



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE POPULARIZATION OF THE POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY PAPER (PRSP) II AND DISSEMINATION OF THE 2008 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

**JOINTLY CONDUCTED BY PRO-PAG & PARTNERS
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List of Acronyms:

AAITG	-	Action Aid The Gambia
APR	-	Annual Progress Report
CBO	-	Community Based Organization
CDO	-	Community Development Officer
CDA	-	Community Development Assistant
CDDP	-	Community Driven Development Project
CSIP	-	Community Skills Initiatives Project
EFA	-	Education For All
FBO	-	Faith Based Organisation
LGA	-	Local Government Area
KMC	-	Kanifing Municipal Council
MDFTs	-	Multi-Disciplinary Facilitation Teams
MDG	-	Millennium Development Goals
MoBSE	-	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education.
NPC	-	National Planning Commission
PRSP	-	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
Pro-PAG	-	The Pro-Poor Advocacy Group
PTA	-	Parents Teachers Association
TAC	-	Technical Advisory Committee
VDC	-	Village Development Committee Banjul City Council (BCC)
KMC	-	Kanifing Municipal Council (North Bank Region (NBR)
WR	-	Western Region
LRR	-	Lower River Region
CRRN	-	Central River Region North

CRRS	-	Central River Region (CRR) South
URR	-	Upper River Region (URR)
ISRA	-	Institute for Social Reformation and Action
WB	-	World Bank
IMF	-	International Monetary Fund
SAP	-	Structural Adjustment Programs

1. Background/Introduction:

The Gambia is currently implementing the nationally-owned, MDG-based Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP II) that serves as the transmission mechanism to achieve both the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the country's Vision 2020 blueprint. Its Implementation is anchored within the following thematic areas or pillars:

1. Creating an enabling policy environment for rapid and sustainable economic growth for poverty reduction.
2. Enhancing the capacity and output of the productive sectors of the economy (Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism, Trade, Industry and Infrastructure)
3. Improve coverage of Basic Social Services and social protection needs of the poor and vulnerable
4. Enhance Governance Systems and build the capacities of local communities and Civil Society Organizations to play an active role in Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction.
5. Mainstreaming Cross-cutting Issues (Gender, Youth, Nutrition, HIV/AIDS and Environment)
6. Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Strategy.

The National Planning Commission (NPC), created by an Act of Parliament in 2007 is coordinating the planning and implementation processes of the second generation PRSP spanning the period 2007 through 2011. And in keeping with the core principles of the PRS process, the NPC has created the space for broad-based participation of civil society organizations in all the operational steps designed to achieve the lofty objectives of the programme. The Pro-Poor Advocacy Group (Pro-PAG) set up in 2003 by a number of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), government, donor institutions, the media concerned about the poverty situation in The Gambia and sought joint solutions to address the problems was assigned a pivotal role in championing the PRSP implementation and monitoring processes. Pro-PAG has a strong mandate to undertake participatory community-led development processes and within that framework has been working with existing structures at the decentralized level: the LGAs, MDFTs, the TACs, and Regional Education Offices among others. Accordingly, the National Planning Commission (NPC) in November 2009 contracted the organization to deliver PRSP support services nationwide, based in the following items contained in the terms of reference:

- Popularization of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP II) process
- Dissemination of the 2008 Annual Progress Report (APR) nationally
- Provision of timely feed-back to the National Planning Commission emanating from the communities to enable the former to have a feel of the evolution of priorities in the target communities so that policies, priorities and interventions can be calibrated and attuned to the set targets.

This sensitization and dissemination campaign was commissioned at a time when the second PRSP was at mid-term and was being reviewed to determine progress towards the set targets. Resources have been utilized (inputs) and activities conducted to generate development results (outputs and outcomes). It could be argued that the results obtained thus far have been sub-optimal. It was therefore timely to scale up the popularization of the PRSP and to disseminate the Annual Progress Report 2008 in all the regions with a view to stimulating conversation around the PRSP process and foster greater awareness and commitment of stakeholders. The campaign offered the required

platform to solicit the views, perceptions, priorities and needs of the various local communities for consideration and adjustment of subsequent action plans.

