ⑥ Student ⑦ Unemployed ⑧ Others
<b>PROJECT AWARENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY</b>	
Are you aware any construction /rehabilitation activities on this ECD/ECD Center?	① Yes ② No
From whom did you first learn about the project?	① Ministry of Education ② Staff of the center ③ Members of the community ④ Others.....
Do you think users or staff of the facility are well informed of plans to undertake renovations on the facility?	① Yes ② No ③ Can't tell
At what stage did you know there will be construction or rehabilitation work on this facility?	① When project was approved ② Before the construction started ③ After the construction started
Do you know how long the construction /rehabilitation work will last?	① Yes ② No
Does this community have a management structure in place to ensure the sustainability of the project as a beneficiary?	① Yes ② No ③ Can't tell Why?.....
Do you think the facility has a management structure that is able to ensure that the project is sustainable?	① Yes ② No ③ Can't tell Why?.....
How satisfied are you with your or other stakeholders involvement in the project	① Satisfied ② Normal ③ Dissatisfied ④ Very Dissatisfied ⑤ No idea
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF PROJECT</b>	
How do you best describe the current healthcare services?	① Very Good ② Good ③ Fair ④ Poor ⑤ I don't know
How do you best describe the status of current healthcare facilities in this community?	① Strongly Agree ② Agree ③ Don't Know ④ Disagree ⑤ Strongly Disagree
What constraints do you face due to the poor condition of the facilities?	① Poor learning environment ② Unmotivated staff workers ③ Others..... .....
Do you think the project activities are following best environmental practices?	① Yes ② No
What are the positive environmental and social impacts that will be associated with the project implementation? ( <i>Tick all that apply</i> )	① Improve teaching and learning environment and students ② Enhance performance of staff ③ Improve public health ④ Employment creation ⑤ Income generation ⑥ Better learning facilities ⑦ Safe and healthy working

	environment ⑧Others
What are the potential negative health, safety and environmental impacts that you think will be associated with project implementation ( <i>Tick all that apply</i> )	
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Project Implementation Organization will do enough to address your main environmental concern?	① Strongly Agree ② Agree ③ Don't Know ④ Disagree ⑤ Strongly Disagree
What do you think can be done to avoid/reverse the potential negative environmental impacts?	
9. What is your observation on the air quality within the community?	① Clean ② Not clean ③ Don't Know
What do you think could be responsible for polluting the air in your community	① Bush fires ② Dust from construction activities ③ Smoke generated from vehicle ④ Smoke from burning agricultural by-product ⑤ Open burning of waste ⑥ Household smoke/Cooking ⑦ Smoking ⑧ Others
How do you find the quality of the water within the community?	① Clean ② Not clean ③ Don't Know
What do you think could be responsible for polluting the water in your community	① Dumping of solid waste in water bodies ② Discharge of liquid water into water bodies ③ Oil spillage ④ Agrochemicals ⑤ Others
<b>SOCIAL IMPACT OF PROJECT</b>	
Do you have any relative or household member who works at the renovation site?	① Yes ② No
How satisfied are they with the working conditions?	① Very Satisfied ② Satisfied ③ Normal ④ Dissatisfied ⑤ Very Dissatisfied ⑥ No idea
Do you know anyone who has relocated his/her business activity due to the renovation work on this facility?	① Yes ② No
How would you gauge the impact of the Rehabilitation works on economic activity around the facility?	① Positive ② Negative ③ No idea
Why you think the construction or rehabilitation activity will have such an impact?	
What do you think can be done to address the negative impact on Economic Activity?	
Do you think the new/renovated facility will improve health service provision after completion?	① Yes ② No
How will the renovation/construction affect health service delivery in the community?	① Reduce congestion at service points ② Provision of new services ③ Improve quality of services ④ Improve physical condition of health infrastructures ⑤ Expansion of facility to handle more students ⑥ Others.....
Do you think the rehabilitation/construction will negatively affect health service delivery in this community?	① Positive ② Negative ③ No idea
How will it negatively affect health care delivery?	① Unavailability of some services in the community ② Increase congestion at the facility ③ longer waiting time at facilities ④ Others.....



What type of Care is likely to be most affected by the construction or renovation?	
How satisfied are you with the temporal measures adopted by the management of the facility to continue delivery of services during the construction/renovation works	① Very Satisfied ② Somewhat Satisfied ③ Not Satisfied ④ Very unsatisfied
Why are you not satisfied with the measures?	
What is/are your expectation concerning this project in terms of contributing to the socioeconomic wellbeing of facility users?	① Improve business opportunities ② Create employment opportunities ③ Increase accessibility to services ④ Reduce cost of using services ⑤ Others..... .....
How do you see the overall impact of this project on your livelihood?	① Excellent ② Good ③ Fair ④ Poor
Do you foresee the project having an impact on land availability and use in your community	① Yes ② No
What are the potential negative social impacts that you think will be associated with project implementation? <i>(Tick all that apply)</i>	① Unfair treatment and discrimination to workers ② Displacement of businesses ③ Disruption of healthcare services ④ Increase gender-based violence ⑤ Increase in communicable diseases and STDs ⑥ Promote child or forced labor ⑦ High in-flux of workforce
Does this project violate any of your rights?	① Yes ② No
How does the project violate your rights? Please explain.	

