

U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THE GAMBIA

OAR/BANJUL

JUNE, 1982

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United States assistance to The Gambia prior to its independence was fairly limited. In the period 1946 through 1961, some \$300,000 was provided to the country through the British Foreign Office. From 1962 through 1975 bilateral assistance was extended through food aid (totalling \$5.3 million), technical assistance (totalling \$1.1 million), and the Peace Corps (\$2.0 million), for a grand total of \$8.4 million. However, indirect economic assistance was provided to The Gambia during this period through the U.S. Government's contribution to various African regional and worldwide programs such as the West African Measles-Smallpox Campaigns funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in the mid-1960s.

The Gambia began to receive more direct U.S. Government assistance starting in 1973-74 as the great Sahelian drought wreaked havoc across West Africa. Even though it is a riverine country, The Gambia is entirely within the Sahelian climatic zone. During the drought, its cash crop and food crop production trailed off and environmental degradation set in. The U.S. Government attempted to help alleviate the situation by providing a significant increase in food aid. Food assistance has continued since then and is presently running at some \$600,000 and \$800,000 a year (excluding freight charges) which is in addition to periodic emergency food shipments in response to famine conditions, e.g., 1978 and again in 1980 and 1981.

In 1974, AID received permission from the Government of The Gambia (GOTG) to assign an Economic Development Officer in The Gambia and establish an office in Banjul, which reported to the Regional Development Office in Dakar. Along with the supervision of food aid and the various regional activities impacting on The Gambia, this small office began the task of planning and designing a cohesive bilateral assistance program for the country under AID's Sahel Development Fund. This

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bilateral effort was initiated in late Fiscal Year (FY) 1979 with signing of various project agreements, primarily in the agricultural area.

The size and direction of the present and proposed Mission program reflect GOTG development priorities and the U.S. Government basic human needs policies. Its aim is to help provide the knowledge, tools and techniques for the nation to make full use of its agricultural and forest base not only so that it can reap the rewards of increased productivity, but also so that it can better withstand future cycles of unfavorable weather. The projects themselves are intended to have the most positive impact on the rural sector and primarily on the rural poor. However, some of this impact has to be considered indirect inasmuch as an important part of this first round of projects is institution building. For FY 82 (October 1, 1981 - September 30, 1982) the Mission is budgeting \$4,350,000 for its bilateral program. In FY 80 and FY 81 these figures were \$4,680,000 and \$5,627,000 respectively, as compared to \$4,175,000 in FY 79. A substantial amount of money is also provided in support of Sahel-wide regional projects as well as other activities centrally funded from AID headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The following sections of this paper are intended to provide more detailed information about our current and proposed projects and their present status. We have divided the sections to separate projects funded bilaterally from those funded regionally. Unfortunately, on some of the regional projects we cannot be precise as to what proportion of their totals are directed towards The Gambia, per se. So we are not in a position to show the total precise value of U.S.A.I.D. assistance to The Gambia. However, the value of the regional project when added to the already impressive bilateral program, clearly establishes the USAID as a significant participant in The Gambia's economic and social development programs.

SECTION I

AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

SOIL & WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIT
(SWMU) PROJ. NO. 635-0202

DURATION: FY 1978 - FY 1982

AID FUNDING: \$2,517,000

GAMBIA FUNDING: \$ 711,363

PROJECT PURPOSE: To set up a Soil and Water Management Unit (SWMU) within the Government of The Gambia's Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MANR). This unit is intended to develop a technological capacity within MANR for improvements in agricultural and pastoral activities which are compatible with Gambian soil and water resources. An important objective of this effort is to improve the productivity and the net income of Gambian small farmers by providing them with more reliable and useful information upon which to make decisions. In addition, the SWMU is compiling and analyzing information which will be used in larger scale resource management decisions.

PROGRESS TO DATE: The opportunity and prospect for increasing the rate of progress and achieving the project objectives are very good at this time. Significant progress has been made in the last few months, including the establishment of the SWMU in the Department of Agriculture with budget and Gambian staff ^{equipped} with technical data available from the PASA Team's first tour.

The USDA/SCS PASA Team has finished the first two-year tour. The beneficial results are increased capability of the Gambian staff from on-the-job training and technical data generated by completing technical works. Tests of conservation practices were completed at two Mixed Farming Centers (MFC). These include contour farming and incorporating vegetative matter into the soil. Trials for selection of erosion-retarding grasses were carried out for seventeen species

of grass. Two species showed high erosion retarding capability and further tests will be made for further evaluation of these species. Standards and specifications have been drafted for nine cropland conservation practices and seven for rangeland management. These practices are being tested at village farms and grazing areas. They will be evaluated and modified as needed to meet the needs of The Gambia. Range sites descriptions identifying nine ecological communities have been prepared. These descriptions will be further refined as more data become available. Crop production data were used to prepare a soil productivity rating for a soil series and land capability units have been identified. Further checklist of Gambian Plants has been prepared which provides information about specific plants found in The Gambia.

PERSONNEL AND TRAINING: The DOA has provided the needed staff members as recommended. However, their education and training level are such that they need three years of U.S. university education and two years of on-the-job training to achieve the capability level as planned in the project design. A well qualified Gambian, was assigned to head the unit in April 1981. He has had six weeks of management training at Syracuse University, New York, and two months of technical field training at three locations with the USDA Soil Conservation Service and since returning, has taken the lead in field operations and assisted in selecting elements of a Gambian Soil and Water Management Program. He is expected to leave the unit in late 1982 to complete a Master's Degree program in the U.S.

