SDG 6 IWRM SUPPORT PROGRAMME

SDG 6.5.1 Stakeholder Consultation Report

The Gambia

Date: 2nd October 2023

Stakeholder Consultation Report The Gambia

Background:

Reporting request for SDG Indicators 6.5.1 on Integrated Water Resources Management;
In 2015 the Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets. Member States also agreed specific indicators to track their progress towards the 17 SDGs.
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the mandated custodian agency for three of the indicators under SDG 6 on water and sanitation: SDG indicator 6.3.2 on ambient water quality, 6.5.1 on integrated water resources management, and 6.6.1 on water-related ecosystems. As custodian agency, UNEP is responsible for supporting Member States in monitoring these indicators and ensuring these data informs global progress reporting.
As part of a globally coordinated SDG 6 monitoring effort, UNEP is invited countries to undertake data collection for indicators 6.5.1 during 2023.
This is the third cycle of global data collection following previous reporting in 2017 and 2020. This global monitoring has provided the basis for many on-the-ground activities in countries aimed at advancing national progress towards SDG 6 targets.

Executive Summary:
The Gambia participated in the first and second cycle of the reporting in 2017 and 2020 respectively. An official request was submitted to express Gambia's interest in participating in the third cycle and received Technical and Financial support to participate. The exercise aims to provide vital data in order to enhance monitoring thereby enabling evidence based decision making and planning. Accurate, reliable and up-to-date data is critical in implementing effective policies and programmes that promotes socio-economic and environment development. It is against this background that a Concept Note, with a Support Request and Budget templates are completed and submitted. A Task and technical Team has been set-up and a Facilitator was selected to facilitate the process as required. Funds were provided to the Gambia Country Water Partnership from Global Water Partnership (GWP) through GWP-WA to facilitate the data collection exercises. The completed survey can be found in a separate document (Completed Questionnaire) and refer to that document.
Upon receipt of the data collection documents, the National IWRM Focal point in collaboration with the Gambia Country Water Partnership (GCWP) facilitated the formation of a task team to coordinate the data collection process. Individuals from five key stakeholder institutions were identified. Selected members were contacted which was followed by an orientation meeting held at the Department of Water Resources. The purpose of the meeting was to orient them on the background of the monitoring and reporting on SDG6.5.1 (IWRM) in which the Gambia is participating and to discuss the questionnaires and to discuss the way forward. A Facilitator was selected to facilitate the process and the IWRM Focal Point and the Chief Hydrologist at the Department of Water Resources to serve as the Technical Team. Thirty stakeholder institutions were identified and a list was developed. The institutions to be engaged includes stakeholders from Government/ Public services, Basin level, and other groups such as water user groups, private sector, academia, NGO's environmental organisations, media, Local councils, and water resources management Practitioners. Options to engage stakeholders were also discussed.

Country Data collection process for SDG6.5.1 --The Gambia:

In the Gambia, the data collection process was carried out using the following approach:

a) Task team formed,
b) Identification of Stakeholders
c) Engagement options discussed and agreed upon,
d) Preparations of draft reports,
e) Draft reports reviewed by task team,
f) National stakeholder validation workshop,
g) Preparation of final reports incorporating comments from the workshop,
h) Submission of final reports.

Data Collection exercises

- Literature review: literature review was carried out inorder to capture any new laws or amandments, policies and/or plans areas that are within the IWRM framework, such as finance (National annual budget), gender, and youths and disable issues.
- A copy of blank questionnaires was sent to the listed stakeholders for completion. Stakeholders filled out the questionnaires through formal and informal consultations using email, phone and manual filling, Physical visits to some stakeholder institutions, Collection and compilation of filled questionnaires,
- Different stakeholder groups fill out the blank questionnaires which were collected, analysed and a draft report was prepared,
- The Facilitator, the Technical team and some members of the Task team held another meeting at the Department of Water Resources to review the draft reports and in line with the filled questionnaires and discuss the scores, status and the way forward.
- As part of the data collection process, the financial support includes organising a National stakeholder validation workshop to serve as a forum where stakeholder can critically review and validate the reports. With the receipts of funds from Global Water Partnership (GWP) through Global Water Partnership-West Africa (GWP-WA), the Gambia Country Water Partnership conducted a national stake holder validation workshop.