To conduct the exercise which in itself is part and parcel of the PRSP consultation process, Pro-PAG enlisted the services of partners from Action Aid The Gambia, the National Committee for Civic Education (NCCE) and the Institute for Social Reformation and Action (ISRA) and availed itself of its network of partners (comprising of existing structures¹) across the country to reach out to the target communities. A meeting was consequently held in all the regional headquarters with the Technical Advisory Group (TAC) as the target group and the other meetings were conducted in communities randomly selected in each region based on a sampling methodology explained below. As the technical arms of the regions and the Area Councils/Municipalities, the TAC members are responsible for giving policy advice services for the implementation and coordination of key government policies, projects and programmes at the decentralized level. The Multi-Disciplinary Facilitation Teams on the other hand is made up of the government extension workers in the LGAs and who by virtue of their role, are in constant touch with the communities they serve. The MDFTs were therefore very instrumental in facilitating the identification of and engagement with community participants during the dissemination and popularization processes.

Unlike the 2007/8 MDG/PRSP dissemination exercise² funded by the UNDP when the sensitization campaign stopped at the regional headquarters (the meso level) due to resource constraints, this dissemination and sensitization campaign around the PRSP dug deeper into the social fabric to reach the grassroots communities. That way, the PRSP agenda was filtered down to the community level for more inclusiveness for the benefit of the semi illiterate and illiterate population. With only two more years to go before the PRSP II implementation process elapses (2009 being the mid-point), it is deemed necessary to identify gaps/constraints/challenges encountered during the implementation process and to evolve strategies to enhance the successful implementation of the program in the years ahead.

The workshops and community meetings in the different regions were conducted in November and December 2009 and were well attended by the targeted segments of the communities, comprising of: National Assembly Members (NAMs), Chiefs, Ward Councilors, Men, Women, Village Development Committee (VDCs) members, Women and Youth groups, people with disabilities and Civil Society Organizations.

¹ The Local Government Authorities (LGAs), the Technical Advisory Committees (TAC), the Multi-Disciplinary Facilitation Teams (MDFTs), the Village Development Committees (VDCs), the Ward development Committees (WDCs) etc.

² Jointly conducted by Pro-PAG and SPACO (now evolved into the National Planning Commission)

2. The Preparation for Popularizing the MDG-based PRSP and Disseminating the APR 2008

The dissemination and popularization of the PRSP were intended to among other things: share information with national and community stakeholders; raise the current low level of awareness of the PRSP among public officials and the general public and to solicit views of the general public as to their knowledge of the PRSP and to have them identify their development priorities. To that end, a task force committee comprising of Pro-PAG and its partners was set up to first embark on a consultation process with the National Planning Commission and other development partners and to also oversee the implementation process. Thereafter, the methodology for selecting the communities was determined and a certain number of instruments evolved:

Sampling Methodology and Coverage

A multi-stage sampling approach using probability proportionate to size was adopted to identify target communities. The first stratum was comprised of the Local Government Authority and the constituency served as the base cluster. A total sample size of 30% was randomly selected as shown in the table below. The main town/centre within these constituencies was used to conduct the consultations.

LGA	Total	No	No of Selected
Banjul	3	2.10	2
Kanifing Municipal	5	3.50	3
Western Region	9	6.30	4
North Bank Region	7	4.90	3
Lower River Region	6	4.20	3
Central River-South	5	3.50	3
Central River-North	5	3.50	3
Upper River Region	7	4.90	3
Total	47	32.90	24

The Instruments:

- A **questionnaire** to probe their knowledge of the PRSP process (What they know about it; the different processes and stakeholders involved etc; their perception of the formulation and

implementation processes) and a component to solicit their comments/suggestions to improve the quality of engagement. The information derived from the consultations with communities will serve as a baseline to gauge the effectiveness of the intervention at a later date.

- A **PowerPoint Presentation** that captures the **core principles** of the PRSP process (country-driven, result-oriented, comprehensive, partnership and consultation based and focusing on a long-term perspective)
- A **PowerPoint Presentation** on the 2008 Annual Progress Report (APR) aimed at sharing the highlight achievements of the PRSP implementation process. In the development of the instrument, the team had to be very selective in what to include in the slides.
- A **focused group discussion** was also organized to capture the priorities of the communities visited for onward submission to the National Planning Commission.
- **Radio Talk-Shows** were organized in all the LGAs to amplify the PRSP message beyond the communities where the interventions took place.

2.1. The format of the PRSP Dissemination and Consultation Process in the Local Government Authorities

INTERFACE MEETINGS: The Consultations kicked off in all the regions with the customary prayers followed by the introduction of participants and facilitators to create an atmosphere of familiarity. Thereafter, the regional Governor/Mayor or their representative delivered the welcoming remarks, thus paving the way for the day's deliberations. Participation was generally high, educative and interactive, in all the meetings.