Eight candidates have been selected, evaluated, and are assigned for the professional technical positions requiring university level training. Three participants have gone to the U.S. for university training and are enrolled in a degree plan for soil science, range management and agricultural engineering. One other candidate is ready to enroll in a U.S. university to train in Woodland Management. The credentials of the remaining four candidates are being evaluated for entering university training no later than September 1982.

Personnel for ten support positions have **been identified and are available** to work with the unit as needed. Preparations are being made to train these staff members in West African institutions. Ten SWMU Gambian staff members have received on-the-job training during the year.

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES:

1 Landrover station wagon - Yundum - USAID
1 V.W. "Kombi" bus - Yundum - USAID
Basic field equipment and supplies - Yundum - USAID
Basic office, laboratory equipment and supplies - Yundum - USAID
1 office building - Yundum - GOTG
3 houses - Mile 7 - USAID
Furnishings for 3 houses - Mile 7 - USAID
Technical library - Yundum - GOTG/USAID
Extension films - Yundum - USAID

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: This project is of priority importance as it addresses the preservation and maintenance of the soil and water resources of The Gambia. As the problems of soil erosion and water scarcity have not yet reached a critical level, this project is vital in preserving these resources and in preventing these resources from further degradation. The potential for increased erosion, loss of fertility and water pollution and losses is becoming more and more acute with the expanding human population. As greater pressure is exerted on the soil and water resource, the development of the SWMU is necessary in order to address the many problems created by these increased demands for land and water.

MIXED FARMING AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
PROJECT NO. 635-0203

DURATION: FY 1979 - FY 1984

AID FUNDING: \$6,000,000

GAMBIA FUNDING: \$1,620,000

PROJECT PURPOSE: To promote the intensification and integration of crop and livestock production within existing Gambian farming systems in order to increase net rural family income on an ecologically sound and sustained yield basis. The project consists of six components: (a) aerial photography of land resources for use in evaluation and classification; (b) improved crop and forage production and management; (c) grazing areas development and management; (d) improved rural technology; (e) strengthening ministry planning and evaluation capacity and (f) agricultural skills, training and communications.

PROGRESS TO DATE: The project has moved ahead with good progress in all of the active components. Aerial photography was completed satisfactorily except for certain black and white prints which need further enhancement. Fencing of the pasture enclosure trial plots has proceeded on schedule with good cooperation of the Livestock Owners Associations. Feeding trials of farm crop residues and gamba grass was carried out by the Forage Agronomists at Yundum. The training programs were developed and conducted for the maize technical package with a course at Jenoi and Yundum. The training program for the enumerators was completed, motorcycles allocated, enumerators posted in villages and the final questionnaire duplicated in volume. Team member performance evaluations were completed and forwarded to the respective universities and new work plans for the current calendar year were completed.

In February, the first full fledged Mixed Farming Project meeting with the Permanent Secretary and Under Secretary was held where all team members and counterparts were present in addition to the Acting Director of Animal Health & Production, AID Representative and AID Agricultural Development Officer. This provided a good opportunity to discuss progress and to have a give and take exchange on current and potential issue and problems. The Permanent Secretary stated it was a useful meeting and proposed continued monthly meetings of this nature be held.

TRAINING: *To date, there are three participants in B.Sc/Agronomy programs; one in B.Sc/Rural Sociology; one in B.Sc/Agricultural Education; one in B.Sc/Range Management; one in B.Sc/Technical Journalism and one in M.Sc/Animal Nutrition. All are studying in the United States. There are also four participants receiving diploma level training in Animal Husbandry in Nigeria. Five participants have returned from the U.S. where they received short-term training in agriculture and extension.*

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES:

*2-7 ton Bedford trucks - USAID
2 LandRover station wagons - USAID
2 Toyota land cruisers - USAID
1-22 passenger bus - USAID
74-100 cc Motorcycles - USAID
3 M.F. 265 tractors - USAID
5 Senior Staff houses - USAID
1 Office block (4 offices) - GOTG
4 separate offices - GOTG
2 warehouses - GOTG*

GAMBIA REFORESTATION
PROJECT NO. 635-0205

PROJECT DURATION: FY 1979 - FY 1984

AID FUNDING: \$1,575,000

GAMBIA FUNDING: \$ 233,000

PROJECT PURPOSE: (a) To study the possibility of large-scale exploitation of mangrove forest, including utilization and charcoal production technologies; (b) to improve management of natural woodland with special reference to economically important local species; (c) to improve upon the operation of harvesting and processing of local timber by providing the necessary equipment and plant to improve production at Nyambai sawmill; (d) to establish 1,300 ha. of *Gmelina arborea* plantations for fuelwood, poles and timber production as well as to establish 50 hectares of pilot village level woodlots; and (e) to promote the use of fuel efficient wood stoves by training a cadre of stove builders and demonstrating the effectiveness of the stove by installation of the stoves in both the rural and urban sectors of The Gambia.

PROGRESS TO DATE: The project was evaluated in March, 1982 and the preliminary report was submitted to OAR/Banjul. The final evaluation report has been pouched, but not yet received by OAR/Banjul.