1. **Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 1: 'Enabling Environment'**

(a) As enabling environment is a key tool in the implementation of IWRM, there are challenges in this area which needs improvement. The main challenges to progress in the effective and efficient implementation of IWRM in The Gambia is due to some delay in the enactment of the bills that were developed from the National Water Sector Reform Project (Gambia Water Bill, National Water Resources Management Authority Bill and Gambia Metrological Authority Bill), These are requirements of the Gambia's IWRM Roadmap. This will enhance legal ground and clarity and the establishment of the required tools for implementing the Roadmap. Funding of IWRM activities is also a challenge, hence the need to enhance the level of awareness of stakeholders and stakeholder institutions on the implementation of IWRM principles and practices.

(b) These challenges can be address through regular follow ups with the relevant authorities for the enactment of the bills. The Government has shown interest in the implementation of IWRM in the Gambia and has taken actions towards the finalization and enactment of the bills. The Gambia Country Water Partnership and

the National IWRM Focal point are collaborating with the Ministry of Water Resources to ensure the enactment of the bills which will provide the required enabling environment. Enhanced mobilisation of funds inorder to embark on a mass sensitization and mobilisation of stakeholders is also required. This will raise awareness and participation. The goverment needs to increase budget allaocations and stakeholder institutions in the Gambia also needs to provide budget lines to support IWRM activities. The Gambia Country Water Partnership as a stakeholder platform promoting IWRM through advocacy, capacity building and information sharing needs to be supported by the Government and all other stakeholder institutions.

(c) The government has increased interest and commitment in the implementation of Gambia's IWRM Roadmap. The status of IWRM implementation has improved during the period. There are high hopes that with he enactment of the bills and availability of adequate and required funds there are high hopes that the Gambia can reach a high implementation rate by 2030. The is a need for annual reviews as a guide to keep track of progress on implementation and towards the achieving of plan objectives. Ther is need for the government of the Gambia and SDG6 IWRM support programme to support in the preparation of an IWRM Action Plan for the Gamnbia.

(d) There were no major point under this tool were stakeholders differ in views. All agreed that there is need to enact the Bills to enhance the present status of the enabling environment which will provide opportunity for active and meaningful participation. Minor differences in views arise during discussions. However, clarifications and explanations by the Facilitator, IWRM Focal Point and other participants have facilitated understanding and consensus among the participants.

(e) The forum has increased awareness among stakeholders. Many have discovered the importance of IWRM to the Sustainable Development Goals in contrast to the traditional method of water management practiced on sectoral basis. Many promised that they will do their best to advocate for the promotion of IWRM in their various institutions.

2. **Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 2: 'Institutions and Participation'**

(a) As institutional arrangements and participation are key tools in the implementation of IWRM, there are challenges in this area which needs improvement. The main challenges to progress in the effective and efficient implementation of IWRM in The Gambia has some delay in the enactment of the bills. Inadequate funding of IWRM activities is also a major challenge, hence the need for funds to support IWRM activities.

(b) The enactment of the Bills will enhance legal clarity and facilitate the establishment of the required institutions and increase stakeholder participation in the implementation of IWRM in the Gambia. The bills outlines the roles and responsibilities of institutions and will enable each institution to know what is required of them, likewise individual stakeholders. It will also raise the level of awareness, strengthen capacities for active participation in implementing IWRM principles and practices. Increase mobilisation of funds from potential funding sources will also address the challenges.

(c) The government has increased interest and commitment in the implementation of Gambia's IWRM Roadmap. The status of IWRM implementation has improved during the period. There are high hopes that with he enactment of the bills and availability of adequate and required funds, the Gambia can reach a high implementation rate by 2030. The is a need for annual reviews as a guide to keep track of progress on implementation and towards the achieving of plan objectives. Ther is need for the government of the Gambia and SDG6 IWRM support programme to support in the preparation of an IWRM Action Plan for the Gamnbia.

(d) There were no major point under this tool were stakeholders differ in views. All agreed that there is need to enact the Bills to enhance the present status of the enabling environment which will provide opportunity for active and meaningful participation. Minor differences in views arise during discussions. However, clarifications and explanations by the Facilitator, IWRM Focal Point and other participants have facilitated understanding and consensus among the participants.

