INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second issue of the EIF programme’s newsletter which is geared towards giving updates on both Tier 1 and Tier 2. The primary goal of this newsletter is to foster collaboration between the key implementing partners and the different stakeholders by communicating project plan including milestones and key success factors. The Gambia is implementing one EIF Tier 1 project and two Tier 2 projects with a total budget of about $6 million.

Trade Facilitation Project

The purpose of the trade facilitation project is here to facilitate trade by reinforcing logistics infrastructure and services at the Banjul International Airport through improved institutional arrangements, building capacity and providing support services to ensure transparent, secured and competitive airport services are available to exporters and small holder businesses.

After the successful completion of the recruitment of a consultant for the design and supervision of a modern cargo complex and the recruitment of a contractor for the construction, the project has started construction activities in January 2015.

Construction of the new facility is being implemented by Torodo builders under the supervision of Grupo Egara Terrassa Engineering and Consulting of Spain. The metals for the super structure are being manufacture and will arrive by the end of the second quarter for installation. Furthermore, tender documents for the scanning machine and cold room units are being prepared and will be advertised in the second quarter.
Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting

The first project management committee meeting in the New Year was held on Tuesday 3rd February 2015 at conference room of the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE). The PMC in the meeting reviewed the project’s reports also reviewed, validated the training plan and the communication strategy of the trade facilitation project.

The meeting was attended by members of the PMC who are stakeholders from line ministries and key implementing partners of the project. Overall feedback from the PMC was positive. The PMC recommended that the project should intensity sensitisation and construction activities.

EIF’s Participation in Trade Fair International Gambia

The Enhanced integrated framework attended and partnered with the Gambia chamber of commerce (GCCI) for the 8th edition of the trade fair Gambia International from the 7th to the 29th of March 2015. Trade fair Gambia International was organized to facilitate bringing buyers and sellers together and providing a platform for product, services and brand awareness. This attracted exhibitors from Europe, Asia and the ECOWAS sub-Region and over 37,000 people visited.

The platform was used to sensitize and promote the Trade Facilitation Project ensuring visibility of the project. The project sponsored three different small holder businesses that are in horticulture, fisheries, poultry and food processing.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The project was allowed to promote its objectives and results on unique FM radio (100.7) FM as well as West Coast radio (97.3) on 16 and 17th of March respectively.
- The project was acknowledged in all radio adverts and live phone in talk shows
- An Interview with a UK based TV station, BEN TV was held on the 19th of March 2015
- The project was given full page advert in The Trade Fair’s Catalogue
- The project was given full page advert in the business magazine of GCCI
- The Project was acknowledged as partners during the road promotion of the Trade Fair
Tier 1 project focuses on the support to National Implementation Arrangements; its objective is to build the capacity of the National Implementation Unit and Trade-Related institutions to assist in the implementation of the DTIS Action Matrix. This would help to deal effectively and efficiently with trade policy development and implementation, trade integration and facilitation for the greater benefit of The Gambian economy.

**EIF Global Platform**

The Gambian Delegation attended the EIF Global Platform held in Geneva. The delegation held meetings with the International Trade Center (ITC), the Implementing Agency of the Sector Competitiveness and Export Diversification Project. One of the major objectives of The Global Platform is to share and learn from various country experiences with the EIF programme. Issues discussed centered on the extension of the EIF to Phase 2 up to 2022. Specific issues discussed included the EIF Programme framework in the second phase and new and emerging issues to be included. The meeting of the EIF Global follows the approval and endorsement of an extension of the EIF to second phase by both the EIF Board and the EIF Steering Committee.

The delegation comprised of the Donor Facilitator (DF), the Turkish Ambassador to The Gambia Mr. Ergin Soner, Mr. Bai Ibrahim Jobe, Coordinator of the National Implementation Unit (NIU) and Mr. Modou Touray, Programme Officer of the NIU.

**TIER 1 Support to trade related institutions**

The tier 1 continues to support trade related institutions such as Ministry of Justice, Gambia Investment and Export Promote Agency (GIEPA), Gambia Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (GCCPC), Gambia Chamber Of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI). The project has disbursed over 1.5 million Dalasis towards implementation of trade related activities with these institutions.