During the 1982 growing season, 215.75 hectares will be replanted in *Gmelina arborea* as a result of the forest fires which destroyed last year's tree crop in the Salagi plantation. Another 180 ha will be sown at Finto Manareg. To date, there has been 381 ha clear felled at this plantation.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: The project is progressing on schedule. Working relationships with the Ministry of Agriculture from the Permanent Secretary to the Department Directors, to the field extension services, to the farmers and livestock owners have been very satisfactory.

Ten hectares are to be planted at six villages throughout The Gambia under ten project's village woodlot program. To date, five hectares were previously established, one of which failed due to a late planting. All of the fence post and fencing materials for the 1982 season have been delivered to the villages. There are currently three Peace Corps Volunteers assigned to three of the villages in which woodlots are being established. They are involved in extension efforts with neighboring villages and are establishing small nurseries on the village level. Two more PCV's are scheduled to join the Forestry Department in July 1982 and will be assigned to villages with woodlots.

The project's sawmill component is scheduled to consolidate the equipment specifications in May and to begin procurement of equipment in June, 1982. The entire unit is envisioned to be functioning by mid-December, 1982 as the equipment shed should be completed and the equipment installed.

The woodstove component of the project is being held in abeyance until a meeting is called in order to decide how the various woodstove projects in the country are to be coordinated. To date this pilot program has trained 170 stove masons and produced approximately 160 stoves of which 75% are still in use.

The project's participant training component has trained four students at the diploma level all of whom have returned from Nigeria and are currently being assigned to their posts in the Forestry Department. There has been one participant trained in sawmill maintenance and operation in the United States who is presently the officer in charge of the Nyambai sawmill. Another participant has recently returned from the United States where he was trained in sawmill maintenance. He will be assigned to the Nyambai unit.

Presently there is one participant studying in Tanzania for his B.Sc in Forestry and one participant studying sawmill operation for an Agricultural Agronomy degree in the U.S. Another participant is in the U.S. studying for a Masters Degree in Forest Management and Silviculture. He is being funded by SAFGRAD, but will return to the Forestry Department and will work with the plantation and woodlots component of the project. The Acting Director of the Forestry Department attended two short-term study tours/workshops on tropical forestry and remote sensing in the U.S.

Due to a shortage of mid-level personnel in the Forestry Department it is anticipated that one participant will be identified to study for a B.Sc degree in the U.S. He/she will major in Forestry and minor in management with several courses in accounting and finance. One participant is scheduled to leave for the U.S. in August, 1982 to do a diploma course in rural communication for the extension component of the project.

The Extension Aid Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources was to have produced films for the Forestry Department's extension program. Due to lack of equipment, the absence of trained personnel and management officers, the films have not been produced. This is expected to be rectified with the return of the unit's Director in June, 1982. Equipment has been recently received and more is on order. The project expects to purchase several films from outside sources in order to improve the Forestry Department extension effort.

Weekly radio programs concerning forestry have been broadcast on a scheduled basis since the end of 1979 as part of the project's input. The Project Paper called for an indepth study of the mangrove forest at Yelitenda to be studied for possible methods of exploitation. The study was conducted and the subsequent recommendations were presented to the GOTG in the final report.

RURAL ROADS MAINTENANCE SYSTEMS
PROJECT NO. 635-0206

DURATION: FY 1979 - FY 1983
AID FUNDING: \$ 4,744,000
TOTAL FUNDING: \$11,400,000

PROJECT PURPOSE: This project will improve the equipment maintenance and management system of the Ministry of Works and Communications Public Works Department, which in turn is expected to lead to better primary and secondary road maintenance. AID is financing the construction and equipping of a central workshop complex, and is providing onsite training and technical assistance. This AID project is a key part of an \$11.4 million multi-donor effort to upgrade and extend the COTG's capacity to maintain its primary and secondary road network.

PROGRESS TO DATE: Louis Berger, International (LBI) was selected to carry out the management study and engineering design of the central workshop. The contract was signed January 2, 1981. The first two team members arrived March 14, 1981.

LBI has prepared the final bid documents and the plans and specifications for the construction of the workshop. A prequalification announcement was made on February 8, 1982, and a short list of eight prequalified firms was established in April. The tentative date for giving the invitation for bid to the prequalified firms is July 1, 1982.

POTENTIAL PROBLEM: The cost estimates for the workshop are 2.0 million dollars over the amount in the project authorization. A request for additional funds was sent to AID/W in June. The IFB will not be issued until we have a response to the request.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: This project can be of critical importance to the country's resources base. Complementary projects are being financed by the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and FAO. Present trends indicate that the country will have virtually depleted its forests by the turn of the century. The training and media outreach components of this project are positive starts in what will have to be an intense effort on the part of the GOTG and the citizens of Gambia to protect, conserve, and properly utilize their forest resources. The GOTG, to date, has not responded to the recommendations offered in the Mangrove Feasibility Study. This issue should be addressed immediately as the mangrove resource is a potential major supplier of energy for the country. More concerted government attention to fire hazard and loss is also needed.

COOPERATIVE TRAINING & EDUCATION
PROJECT NUMBER 635-0208

DURATION: FY 1980 - FY 1983

AID FUNDING: \$500,000

PROJECT PURPOSE: The purpose of this project is to improve cooperatives through increased and upgraded training of the cooperatives' managers and members. Under this project, training will commence at the village and primary cooperative society levels. Eventually training at the divisional and national levels will be included.