(e) The forum has increased awareness among stakeholders. Many have discovered the importance of IWRM to the Sustainable Development Goals in contrast to the traditional method of water management practiced on sectoral basis. Many promised that they will do their best to advocate for the promotion of IWRM in their various institutions.

3. **Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 3: 'Management Instruments'**

(a) As managements instruments are among the key tools in the implementation of IWRM, there are challenges in this area which needs improvement. The main challenges to progress in the effective and efficient implementation of IWRM in The Gambia has some delay in the enactment of the bills. Inadequate funding of IWRM activities is also a major challenge, hence the need for funds to support IWRM activities.

(b) The enactment of the Bills will enhance legal clarity and facilitate the establishment of the required management structures and increase stakeholder participation in the implementation of IWRM in the Gambia. The bills outlines the roles and responsibilities of the required management structures and will enable each structure to know what is required of them, likewise individual stakeholders. It will also raise the level of awareness, strengthen capacities for active participation in implementing IWRM principles and practices. Increase mobilisation of funds from potential funding sources will also address the challenges.

(c) The government has increased interest and commitment in the implementation of Gambia's IWRM Roadmap. The status of IWRM implementation has improved during the period. There are high hopes that with he enactment of the bills and availability of adequate and required funds the Gambia can reach a high implementation rate by 2030. The is a need for annual reviews as a guide to keep track of progress on implementation and towards the achieving of plan objectives. Ther is need for the government of the Gambia and SDG6 IWRM support programme to support in the preparation of an IWRM Action Plan for the Gamnbia.

(d) There were no major point under this tool were stakeholders differ in views. All agreed that there is need to enact the Bills to enhance the present status of the

enabling environment which will provide opportunity for active and meaningful participation. Minor differences in views arise during discussions. However, clarifications and explanations by the Facilitator, IWRM Focal Point and other participants have facilitated understanding and consensus among the participants.

(e) The forum has increased awareness among stakeholders. Many have discovered the importance of IWRM to the Sustainable Development Goals in contrast to the traditional method of water management practiced on sectoral basis. Many promised that they will do their best to advocate for the promotion of IWRM in their various institutions.

4. **Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 4: 'Financing'** `

(a) The Gambia is among the poorest countries in the world. It is one of the least developed countries. The main challenge in financing of IWRM in the Gambia is that very little amount is allocated for water resources development. Allocations are made in the National recurrent budget on the promotion of IWRM. Government heavily relies on donors funding to take up its plans to establish effective IWRM implementation. Other public institutions, NGO's and the private sector also don't have budget lines for IWRM. However the present Department of Water Resource has provide an allocation for IWRM in its 2018 proposed estimates. Low level of awareness on IWRM is also a contributing factor to the low level of financial commitment and allocation for IWRM by stakeholders and stakeholder institutions towards allocating funds for the implementation of IWRM.

(b) The challenges can be address through increase donor support, massive sensitization and mobilisation of stakeholders from all sectors. This will increase commitment and participation and will facilitate the mobilisation of funds by creating budget allocations for the promotion and implementation of IWRM in the Gambia. Adequate and timely donor assistant is needed to enhance the availability of funds.

(c) All the participants agreed that there is the need for increased funding in promoting IWRM and its implementation.

(d) There were no major disagreement. Minors ones were addressed during the discussions.

(e) Most of the participant discovered the importance of funds in the promotion and implementation of IWRM in the Gambia. During the discussions, many discovered that there are activities that involve costs, some on low costs and some others on no costs. All areas and funding opportunities need to be explored. All the participants promised to embark on no cost activities in promoting IWRM. They also promised to engage their various institutions to enhance participation and funding.

5. **Next steps**

• Continuous advocacy and lobbying for enactment of the Gambia Water Bill, National Water Resources Management Authority Bill, Gambia Metrological Authority Bill. Enacting these bills will create the required Enabling environment; facilitate the establishment of the Institutional mechanisms and structures, Management roles and responsibilities for the implementation of IWRM in the Gambia.

• The Government of the Gambia to include budget lines in both the National recurrent and Development budgets for IWRM implementation. In addition the Government to support the Gambia Country Water Partnership in its bid to promote IWRM in the Gambia. Other stakeholder institution in the Gambia needs also to enhance support for the promotion of IWRM.

GWP, GWP-WA, and other Organisations needs to support Country Water Partnerships to facilitate funds for continuous annual data collections on SDG 6.5.1.