### Annex 3: Environmental and Social Codes of Practices

#### CHECKLIST 1 Environmental and Social Codes of Practice –

#### Renovation works at DIABUGU BATAPA ECD Center

#### Target: Construction Workers OHS/Project Supervisor/Facility Manager

#### **Worker Safety**

- ✓ The local construction and environment inspectorates and communities have been notified of upcoming activities
- ✓ The public has been notified of the works through appropriate notification in the media and/or at publicly accessible sites (including the site of the works)
- ✓ All legally required permits have been acquired for construction and/or rehabilitation
- ✓ The Contractor formally agrees that all work will be carried out in a safe and disciplined manner designed to minimize impacts on neighboring residents and environment.
- ✓ Workers' PPE will comply with international good practice (always hardhats, as needed masks and safety glasses, harnesses and safety boots)
- ✓ Appropriate signposting of the sites will inform workers of key rules and regulations to follow.

- ✓ All incidents and accidents will be logged and reported
- ✓ Only qualified individuals will operate equipment, machinery and vehicles

### **General Rehabilitation and/or Construction**

- ✓ During interior demolition debris-chutes shall be used above the first floor
- ✓ Demolition debris shall be kept in controlled area and sprayed with water mist to reduce debris dust
- ✓ During pneumatic drilling/wall destruction dust shall be suppressed by ongoing water spraying and/or installing dust screen enclosures at site
- ✓ Hazardous materials will be properly labelled, stored and maintained
- ✓ The surrounding environment (sidewalks, roads) shall be kept free of debris to minimize dust
- ✓ There will be no open burning of construction / waste material at the site
- ✓ There will be no excessive idling of construction vehicles at sites
- ✓ Construction noise will be limited to restricted times agreed to in the permit
- ✓ During operations the engine covers of generators, air compressors and other powered mechanical equipment shall be closed, and equipment placed as far away from residential areas as possible
- ✓ The site will establish appropriate erosion and sediment control measures such as e.g. hay bales and / or silt fences to prevent sediment from moving off site and causing excessive turbidity in nearby streams and rivers.
- ✓ excavation or trench will not remain open when not in immediate use

### **Waste Management**

- ✓ Waste collection and disposal pathways and sites will be identified for all major waste types expected from demolition and construction activities.
- ✓ Mineral construction and demolition wastes will be separated from general refuse, organic, liquid and chemical wastes by on-site sorting and stored in appropriate containers.
- ✓ Construction waste will be collected and disposed properly by licensed collectors
- ✓ The records of waste disposal will be maintained as proof for proper management as designed.
- ✓ Whenever feasible the contractor will reuse and recycle appropriate and viable materials (except asbestos)

### **Wastewater Treatment**

- ✓ The approach to handling sanitary wastes and wastewater from building sites (installation or reconstruction) must be approved by the local authorities
- ✓ Before being discharged into receiving waters, effluents from individual wastewater systems must be treated in order to meet the minimal quality criteria set out by national guidelines on effluent quality and wastewater treatment

- ✓ Monitoring of new wastewater systems (before/after) will be carried out
- ✓ Construction vehicles and machinery will be washed only in designated areas where runoff will not pollute natural surface water bodies.

### **Traffic Management**

- ✓ avoid obstructing or blocking public roads
- ✓ permanently maintain the flow of traffic during the construction
- ✓ Use proper signal measures for trucks entering and exiting work site

### **Emergency Disaster and Preparedness Plan**

- ✓ Fire safety measures will be designed including available firefighting equipment
- ✓ Hazardous response and containment plan operational
- ✓ Emergency response plans related to natural or man-made disasters fully functional.
- ✓ Regular training for staff, drills and evacuation tests, etc.

### **REFERENCES**

- WHO technical brief [water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management for COVID-19](#);
- WHO guidance on [infection prevention and control at health care facilities \(with a focus on settings with limited resources\)](#);

Annex 4. Consultation Attendance registers

**Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of the Rehabilitation of  
Selected TVET Centers, and Early Childhood Education Centres**

**Consultation Register**

Name of Local Government Area (LGA): Basse Administrative Area  
 Name of Facility: Diabugu Badapa  
 Date of Consultation: 15/03/2023

No.	Name	Gender	Name of District	Name of Community	Contact Number	Signature / Thumb print
1	Bintou Camara	F	Sandu Clusters	Diabugu	5019964	
2	Haja Drammel	F	Sandu Clusters	Diabugu	3214868	
3	Sora Camara	F	Sandu Clusters	Diabugu	2082986	
4	Nuno Drammel	M	Sandu Clusters	Diabugu	2369494	
5	Selayman Drammel	M	Sandu Clusters	Diabugu	3014632	
6	Ibrahim Ceesay	M	Sandu Clusters	Diabugu	9932226 3932326	
7	Yakya Ceesay	M	Sandu Clusters	Diabugu	3662044	
8	Sutay Jallow	F	Sandu Clusters	Diabugu	7607697	
9	Jantey Jallow	F	Sandu Clusters	Diabugu	5871306	
10	Omar H. Bah	M	Sandu Clusters	Diabugu	7017842 3181919	
11	Karim Barboe	M	Sandu Clusters	Diabugu	5332016	
12	Penda Jallow	F	Sandu Clusters	Diabugu	2260267	
13	Moniba Camara	M	Sandu PHO		3922195	







**Annex 5: Selected photos of Diabugu Batapa ECD Center**