PROGRESS TO DATE: There is a well-documented need for upgrading membership of cooperatives in The Gambia. With the vast increase of GOTG and donor economic development activities involving small farmers and the consequent need for cooperative credit and marketing responses, it is critical that cooperatives be improved if members are to gain maximum benefit from these activities.

Through the Cooperative League of U.S.A. (CLUSA), AID will provide a program of Cooperative member education. CLUSA hired Mr. Thomas Winn as the Cooperative Education Adviser, in September 1980. He works at the Cooperative Training Center in Yundum. The first training of employees in the Department of Cooperatives took place from mid-February 1981 to mid-March 1981, a total of 24 Cooperative Inspectors/Education graduated. The Cooperative Education Adviser Mr. Thomas Winn was assisted in the training by Dr. Larry Frankel of World Education. Motorcycles purchased by AID were distributed to the Cooperative Trainers to assist them in their work in the field.

In February of 1982 another consultant Mr. Frank Dall arrived who trained the same Cooperative Inspectors/Education (CIEs) in how to teach numeracy to Cooperatives members.

THE CIEs are now carrying out the Cooperative Member Training through radio listening groups, Bantaba discussion groups and outdoor classrooms.

The project was evaluated in February 1982 and is considered a success. A modification of the goals is recommended to expand the numeracy component and add an expert in the field. A proposal to amend the project for an additional \$500,000 and a one year extension has been submitted to AID by CIUSA.

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

Although we do not intend to involve ourselves in the education sector per se, we have in recent months facilitated visits by Michigan State University and University of Massachusetts with the Gambia Non-Formal Education Center. MSU was interested in establishing links with the NFE Center and paid a short visit late last year. U.Mass conducted a 6-week methodology study in The Gambia to determine various needs of specific sectors for literacy and/or numeracy. They were assisted by Gambian counterparts from the NFE center who can continue with similar studies themselves.

The above activities have also been useful in other projects that involve literacy or numeracy training such as the Cooperative Training project operated by CLUSA and the Literacy project operated by CRS and the National Literacy Advisory Committee.

GAMBIA RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT NO. 625-0012

DURATION: FY 1981 - FY 1985

AID FUNDING: \$13,394,000

PROJECT PURPOSE: To develop the OMVG High Commission into an effective coordinating agency for the development of the Gambia river basin. This objective is being approached through (a) the provision of long-term technical specialists to augment and train the OMVG staff and (b) the execution of special investigative activities, to include: aerial photography and mapping of the entire basin; a socio-economic study aimed at providing baseline information on existing socio-economic patterns in the riverine portion of the basin; and an environmental impact study focused on river ecology, public health and wildlife/vegetation.

PROGRESS TO DATE: Three long-term specialists (Natural Resources Economist, Rural Sociologist/Anthropologist and an Environmentalist) have been recruited and will join OMVG in the near future, a fourth specialist is under consideration. The aerial photography component is well underway with twenty-five percent of the high-altitude and sixty-five percent of the low-altitude photography completed. The contractor to undertake the socio-economic and environmental impact studies is in the process of being selected with work scheduled to begin under these components within several months.

In view of the imminent transfer of the OMVG headquarters from Kaolack to Dakar, arrangements are underway to transfer AID project management responsibilities from Banjul to USAID/Dakar in mid-June, 1982.

GAMBIA OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTER
(GOIC) PROJECT NUMBER 635-0215

DURATION: FY 1978 - December 31, 1982

AID FUNDING: \$2,000,000

PROJECT PURPOSE: To develop a community-based institution for the agricultural skills training of selected primary school leavers and for the establishment of the institution's graduates in a productive work environment in rural Gambia.

PROGRESS TO DATE: This project stems from efforts by a philadelphia-based organization named Opportunities Industrialization Center, which was formed in the wake of the U.S. race riots in the mid-1960's to help train and find productive work for unemployed youths. Through an AID grant, it has been attempting to extend its experiences and approach to lesser developed countries.

The Gambia project, which is one of several in West Africa, can be traced as far back as 1975, though it wasn't granted its funds until October 1977 and didn't actually get off the ground until the following year. To date, it has succeeded in building an impressive training site on the North Bank (near Farafenni), some 120 miles from Banjul. The site is staffed with both Gambians and third country nationals and is supervised by an American employee of OICI, C. L. Mannings. A total of 81 students graduated and less than that number are presently farming.

The original grant period ended December 31, 1981. OAR/Banjul was requested by OICI and the GOTG to fund a Phase II which was turned down. The reasons were mainly the low return for the funds expended. AID has opted to provide funds for one year to resettle all interested previous graduates and maintain the property, equipment and vehicles. By December of 1982, a decision must be made regarding who to turn the GOIC center and its equipment over to.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING CENTER
ACCELERATED IMPACT PROGRAM
PROJECT NO. 698-0410,06

DURATION: FY 1978 - FY 1981

AID FUNDING: \$380,000

PROJECT PURPOSE: The Government of The Gambia considers the strengthening of the Department of Community Development (DCD) imperative for three reasons: (a) To improve the quality of life in rural areas, and to redress the urban-rural income imbalance that is now estimated at about four times higher in urban areas than in rural areas. (b) To control partially the rural-urban drift by improving the quality of life through community generated initiatives. (c) To help improve rural living standards through self-help as a consequence of limited government funds.

