The EIF Programme is to enhance the capacity of the Gambia to engage and maximise trade for national development. This requires the building of institutional and human capacities of the key drivers of trade in as a means of mainstreaming trade in the national development process as outlined in the DTIS Update. It is envisaged that with the EIF Programme, a comprehensive information and strategic focus is being provided by the DTIS Update, which is a tool that seeks to identify projects and priority areas for the enhancement of trade in the Gambia.

The newsletter aims to give an insight on the past events during the Quarter.
The Trade Facilitation Project through increased logistics, infrastructure and services at the Banjul International Airport project seeks to increase national participation in international trade through the improvement of airport services for exporters and SMEs in tourism, horticulture and fish export trade.

The actual facility for air cargo operations currently at BIA are below IATA standard given the non-existence of large scanners and cold rooms for perishables. Pallets are not scanned because of the availability of scanners.

The Trade Facilitation will enable BIA to meet international safety and security standard in handling cargo. Furthermore, the project will increase the number of airlines serving and accepting cargo from The Gambia.

The Project Management Committee (PMC) met for its quarterly meeting on October 6th 2014 to review the progress of implementation of activities of the Trade Facilitation Project. The meeting reviewed the Bi-Annual progress report from Jan to June and validated the monitoring and evaluation plan of the project.

Following an application from GIA to the National Environment Agency in September for environment approval to construct and operate a cargo facility, the said agency did an assessment followed by an approval in October. A training needs assessment exercise was conducted and concluded in NOV 2014 for the project staff and staff of other stakeholder institutions. The consultants identified both soft and technical skills for individual and institutional capacity development and to fill the existing gaps.

After a competitive bidding process, Torodo Builders emerged as the most responsive bidder. Torodo Builders, a Gambian construction firm, has been selected to build the Cargo Complex that will be equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities to facilitate the handling of perishable and non-perishable cargo at the Banjul International Airport. The construction is being supervised by, Egara, a Spanish consultant.