



AIDE MEMOIRE

BADEA's Mission for the Appraisal of Phase II of the University of The Gambia Project (21– 29 June 2022)

1. INTRODUCTION

A mission from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) composed of Mr. Ahmed Sidiya (Acting Head of Follow-up Unit /Mission Lead), Mr Mohamedou Bouasria (Economist/Capacity Development Officer) and Mr Khalid Elmughira (Young Professional) visited the Republic of The Gambia during the period of 21-29 June 2022.

The purpose of the mission was to appraise “Phase II of the University of The Gambia Project”, follow-up on the ongoing operations and discuss the pipeline of new operations.

The mission held a meeting with H.E., the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, who welcomed the mission and confirmed the strong relationship between the Government of The Gambia & BADEA and expressed gratitude to the mission for their prompt response to appraise this project following the encounter with BADEA at the Annual Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group’s meeting in Sharm Elsheikh in early June 2022. He had also expressed interest in having a high-level country programming mission for The Gambia with BADEA.

The mission also held a meeting with H.E. the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Technology, who welcomed the mission and emphasized on the importance of the University of The Gambia Project to the people of The Gambia and assured the Government’s commitment to completing the Lot I of the Fixed Package of the University of The Gambia Project by September 2022. He also expressed appreciation to BADEA for their prompt support in appraising Phase II of the University of The Gambia Project.

Additionally, the mission held meetings with implementing agencies responsible for implementing the ongoing operations in The Gambia. The mission’s findings, which were agreed upon by the relevant staff from the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Technology (MoHERST) and BADEA are recorded herein. It is understood that the commitments and conclusions recorded herein are subject to clearance by relevant Government of The Gambia Authorities and BADEA’s Management.

2. THE MISSION FINDINGS

1. Appraisal of Phase II of the University of The Gambia Project

The University of The Gambia Project is currently divided into two packages, namely: a fixed package (composed of two lots) and a conditional package. Currently, Lot I of the fixed package is being implemented through funding from the following donors: SFD, KFAED, BADEA, IsDB, and OPEC Fund.

Accordingly, the Government of The Gambia requested BADEA to finance Phase II of the University of The Gambia Project (Lot II of the Fixed Package). Hence, BADEA sent a mission to appraise the project. The mission visited the project site and examined project documents and discussed with relevant stakeholders the components of the project. Based on the outcome of the discussions with the concerned parties and the review of the relevant documents available, the mission and GoTG reached the following conclusions:

1.1 Project Location

The proposed project is located 500 meters from the village of “Faraba” which is part of “Kombo East” District which has a total area is 290 km². The project location is 45 km from the capital, "Banjul", to the west of the national road through The Gambia, and to the east of the town of "Brikama" and the town of "Madina Ba".

The estimated population within “Kombo East” District is around 64,000 inhabitants (50% men & 50% women) residing in 38 villages. Temperatures in “Kombo East” range from 24 to 28°C, with the wettest month being August with an average rainfall of 100 mm while annual rainfall is around 300 mm. The dry season is from November to May.

About 90% of the population in “Kombo East” practice subsistence farming with the main crops being maize, beans, cassava, sweet potato, Lettuce, okra, pepper carrots and eggplant. Additionally, some cash crops are produced in the area including groundnut, mango, orange, mandarin, and cashew. There are also some livestock activities mainly related to small ruminants such as goats and sheep and fishing activities in the river.

The area for the university is about 90 hectares surrounded by forest and agricultural areas. The site takes a slight slope of about 0.7% in the east direction, which allows rainwater to drain naturally into the drains located on the existing road.

1.2 Project Justification

The justifications for the project are as follows:

- The lack of a campus equipped with enough lecture halls, laboratories and a building for the chancellery to serve the students at the University of The Gambia.
- Weakness of communication between professors and students since the university is currently renting lecture halls across Banjul.
- The high costs that the university currently bears in return for renting offices for the academic staff due to lack of buildings for the different faculties and more specifically for this project, the faculties of law, agriculture, and environmental

sciences.

- Lectures are sometimes cancelled due to conflicting schedules with hosting institutions.
- The current setup of the university does not cater for laboratory sessions with adequate equipment for the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and a moot court for law students.

1.3 Project Objectives

General Objective: The proposed project aims in general to contribute to achieving Goal No.4 related to quality education, Goal No.5 related to gender equality and Goal No.9 related to industry, innovation, and infrastructure of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Specific Objectives: The proposed project aims in particular to secure 1600 additional study seats to meet the increasing demand for university education, and to contribute to fulfilling the country's future needs of specialized scientific cadres in various fields. It also aims to meet the needs of the country and the labor market, support economic and social development and contribute to alleviating poverty in the project area.