The project will enable the DCD to embark upon a long-term program for periodic retraining of existing Community Development Assistants and for training of new personnel. It will serve as part of a larger Gambian government program to relocate the DCD to a major center up-country.

The AID specific purpose is to fund the construction of a dormitory, classroom building, and a building for the kitchen, dining room and library.

PROGRESS TO DATE: The Domestic Science, classroom and lecture hall building and the dormitory structure are completed. The third building which will house the kitchen, library and dining room is almost complete. All that remains is the fencing around the center and purchase of shelves, desks, books, etc., for the library. The Government of The Gambia has constructed a fourth building at their expenses for offices and an assembly hall.

A COMMUNITY BASED INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM - PROJECT NUMBER 635-0217

DURATION: FY 1981 - FY 1983

AID FUNDING: \$299,597

TOTAL FUNDING: \$401,280

PROJECT PURPOSE: This project which provides funds to a U.S. Private Voluntary Organization, Save the Children Federation will assist in upgrading the ability of the Community Development Assistants of the Department of Community Development, working in the districts of Upper Niimi, Niimi and Jokadu plus the Senior Community Development Assistant in Kerewan to perform their job duties. In addition, the curriculum of the National Community Development Training Center, funded by an AID AIP grant will be reviewed and upgraded to improve training and effectiveness of CDA's in general.

Eight CDAs in the above three districts, after receiving training, will work in five villages each. A total of 40 villages will have village development committees started and at least two projects will have begun in each village during the two year period, for a total of 80 projects.

The project will be evaluated to determine the effectiveness of the community based integrated rural development methods as a feasible model for replication elsewhere in The Gambia.

PROGRESS TO DATE: The field project manager arrived on March 13, 1982 and is well underway in establishing an office and a work plan in coordination with the Department of Community Development.

PROBLEMS: Disbursement of funds is presently held up due to reconciliation of financial records. In addition the project activity completion date expired March 19, 1982 and AID/W still has not approved an extension.

REGIONAL FOOD CROP PROTECTION (PHASE II)
PROJECT NUMBER 625-0928

DURATION:	FY 75 - 78	FY 79 - FY 82, ends Sept.82
AID FUNDING:	\$682,000	\$ 735,000 (Gambia,
TOTAL FUNDING: (AID)		\$8,233,600 (7 countries)

PROJECT PURPOSE: Upgrade the country's Crop Protection Services (CPS) to (a) aid in the control of crop damage by pests such as insects and birds; (b) to aid in the control of crop damage by disease; (c) to increase the availability of pesticides and control techniques by supplying certain items of equipment (sprayers and dusters) as well as motor vehicles and providing training to national personnel in the safest and most effective methods of application of pesticides.

PROGRESS TO DATE: The project is in it's second phase, the first phase beginning in September 1976 and ending in July 1979. The project has shown substantial progress toward the ultimate goal of increasing food production by decreasing production losses due to insect, bird and disease damage to crops. In order to accomplish this goal, the CPS has increased its field staff and its physical facilities as follows:

Personnel: 6 spray teams - 8 men each
1 contract spray team
1 six-man research team
1 new phytosanitary division of eight inspectors
1 Gambian Director
1 Peace Corps Volunteer Entomologist
1 Gambian Plant Pathologist
1 Gambian Field Supervisor

Equipment: 5 trucks
2 station wagons
6 pick-up trucks

20 motor-bikes

68 sprayers

10 dusters

Training: 3 participants returned from U.S. study tours
2 participants in Nigeria for higher certificate
in Crop Protection (2 year program)
4 participants to go to U.S. for short-term training
FY 1982
1 participant has completed correspondence course
at the University of Washington and is now in
Nigeria for higher training.

Training in the Gambia is well established with one in-service course in Phytosanitary Inspection completed and with courses in Pesticide Management and Insect Identification completed in 1981. Currently, there is an in-service course being conducted in Pesticide Management and Insect Identification.

There are farmer training courses currently being conducted in Jenoi by the CPS team, and radio programs on pest control have been broadcast to the agricultural community.

Facilities: 2 storage warehouses
1 office block warehouse
1 renovated office/lab block

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: This project is of critical importance to not only the country's resource base, but to the Sahel region in general, as The Gambia's component of the project is but one of seven participating countries. Complimentary projects are being conducted in Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde and until recently, Chad in the Sahel, and Cameroon, and Guinea Bissau outside the Sahel.

Since most of these countries share similar problems with crop pests and disease, the contribution of one country will have a positive effect for the region as a whole.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)
PROJECT NO. 625-0928

DURATION: INDETERMINED

AID FUNDING: INDETERMINED

PROJECT PURPOSE: A major regional project is underway directed at improving crop protection practices of Sahel farmers. This activity relates closely to the objectives of the Food Crop Protection Project. Successful adoption of the techniques introduced by these projects will increase the availability of domestically produced cereals for local consumption. One of these projects provides the technical guidance for establishing and strengthening national plant protection agencies. These agencies make available, through extension services, information that assist farmers protect their crops. The other project is an adaptive research activity aimed at strengthening pest management research programs of national research agencies. Crop protection techniques will be developed that integrate the use of physical, biological and chemical controls. This project will ultimately provide inputs into the former project.