The Gambia Country Water Partnership and Ministry and Department of Water Resources are collaborating to develop an IWRM Action Plan in consultation and participation of stakeholders. Funds are required for the process. Donors are invited to support the process.

Priority action areas

To advance IWRM implementation overall in the country, the key priority areas includes:-

- Enactment of the three Bills,
- Mobilisation of funds to develop IWRM Action Plan
- To improve and strengthen capacity of the Data base at the Department of Water of Resources for Water Resources Management Information System (WARMIS) in the Gambia
- Mobilisation of fund for intensive and capacity building for national and decentralised stakeholder's institutions and structures

  Mobilise funds for more stakeholder's engagement to motivate participation and creation of budget line by stakeholder institutions to support IWRM activities in the Gambia.

5. Annexes

Annex 1: List of Participants
Annex 2: Agenda
Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments
Annex 4: Photos

Annex 1: List of participants

Workshop participants

Name	Organisation	Position	Email address
Mbackeh Jaiteh	National Electricity & Water Company	Senior Manager Water	mjaiteh@nawec.gm
Lamin K Manneh	Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs	Planner	Mannehlamin92@gmail.com
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	&National Assembly Matters		
Ndey Sireng Bakurin	GCWP/TANGO	Chairperson/Executive Director	ndeybb@gmail.com
Haddy Mboge	Gambia Country Water Partnership	Administrative Assistant/ Secretary	mbogeh@gmail.com
Muhammed I Jaiteh	Gambia Bereau of Statistics	Statistician	jaitehmuhammed@yahoo.com
Abdoulie Njie	Gambia Navy	Operations Officer	ndulajallow14@gmail.com
Ansumana Ceesay	National Environment Agency	Principal Environment Inspector	csaymori@gmail.com
Sheriffo Saidy	National Environment Agency	Environment Officer	ssaidy@gmail.com
Kajally Manneh	Department of Water Resources	Hydrologist	kmannaeh@gmail.com
Momodou BE Njie	Gambia Country Water Partnership	Executive Secretary	njiebawoi@gmail.com
Yusupha Bojang	Department of Water Resources	Hydrogic Supritendent/ National IWRM Focal Point	wallimang69@gmail.com

Other stakeholders engaged (not in workshops)

Name	Organization/Position	Email address	Summary of inputs provided
Chabba saidyleigh	Dept. of water Resoiurces	UNICEF focal point	chabasaidyleigh@gmail.com
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Foday Conteh	Dept. of Water Resources	Deputy Director	maoconteh89@yahoo.com

[Please note that this Annex is supplemented by information in Annex E of the SDG 6.5.1 survey, which reflects on the level of engagement from different stakeholder groups.]

Annex 2: Agenda

A National Stakeholder Workshop was held at NANA Complex on 29th September, 2023. The purpose of the workshop was for stakeholders to review and validate the draft reports prepared on data collected on SDG6.5.1 IWRM 2023edition in the Gambia. Participants are from a broad spectrum of stakeholder institutions from all sectors. The agenda includes:-

- Registrations
- Welcoming of participants and official opening of workshop,
- Presentations
- Sessions (discussions, comments, note taking etc),
- Wrap-up and closing.

Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments

A National Stakeholder Workshop was held at NANA Complex on 29th September, 2023. The purpose of the workshop was for stakeholders to review and validate the draft reports prepared on data collected on SDG6.5.1 IWRM 2023edition in the Gambia. Participants are from a broad spectrum of stakeholder institutions from all sectors.

The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters (Mr. Alhagi Nyagado), Chairperson GCWP/SC member GWP (Ndey Sireng Bakurin), Chief Hydrologist Department of Water Resources (Mr. Landing Bojang) also deputising the Director DWR, and National Coordinator Water and Sanitation Unit Department of Health Services Mr. Lamin Fadera) were at the high table. The meeting was presided over by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters. The workshop participants were from a broad spectrum of stakeholders from all sectors, all of whom has shown particular interest Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

The Chairperson, Gambia Country Water Partnership Mrs. Ndey Sireng Bakurin gave the welcoming remarks. She thanked participants for honouring the invitation. She gave a brief background of the rationale behind the study. In that she said that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the mandated custodian agency for three of the indicators under SDG 6 on water and sanitation: SDG indicator 6.3.2 on ambient water quality, 6.5.1 on integrated water resources management, and 6.6.1 on water-related ecosystems. As custodian agency, UNEP is responsible for supporting Member States in monitoring these indicators and ensuring these data informs global progress reporting.