1.4 Project Description and Components

Project components include the following:

1. Civil works and its ancillaries which includes:
 - Construction of the following buildings:
 - Chancellery building with an area of 8,740 square meters.
 - Faculty of Law with an area of 4,800 square meters.
 - Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences with an area of 5,445 square meters.
 - External works which includes internal roads, parking lots for buses and cars, irrigation networks, landscaping works and the fountains at the main entrance of the Chancellery building.
 - Preliminary works.
2. Consultancy services which include supervising the implementation of works, preparing the monthly, mid-term and the project completion reports.
3. Supply of furniture and equipment which includes laboratory equipment, lecture room and office furniture which include desks, tables, chairs, filing cabinets, office sets, meeting/ conference room sets, classroom sets, white boards (normal & smart) for classrooms etc.
4. Project Management: comprises the costs related to the Projects Coordination Unit (PCU) which include covering the salaries and other related expenses such as fuel costs, furniture and equipment and operating costs.
5. Auditing of project accounts.

1.5 Estimated Cost of the Project

The cost of the project is estimated to be around USD 24.00 million of which

about USD 18.96 million in foreign currency (79.00%) and USD 5.04 million (21.00%) in local currency. The components of the project and the estimated cost of each are shown below:

The Project Cost (USD Million)

1.6 Financing Plan

Financier	Amount (USD Million)	Contribution (%)
BADEA	16.00	67%
IsDb	7.00	29%
GoTG	1.00	4%
TOTAL	24.00	100%

The Financing Plan of the Project (USD Millions)

Component	BADEA		IsDB		Government		Total
	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	
Civil Works & Ancillaries	11.60	67%	5.60	33%	0.00	0%	17.20
Consultancy Services	0.63	70%	0.27	30%	0.00	0%	0.90
Supply of Furniture & Equipment	3.00	79%	0.50	17%	0.30	4%	3.80
Project Management	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.35	100%	0.35
Auditing Project Accounts	0.00	0%	0.03	100%	0.00	0%	0.03
Sub-Total	15.23		6.40		0.65		22.28
Contingencies	0.77		0.60		0.35		1.72
Total	16.00	67%	7.00	29%	1.00	4%	24.00

1.7 Project Implementation

The loan will be borrowed by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA) as the designated representative of the Government of The Gambia (GoTG) which will then make its proceeds available to the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Technology (MoHERST) that will be implementing the project through the Projects Coordination Unit (PCU).

The PCU will provide coordination and fiduciary management of the project through its existing staff. The mission evaluated the readiness of the PCU to resume the implementation of the project and found it to be satisfactory. The key staff that will assist in managing the project will include Project Manager, Deputy Project Manager, Senior Financial Management Specialist, Financial Controller, Construction Program Manager, Procurement Officer, Assistant Procurement Officer, Quantity Surveyor, Environmental Safeguards

Specialist, Social Safeguards Specialist, Project Accountant, and a Stock Controller.

1.8 Loan Conditions

1.8.1 Effectiveness Conditions

- The GoTG shall provide BADEA with evidence to the effect that the Loan Agreement has been duly authorized and ratified according to the Governmental laws of The Gambia and procedures and legal opinion thereof.

1.8.2 Particular Covenants

- The GoTG shall secure budgetary allocation to cover its counterpart financing in the project.
- The GoTG shall cause the university to secure the required trained staff for the faculties of law and agriculture and environmental sciences by the time of the completion of the project.
- The GoTG shall cause the university to secure funding for the operation and maintenance of the infrastructure financed under this project.

1.9 Lending Conditions (BADEA)

The loan provided by BADEA will be based on the following financial terms:

Loan amount	:	US\$ 16 million
Loan period	:	25 years
Repayment period	:	21 years
Grace period	:	4 years
Interest rate	:	1.5%

The total grant element of the loan would be 35.17%.

1.10 Procurement of Works, Goods and Services Financed by BADEA

According to BADEA's Procedures and Guidelines and in coordination with the GoTG, the procurement of goods and services financed by BADEA will be carried out as follows:

- The procurement of civil works and its ancillaries will be carried out through change/variation order to the existing contract with the Contractor which will expire at the end of September 2022 and is expected to be extended when IsDB's loan is declared effective in July 2022. In the case that the contract is expired by the time BADEA's loan is declared effective, direct contracting shall be applied.
- Consultancy services will be obtained through modification/amendment or extension of the ongoing contract which will expire at the end of September 2022 and is expected to be extended when IsDB's loan is declared effective in July 2022. The option of engaging the Consultant through a single source selection shall be applied in the case that the contract expires by the time the project is declared effective.
- The procurement of furniture and equipment will be carried out through a local tender (for local suppliers).

1.11 Implementation Schedule

As shown in the following table, the project shall be approved by BADEA by October 2022 and the end of construction shall be in June 2024.