Strong national plant protection services are necessary for sustained progress in the reduction of crop losses from weeds, predators and disease. At the same time, pests and disease transcend national boundaries, many aspects of research can best be dealt with at broader ecological levels. The best use of scarce personnel and financial resources requires the avoidance of duplication of national effort. These considerations dictate a regional approach to many of the problems of crop protection.

Appropriately crop protection activities are currently being directed at rain-fed crops. However, as river basin development proceeds and irrigated lands are developed attention will be given to crops under irrigation. The improved micro-climate of an irrigated field not only

encourages the crops growth but also the growth of weeds, the propagation of insects and the rapid growth and spread of plant diseases.

PROGRESS TO DATE: *Launching the Integrated Pest Management project has been fraught with difficulties which has caused considerable loss of time. The problems have essentially revolved around developing appropriate bureaucratic relationships and discussion of responsibilities involving a spate of organizations, CISS, the Sahel Institute, AID (the principal funding source), FAO (the designated implementing agency and the sovereign Sahel nations). Until very recently, these problems have been so intransigent that it appeared the project would be cancelled; however, it now appears that sufficient improvements have been agreed upon to once again reactivate the activity some two years later than originally scheduled.*

SAHEL WATER DATA NETWORK & MANAGEMENT II
AID REGIONAL PROJECT
HEADQUARTERS NIAMEY, NIGER

DURATION: FY 1982 - FY 1986

AID FUNDING: \$7,000,000

PROJECT PURPOSE: To develop a regional system, including national elements, which will record, process, interpret, transmit, disseminate, and document complete, timely accurate, and meaningful weather and climatic data in the Sahel.

The regional center in Niamey is fully established as far as buildings and equipment is concerned. There is still a serious shortage in local professional and technical manpower. Training programs have been taking place as scheduled, but no operational activities have been undertaken due to manpower shortage. It is expected that trial operational activities will start this wet season.

The Gambia portion of the project is well into its operational phase. The local station and telecommunications networks are in place and operational. The National Central Forecast office and Telecommunications hub are in operation. The computer is in operation. Local production, such as reports, forecasts, analyses and advice have been provided for some time, and little difficulty is seen, at the national level, in making operational connections to the regional center.

Further training and upgrading of equipment remains to be done. In the future major efforts will be devoted to the application of agrometeorological data to the needs of the rural population particularly during the planting and harvesting seasons.

SECTION II

HEALTH, POPULATION, NUTRITION, FOOD FOR
PEACE

STRENGTHENING HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEMS

PROJECT NUMBER 698-0398

DURATION: FY 1978 - FY 1982

TOTAL FUNDING: This is a \$20,000,000 project in 20 countries of West and Central Africa

AID CONTRIBUTION TO THE GAMBIA: (a) Technical services of Operations Officer and Epidemiologist. (b) Measles vaccine to government of The Gambia. (c) Short term training. (d) Vehicles and equipment-refrigerators/freezers, injectors.

PROJECT PURPOSE: Objective III of the Strengthening Health Delivery Systems Project is to strengthen epidemiology and immunization services in the SHDS countries. The Gambia has been chosen as demonstration training zone for the 5 Anglophone countries in West Africa (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria and The Gambia).

To improve regional and national disease surveillance systems and health demographic data systems and integration of these systems into national health planning delivery systems.

The program started in The Gambia in 1979. The first two officers left after a tour and the replacements for the Operations Officer and Epidemiologist from the Center for Disease Control are in place. The program has continued to gather strong support from the GOTG. However, they are not able to absorb all recurrent immunization costs at this time which was originally envisioned at the end of project life. Several evaluations have been conducted in recent months which have rated the operations and progress (70 percent immunization rate) of the project very highly.

PROBLEMS: The project is to end December 1982, with only a small chance that it may be extended. If it is not, it is unclear as to how The Gambia will fit into the project replacing SHDS, Combatting Communicable Childhood Disease (CCCD). A cable has been sent to AID/W requesting assistance for program continuation beyond this year.

P.L. 480 TITLE II

DURATION: Continuing

AID FUNDING: FY 1981 - \$1,021,000

PROJECT PURPOSE: *To improve the nutritional status of food deficient segments of the Gambian population with particular emphasis on women of child bearing age and their young children.*

PROGRESS TO DATE: *Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the voluntary agency through which AID channels food aid in The Gambia, has reached a total of 50,000 women and children this year under its Maternal/Child Health (MCH) program, which is about double its previous high. Also some 500 sick and disabled persons are receiving PL-480 food through GOTG and private social welfare organizations.*

In conjunction with the provision of food under the MCH program CRS also provides mothers with health and nutrition education lectures and maintains a monthly record of their children's nutritional status based on weight-for-age surveillance charts.

CRS is also a funnel for a form of AID assistance called generic grants, which are intended to support relatively small, local development projects. There are four such projects totalling some \$370,000 currently being implemented in aquaculture, pre-school food/nutrition expansion, oil seed production and literacy.

CRS has changed the food mixed provided in Gambia. Each participant now receives powdered milk, rice, and vegetable oil.

Last year the CRS program in The Gambia was audited and five recommendations were made for improvement. CRS was instructed to not consider any expansion of the program until the audit recommendations were implemented and the audit cleared. All audit recommendations have been carried out and we are waiting for final clearance from AID/W.

In addition the CRS program was cut from 33,500 to 30,500 recipients. As a result CRS opted to cancel the pre-school and food for work program in order to keep MCH at 30,000.