As part of a globally coordinated SDG 6 monitoring effort, UNEP is invited countries to undertake data collection for indicators 6.5.1 during 2023.This is the third cycle of global data collection following previous reporting in 2017 and 2020. This global monitoring has provided the basis for many on-the-ground activities in countries aimed at advancing national progress towards SDG 6 targets.

The Gambia participated in the first and second cycle of the reporting in 2017 and 2020 respectively. An official request was submitted to express Gambia's interest in participating

in the third cycle and received Technical and Financial support to participate. The exercise aims to provide vital data in order to enhance monitoring thereby enabling evidence based decision making and planning. Accurate, reliable and up-to-date data is critical in implementing effective policies and programmes that promotes socio-economic and environment development. It is against this background that the Ministry and Department of Water Resource in collaboration with Gambia Country Water Partnership prepared and submitted a Concept Note, with a Support Request and Budget templates to UNEP and the Global Water Partnership respectively for technical and financial support.
She thanked UNEP, GWP, and GWP-WA for providing the necessary technical and financial support to facilitate the exercises in the Gambia. She also thanked the Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources &NAMs and Department of Water Resources for taking the lead and providing the enabling environment for the exercises. She challenged participants to use their expertise to critically review the reports.
The Permanent Secretary gave the opening remarks. He reiterated the Gambia government's stand in the promotion and implementation of IWRM for the attainment of SDG6.5.1. He explained that the Gambia, has developed an IWRM Road map, implemented a Water Sector Reform Project which developed three bills ie Gambia Water Bill, National Water Management Authority Bill and Gambia Metrological Authority bill which are at an advance stage for enactment. A National Water Resources Management Strategy was developed and the establishment of a Country Water Partnership was also facilitated all geared toward providing the enabling, environment, institutional instruments and management roles for effectively and efficiently implement the IWRM Road map. He emphasized the importance of regular and appropriate data for effective planning and decision making. He also thanked UNEP, GWP and GWP-WA for providing the necessary technical and financial support for the exercises. That it is government is fully committed to provide clean and safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities to the population, the conservation and preservation of our ecosystem and the environment and the attainment of the SDG's. He thanked participants for positively responding to the invitation and urged them to participate actively in reviewing the reports for validation. He officially declared the workshop open. This was followed by individual introduction by participants.
After the official opening, the gathering went out for a group picture. Upon returning, the Chief Hydrologist took over to chair the proceedings. The IWRM Focal Point and the Facilitator jointly presented the reports. Copies of the reports were issued in both hard and soft participants. It was agreed that we go through the questionnaire one after the other. The status descriptions and the way forward were followed in sequences and discussions and agreements were done for each of the questions. The outcomes of the various sections are outlined below.

The data collection exercise was seen to be very useful as expressed by all participated stakeholders who were from different sectors. The exercise is also said to be timely. All agreed that it will provide data for the Government of the Gambia and other users in the monitoring and reporting on SDG6.5.1. The data will also serve as improvement and updating the Baseline and the planned objectives set out for Monitoring and Reporting on status of IWRM implementation in th e countries that participated in the data collection exercises.
Stakeholders agreed that the exercise has raised their awareness on IWRM and its implementation in the Gambia. It serves to increase participation and commitment as

expressed by stakeholders. In addition the National stakeholder workshop has increased interaction, participation, commitment and understanding among stakeholders as it attracted stakeholders from various backgrounds.

The UN bodies, GWP, Multilateral and Bilateral institutions, regional bodies, Governments, NGO's, Civil Society, and the Private sector all need to participate in funding in the promotion of IWRM implementation and subsequent survey's to contribute towards the attainment of on SDG6.5.1 by 2030. The period of the exercise needs to be adjusted and adequate funds needs to be available on time to expand participation in the exercise. There is the need to support GWP, Regional Partnerships and Country Water Partnerships in their bid to promote IWRM.

Annex 4: Photos

Group photo of the national stakeholder validation workshop, NANA, 29th September 2023

Participants at the national stakeholder