Testing Knowledge of the PRSP: The first facilitator is tasked to probe the knowledge of the participants on the PRSP in both form and content to set the stage. Interestingly, less than 15% of the participants had some prior knowledge of the PRSP, for having heard discussion over the radio around it, but did not quite know what it was about. The knowledge gap at community level was rather conspicuous. Conversely, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and other stakeholders at the meso level are as expected, more conversant with the PRSP processes (its design and implementation). 60% of them are abreast of the issues. That could also be attributed to the fact that the MDG/PRSP advocacy strategy that was commissioned by UNDP in 2007 and developed and implemented by Pro-PAG and the then SPACO, stopped at the regional headquarters and targeted the same stakeholders. It is therefore not surprising that their knowledge of the PRSP process has improved remarkably. On the contrary, the dissemination of the PRSP is taking place for the first time at the level of the grassroots communities where the vast majority of the people are illiterates. That justified the use of the local languages for communication purposes. During the deliberations, the participants realized for the first time that all their interventions (in agriculture, horticulture, water resources etc) at community level could be tied to the PRSP!

Presentation of the PRSP Process: The presentation that followed was designed to provide the requisite information on the scope, content and processes inherent in The Gambia's PRSP agenda for the non-initiated and to deepen the understanding of those who had a superficial knowledge of the

PRS process. The participants were informed in each gathering that the PRSP came into being as a result of the following processes:

1. Grass-root consultations and participatory processes
2. National stakeholders meeting of the private sector and government ministries
3. Retreats for businessmen and women
4. Strategic planning meetings using the Community Score Cards
5. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

The presenters then delved into the PRSP implementation; the challenges faced by the government and the sectors; the funding gaps and the need to be committed to the agenda at all levels.

Discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process: The vibrant discussions that ensued enabled the participants to talk about their life experiences and the types of interventions that could bail them out of their present predicament.

Presentation of the Annual Progress Report (APR): The facilitators then delivered a second presentation, focusing on the APR with a view to giving the audience an idea of the poverty reducing expenditure that the government embarked upon and the associated development results. A summary of the achievement under the different pillars of the PRSP were given, ranging from human resource development and agriculture to infrastructural development and macroeconomic issues. The key comments and suggestions that emerged out of the discussions are captured hereunder:

- More grassroots consultations are needed to ensure social accountability through interface dialogues and mass media communications
- Capacity building interventions for all levels is urgent through the decentralized structures
- Inclusion of people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups of society is underscored
- Harmonization of all development projects at community level is necessary

Mapping Community Priorities: The process of mapping community priorities revealed a certain pattern and more importantly, some emerging issues: The priority ranking varied from LGA to LGA and between constituencies within a given LGA; and the TAC in some LGAs and even more so between the rural and the urban areas. Despite all the issues raised during the initial priority ranking it was interesting to note that communities were coming up with new emerging issues like flood and disability - the former resulting from climate change and the latter deriving from cultural reasons.

Radio Programs (Public/Private):

For the PRSP to be a household name, it was deemed necessary in the design of the outreach activities to include radio talk-shows. Radio stations especially community radio stations were used to amplify the messages pertaining to the PRSP. Different panelists took part in the programmes held in the different regions. Listeners were able to avail themselves of the call-in facilities to interact with the panelists.



Above: Participants at Essau Lower Niumi taking turn to react to the presentations

Coverage of the Intervention:

The dissemination of the 2008 Annual Progress Report (APR) and the popularization of the PRSP process covered Six LGAs and two urban Municipalities. The LGAs are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1. North Bank Region | NBR |
| 2. Lower River " | LRR |
| 3. Central River Region North | CRRN |
| 4. Central River Region South | CRRS |
| 5. Upper River Region | URR |
| 6. Western Regions | WR |

The two urban Municipalities are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Banjul City Council | BCC |
| 2. Kanifing Municipal Councils | KMC |

Below is a table of the LGAs covered and the number of meeting held at each LGA with TAC members and some key representatives from the constituencies.