PROBLEM: *The GOTG has requested that USAID consider quadrupling the MCH program over the next four years from 30,000 to 120,000 recipients. OAR/Banjul believes that a program of this magnitude in such a small country would have negative effects. We intend to carry out a study regarding food aid to The Gambia.*

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC)

DURATION: FY 1979 - FY 1982

*AID FUNDING: Matching grant agreement for four countries.
Gambia portion approximately \$100,000*

PROJECT PURPOSE: *The role of Project Concern International (PCI) is to assist The Gambia in its development of Primary Health Care to reach its goal of "Health for All" by year 2000. Specifically, PCI is involved in the development of appropriate models of training and delivery to meet the stated goal. This being accomplished through: (a) training of Community Health Worker (CHW) trainers; (b) training of Village Health Workers (VHWs) and Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs), training in Lower River Division is now completed; (c) training of CHW supervisors (Community Health Nurses-CHNs); (d) curricula and training material development; and (e) establishment of CHW support system.*

PROGRESS TO DATE:

- (a) Two teams of CHW trainers trained.*
- (b) List of equipment and drugs for CHW support developed and presented to GOTG.*
- (c) Selection and training of 30 VHWs and 36 TBAs, Lower River Division.*
- (d) Orientation for the promotion and support of PHC by GOTG officials.*
- (e) Establishment of a PHC working party in the Department of Medical Services.*
- (f) Development and revision of curricula objectives and training material for VHWs and TBAs.*
- (g) Preliminary sensitization of villages to PHC, North Bank Division.*
- (h) Procurement of basic furniture for sub-dispensaries.*
- (i) Construction of trainers' quarter in Mansakonko near health center.*

PCI has requested an Operational Program Grant (OPG) with OAR/Banjul to continue its work in The Gambia. Preliminary communication with AID/W supporting a project extension has begun. A response is pending.

MASS MEDIA & HEALTH PRACTICES

DURATION: FY 1981 - FY 1983

AID FUNDING: \$232,000

PROJECT PURPOSE: To assist the Gambia Government develop a system and methodology for the application of mass media (especially radio and print media) and face-to-face intervention to obtain the widespread adoption of practices conducive to the treatment and prevention of infant and early childhood diarrhea in the country's rural population. An important aspect of this project is the adoption and integration of long-term systematic communication planning and design procedures into the health education system of The Gambia. To ensure that the project's results are clearly understood and analyzed, a coordinated but separate effort at project evaluation will be conducted during the course of project activities.

Preliminary work is nearly completed. Enumerators have been trained and base-line data from 20 villages collected. Radio spots for intervention will begin May 1, 1982. Training of Peace Corps Volunteers and Gambia health personnel in proper treatment of dehydration has begun. Evaluation will be conducted at regular intervals to monitor the impact of the radio, training materials and face-to-face intervention.

PROBLEM: An additional year of project implementation and evaluation would be important for this project. Estimates for the extra cost from the two organizations involved, Stanford University and the Academy for Educational Development are very high. This issue should be resolved soon by OAR/Banjul.

POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING

Our modest activity in the population sector is a natural extension of our assistance in health. This is particularly the case since MCH/FP is becoming an integrated entity in The Gambia. Following is a brief description of U.S. initiated projects.

INTRAH is a centrally funded program out of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It has sub-contracted to U.C. Santa Cruz/S.F. to work in those countries where it had similar programs in the 1970's, The Gambia being one of these. To date INTRAH has conducted two workshops for dresser/dispensers and nurse midwives in maternal assessment and family planning skills. Another workshop in supervisory skills was undertaken for Community Health Nurses and trainers. Presently 3 Gambia. nurses are participating in a 12 week seminar at U.C. Santa-Cruz which will prepare them to act as the national health training team and upgrade nursing skill capabilities within The Gambia. A third training cycle in-country is under consideration for this year.

PROBLEMS: *It has been difficult to obtain the same counterparts during the training cycles. It is hoped the above persons at U.C. Santa-Cruz will form the on-going training team who will be the counterparts for future training activities.*

We have recently received an urgent request from the Medical and Health Department for family planning commodities which we have forwarded to AID/W. During the mid-70's contraceptive commodities had been provided through the U.C. Santa Cruz project. UNFPA has supplied The Gambia the last couple of years, but due to budgetary constraints it is no longer able to do so. AID/W has responded

positively to our request. It is a very modest amount though it may need to be adjusted upward as MCH/FP expands its role. It has been suggested by AID/W that a short-term expert in family planning commodity logistics visit The Gambia to assess their needs and distribution system.

It has been recommended by IPPF that GFPA, which is a member affiliate, strengthen its information and education department. We have been able to put GFPA in contact with the Program for the Introduction and Adaptation of Contraceptive Technology (PIACT) for assistance. Although a U.S. organization, the funding for this particular project is from ODA. They can provide technical assistance in developing family planning instructional materials for non-readers. A representative from PIACT visited The Gambia the end of May. She took with her a proposal from GFPA to submit to the ODA. She was hopeful that the project could be funded by this fall.

The National 1983 Census is looming close at hand in The Gambia. The U.S. Bureau of Census has offered assistance to the Statistics Bureau in programming their soon-to-be acquired Wang Computer and for in-country training of census supervisors. This is a common services provided to many countries world-wide by the U.S. Census Bureau in order to share its wealth of experience and expertise. Our assistance to ensure a higher degree of accuracy, reporting and processing of the census will be beneficial to AID projects in the future which often rely on census data for critical program decisions. We have received approval from AID/W to conduct a training workshop in November 1982. This will entail two short-term U.S. contractors to work with the Statistics Bureau for approximately six weeks.