Activity	Date
BADEA Approval	October 2022
Loan Agreement Signature	October 2022
Declaration of Effectiveness	December 2022
Commencement of Construction	January 2023
Project Mid-term Review	September 2023
End of Construction	June 2024

3. Follow-up on Ongoing Operations

The mission held follow-up meetings with the executing agencies on the following operations:

1. Projects which include:

- **University of The Gambia**
- **Rice Value Chain Development**
- **Widening of Bertil Harding Highway**
- **Construction of Laminkoto Passimus Road**

2. Capacity Development Operations which include:

- **Pilot Project to Finance Food Security in Salinity Affected**
- **Technical Assistance in the Area of Microfinance to Support People with Disabilities**
- **Providing Drinking Water to Rural Schools**
- **Mangrove Restoration for Environmental Protection**

3. Urgent Response to Fight the COVID-19 Pandemic

The outcomes of the above-mentioned meetings are described in annex 1.

4. Completed/ To Be Cancelled Operations

The mission asked the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, to send cancellation request for the remaining balances of the loans/grants for the following operations:

- Support to Basic and Secondary Schools Education Project- BADEA Loan No. O790, a balance of USD 186,775.40
- Support to Social Development Fund- BADEA Grant No. G803, a balance of 34,525.00

5. Pipeline for New Operations

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs expressed its interest to pursue with BADEA a **Capacity Development Operation for Training of Cadres at the Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs** for which It was agreed that MoFEA will communicate and provide an official request and the operations' documents for it shortly.

Additionally, MoFEA had also conveyed to the mission that it is exploring some operations related to oil imports and will formalize it with BADEA's Management as well as a roads program to be finalized at the level of the country prior to programming operations with BADEA.

Acknowledgment:

The mission would like to thank all the officials of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Technology, Projects Coordination Unit of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Ministry of Agriculture, National Roads Authority and implementing agencies of other operations who have received the mission cordially and provided all the required support.

Signed on June 29th, 2022, in Banjul by the following:

For the Republic of The Gambia

For BADEA

Mr. Abdoulie Jallow
Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Finance
& Economic Affairs

Mr. Ahmed Sidiya
Acting Head of Follow-up Unit

Annex 1
Outcomes of the Follow-up Meetings on Ongoing Operations

1. Ongoing Projects

1. University of The Gambia (O711)

The mission visited the project site to follow-up on the progress of the Lot I of the Fixed Package of the University of The Gambia Project and had observed that the construction of the buildings is substantially completed. The only works remaining are painting of the buildings, steel structures, wastewater treatment plant and the supply of furniture and equipment. The Government shall exert its best efforts to complete the project by October 2022. A follow-up meeting was held between the Consultant, the Contractor, MoHERST and the mission. The following implementation timetable has been agreed upon:

Activities	Description	Timeline	Responsible
Supply of Furniture and Equipment	Launching of the Bidding Documents	July 2022	PCU
	Bid Evaluation Report	August 2022	PCU
	Contract for Furniture & Equipment	August 2022	PCU
	Supply of Furniture & Equipment	October 2022	PCU
Implementation of Civil Works	Completion Date	October 2022	PCU/Consultant/ Contractor

2. Rice Value Chain Development (O874)

A follow-up meeting was held between the mission, Islamic Development Bank, and the executing agency to agree on the way forward for the project. The following implementation timetable has been agreed upon:

Activities	Description	Timeline	Responsible
Technical Review of the Detailed Design	Terms of Reference & Official Request for selecting a consultancy firm to undertake this activity	July 2022	CPCU
	Conducting technical evaluation	August 2022	
Project Management Support	Official Request to BADEA for the required support	July 2022	

3. Widening of Bertil Harding Highway(O904)

A follow up meeting was held between the National Roads Authority (NRA) and the mission to follow-up on the progress of the project. The NRA conveyed that the progress of implementation has reached 19% as of May 2022. The progress rate by end of December 2022 is expected to reach 33%. Final completion of phase 1 is expected to be in June 2023 and phase 2 to be completed by April 2024.

Activities	Description	Timeline	Responsible
Procurement of PIU Support Items (Vehicles, furniture, and laptops)	NRA submitted to BADEA the evaluation reports for review and No-Objection	July 2022	BADEA
	Send to BADEA draft contracts for the items for review and No-Objection	July 2022	NRA
	Purchase of the items	August 2022	
Top-up Salaries for PIU	Processing of Disbursement Request	July 2022	BADEA

4. Construction of Laminkoto Passimus Road (O816)

The mission met with the National Roads Authority to agree on the utilization of the remaining balance and agreed on the following:

Activities	Description	Timeline	Responsible
Reconciliation of Outstanding Payments	Send to BADEA details of the remaining unpaid amounts.	July 2022	NRA