SECTION III

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

ALBERT MARKET
PROJECT NO. 635-0211

DURATION: FY 1981

AID FUNDING: FY 1981 - \$392,000

PROJECT PURPOSE: *To carry out a socio-economic study of the Albert Market and recommendations for its redevelopment.*

BACKGROUND: *Albert Market, which was built in 1854, is located in the north-eastern part of Banjul and borders on the city's main shopping street. It is overcrowded, a fire hazard and virtually unmaintained. Despite these drawbacks, it is widely used by people from all walks of life and as a result is an important element in the Banjul metropolitan area's marketing system. In recognition of this, the Banjul City Council (BCC) has been trying for several years to get help for the market's improvement. The history of AID's involvement in this quest is relatively long and circuitous. Under the aid sponsored sister-cities program, the city of Tuskegee, Alabama preliminarily applied for a grant in May 1977 to assist Banjul for what eventually evolved into a program for the rehabilitation of Albert Market, which was developed following a site visit in December 1977 by the Mayor of Tuskegee. The project languished until March 1979, when Tuskegee presented a formal proposal to AID, requesting some \$1 million to carry out its plan. This proposal was refined in October 1979 with AID involvement to encompass six options of varying complexity and cost for the improvement of the market. Unfortunately shortly thereafter, Sister Cities International, the Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) through which the funding was to be obtained.*

pulled out of the project. Inasmuch as AID could not provide the funds directly to Tuskegee or Banjul and judging that matters had gone too far to drop the project, it approached another PVO, the Booker T. Washington Foundation (BTW) to see if it would be interested in taking on the job. BTW agreed to do so, but in its preliminary review of the proposal, it came up with some of its own ideas of how it should be done, including a mini socio-economic study, training, etc.

PROGRESS TO DATE: *The Booker T. Washington proposal was approved in September 1980 and a team arrived in Banjul December 1980. The team remained in Banjul to gather data until April of 1981. The preliminary report was received in August 1981 and the final report in January 1982.*

PROBLEMS: *The cost estimates for the renovation options of the Albert Market are much higher than expected. Early estimates were from \$700,000 to 1.8 million dollars not the 7 million dollars suggested by the study.*

The question for AID to answer is does this project merit the amount suggested especially in comparison to other projects and our Mission goals?

SECTION IV

TRAINING

SAHEL MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (SMDP)
PROJECT NUMBER 625-0936

DURATION: FY 1979 - FY 1982

AID GAMBIA FUNDING: \$972,000

PROJECT PURPOSE: The purpose of this project is to provide approximately 400-500 Africans from CILSS Member States (Cape Verde, Chad, The Gambia, Mali, Senegal, Mauritania, Niger and Upper Volta) with training designed to increase the number of skilled personnel needed for the development of rural areas. The main objective is to increase the availability of trained Africans in priority development areas who will contribute to economic and social development particularly in programs that will benefit the poor majority.

At the beginning of each fiscal year, each participating African government in cooperation with the AID field office develops and submits a training proposal to AFR/SFWA. Training proposals are based on a joint analysis of priority training needs of the participating country and AID's development objectives.

The GOTG contributes to this project by guaranteeing salary continuance for employees on the project training and returns them to the posts for which training needs were identified. The GOTG also assumes responsibility of international travel costs for the dependents of those long-term participants who wish their dependents to join them in the country of training.

Training of this nature has been provided since 1976 under the African Manpower Development Project (AMDP) 698-0384, and non-Sahelian countries still receive training under this project.

Training locations/institutions are limited to those in the U.S., home countries of the trainees, other African countries or countries included in the AID Geographic Code 941.

Of the \$8.5 million, The Gambia has received \$972,000 for the training of 45 Gambians (38 males and 7 females). This can be broken down as follows:

(a) Returned participants	10 all U.S.
(b) Participants in training	17
U.S. training	12
Third country training	5
(c) Participants in pre-departure status	17
U.S. training	12
Third country training	5
(d) Non-returnees	1

Omar Touray, M.Sc program in preventive veterinary medicine, University of California/Davis, March 1978 - August 1980. Participant allowed by INS to stay in the U.S. up to June 15, 1982. Failure to depart by deadline would result in deportation.

SMDP has proven to be an extremely successful project in terms of demand and utilization. By the end of FY 81, with three years remaining in the project assistance completion date, all but about \$700,000 was utilized. In view of the apparent success of SMDP in terms of utilization and demand, AFR/DR/SWA wishes to proceed toward the design of an improved SMDP Phase II to authorized \$10 million for this phase.

In order to do this an evaluation team consisting of a coordinator, an evaluation officer, a human resources officer, a training officer, a development economist and management specialist and an English language training specialist will be traveling to the Sahelian countries April 26 - May 24, 1982 to evaluate the SMDP. The team is expected to make a determination as to the extent to which

project purpose has been achieved, as specified in the SMDP project paper log frame and to carefully examine a series of program, management and implementation issues.

It is expected that the recommendations of the evaluation team will constitute, both qualitatively and quantitatively, the essential data base for the design of a Phase II SMDP project identification document.