2. Urgent Aid Operations

Urgent Response to Fight the COVID-19 Pandemic

The mission met with the Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs and agreed on the need to operationalize the Urgent Response to Fight COVID-19 Pandemic with a financing envelope of USD643,000 (USD500,000 grant and USD143,000 reallocated from the Kotu Power Project). Below are the agreed upon activities:

Activities	Description	Timeline	Responsible
Provision of List of Equipment Funded Through the Operation	Provision of List of Equipment Funded Through the Operation	June 2022	BADEA
Cancellation of the Reallocated Loan Amount	Request for Cancelling the Reallocated Loan Amount of USD 143,000	July 2022	MoFEA
Creating a Taskforce with the Ministry of Health to Execute the Operation	Preparing tender documents and disbursement requests from the grant allocation	July 2022	MoFEA/MoH

3. Ongoing Technical Assistance Operations

1. Pilot Project to Finance Food Security in Salinity Affected Areas (G930)

The mission met with the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) with regard to the above-mentioned operation with a financing envelope of USD500,000 and agreed upon the following:

Activities	Description	Timeline	Responsible
Processing of the First Disbursement Request	Processing a request for 50% of the overall grant	July 2022	BADEA
Formation of a Steering Committee	Selection of the project location	July 2022	NARI
Preparation of Project Documents	Detailed costs and planning of the operation	July 2022	NARI

2. Technical Assistance in the Area of Microfinance to Support People with Disabilities (G995)

The mission met with a representative of the executing agency with regard to the above-mentioned operation with a financing envelope of USD500,000 and they intend to send the progress report for the operation in the month of July 2022.

Activities	Description	Timeline	Responsible
Formation of a Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing a progress report Providing an implementation plan Providing justifications for the utilization of the first disbursement 	July 2022	MoFEA/WellBoring West Africa

3. Providing Drinking Water to Rural Schools (G1026)

The mission met with a representative of the executing agency with regard to the above-mentioned operation with a financing envelope of USD150,000. The representative had conveyed that 8 schools were supplied with boreholes (7 solar pumps and 1 manual pump). Due to the rainy season, the remaining activities will be implemented in October/November 2022. 60% of the funds had been disbursed. The following had been agreed upon:

Activities	Description	Timeline	Responsible
Formation of a Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection of the remaining schools Providing a progress report Providing an implementation plan 	July 2022	MoFEA/WellBoring West Africa

4. Provision of Services of An Arab Expert for Teaching the Arabic Language

The mission met with the Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs with regard to the above-mentioned operation with a financing envelope of USD320,000. The below had been agreed upon.

Activities	Description	Timeline	Responsible
Selection of the Expert	Providing BADEA, the letter of the government's selection of the expert	July 2022	MoFEA

5. Mangrove Restoration Project for Environmental Protection (G1066)

The mission held a meeting with the Community Action Platform on Environment and Environment with regard to the above-mentioned operation with a financing envelope of USD25,000 to follow-up on the progress of the project. Despite the outstanding issues with receipt of the first payment to the amount of USD 14,600 which BADEA and CAPED are following up on, the following implementation timetable has been agreed upon:

Activities	Description	Timeline	Responsible
Procurement of 3 laptops	Bid Evaluation Report	June 2022	CAPED
	Procurement of 3 laptops	July 2022	
Services of Agricultural Specialist	Send to BADEA the CV of the specialist for review and No-Objection	June 2022	
	Send to BADEA the Draft Contract of the specialist for review and No-Objection	July 2022	
	Signing of the Contract between CAPED and the Specialist		
Purchase and transportation of 40,000 mangrove propagules, advertising materials and food, and water for volunteers	These activities will be implemented upon receipt of the above-mentioned payment.	July 2022	
Start Implementation	Commencement of the implementation of the project following the above-mentioned activities		
Attendance of BADEA Representative during the planting of mangroves	Send invitation to BADEA for attendance during the planting session	August 2022	CAPED/BADEA
	BADEA to undertake a verification mission		
Completion of the Project	Completion of the Project	September 2022	CAPED

Annex 2

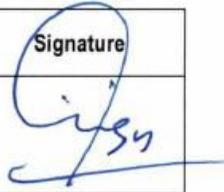
Attendance List for the Site Visit and Follow-up Meeting on the Progress of Lot I of the Fixed Package of the University of The Gambia Project

Fabara Banta University Project

Site Meeting #029

Date : Wednesday 22nd June, 2022 @10.30 AM

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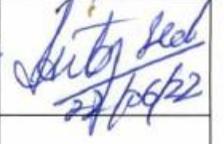
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Fabara Banta University Project

Site Meeting #029

Date : Wednesday 22nd June, 2022 @10.30 AM

Page :

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12	SIRTAJ SINGH BEDI	SPML	Sr. PROJECT MANAGER	3492570	SIRTAJ. BEDI @SHAPORJI.COM	 27/6/22

Annex 3
List of People Met in the Mission

Name	Position	Institution	Email Address
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