Table 3: list of LGAs covered by selected constituencies and communities, number of meetings held with TAC and number of radio programs

NO:	LGA	TAC	RADIO TALK-SHOWS	SELECTED CONSTITUENCY	SELECTED COMMUNITY
1.	BCC 2 meetings	BCC chambers		All constituencies (Mix)	BCC chambers
2.	KMC 3 meetings	KMC Hall	1 City Limits GRTS	Bakau Sere Kunda Central	Bakau community centre Nusrat high school
3.	NBR 3 meetings	Kerewan Area Council chambers	Kerewan /Farafenni community radio	Upper Baddibu Lower Niumi	Illessia Essau
4.	CRRN 3 meetings	Janjabureh		Lower Fulladu West Niamina West	Brikamaba Wally Kunda
5.	CRRS 3 meetings	Kuntaur		Upper Saloum	Njau Jarumeh
6.	URR 3 meetings	Governors Bantaba	GRTS Radio Basse	Sandu Kantora	Dasilameh Sudwole
7.	LRR 3 meetings	Mansa Konko		Kiang West	Keneba
8.	WR 4 meetings	Brikama		Kombo North Foni Kansala Foni Berefet	Busumbala Somita Bwiam
Total number of meetings 24					

24 meetings (accounting for 30% of the total number of constituencies including eight TAC meetings) were conducted. All communities and constituencies were randomly selected to give the exercise a national character.

Summary of the discussions from the LGAs and the selected communities/constituency

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON THE IN BANJUL MIX BCC:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most participants at Municipal council level have at least heard of the PRSP. (About half the participants) 2. Participants' understanding of the PRSP design and formulation were probed. Most participants were au fait with the meaning of PRSP, referring to it as a national document to reduce poverty. (Some participants at this meeting were part and parcel of both PRSP I and II design and implementation processes)

2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The financing of the PRSP process is considered to be a serious challenge and the participants reflected on the need to mobilize domestic resources to finance the PRSP. The need for attitudinal change was also flagged and the fact that a lot of resources at household level are being wasted in social functions, hence the need to sensitize households in domestic resources management. 2. The participants underscored the impact of user fees on poor households and expressed the hope that such impacts will be mitigated over the remaining PRSP period. 3. All the participants hailed the usefulness and timeliness of the engagement and reckoned that infrastructural development is improving by the day.
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After the presentation of the APR, the participants informed the meeting that they would henceforth be banking on Pro-PAG to help facilitate meetings between duty bearers and rights holders with a view to engendering an accountability relationship that would optimize development results. 2. The general view was that the rates collected are not having any impact in the municipality 3. Many lamented the fact that tourism has not lived up to the expectations reposed on it in terms of creating employment for the youths. 4. The poor sanitary conditions in the city was considered a matter for concern
4.	Way forward	<p>Pro-PAG to continue the sensitization effort and to enhance the capacities of community members on their roles and responsibilities. To that end, the following interventions are proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The holding of frequent meetings at municipal level 2. Training in resource management 3. Monitoring and evaluation of community development driven projects 4. Strengthening of the community development office at BCC

List of Priorities from Banjul:

1. Capacity building including
 - The training of ward development committee members
 - Training on marketing management
2. Sensitization of community members at household level
3. Micro finance
4. Skills training for self employment
5. Creation of Employment Opportunities
6. Market expansion

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM THE MEETING HELD WITH TAC MEMBERS IN BANJUL BCC:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
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1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	
4.	Way forward	

List of Priorities from Banjul BCC

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SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON 6TH DECEMBER 2009 AT BAKAU COMMUNITY CENTER - BAKAU CONSTITUENCY KMC:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	Few participants were familiar with the PRSP concept. When their understanding of the PRSP design and formulation processes were probe into, only a handful could tell that the PRSP is a national document designed to reduce poverty.

2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	<p>After the presentation on the PRSP implementation process the following issues were raised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The importance of holding such meetings was highlighted and the need to have timely consultations on developmental issues. The participants were urged to convey the message to the grassroots. 2. The relationship between project sustainability and community participations was underscored. The community advocated for the use of community labour rather than having workers imported from other parts of the country. That way, a sense of ownership will be created. 3. Participants lamented the fact that economic activities, particularly for women were mainly limited to gardening as all farmlands have been given out for residential purposes. 4. The tourist industry hardly engaged any nationals and rates and taxes collected by the sector are hardly ploughed back for development in the area. The few who made it into the industry, according to the participants, are grappling with high rents and licenses fees charged by the authorities. 5. Fishing is not seen as a means for reducing poverty by many since most players are foreigners the revolving loans meant to support such schemes were given out without adequate mechanisms for collaterals. 6. The inhabitants of Bakau reckon that the demand for health services is on the increase, with only one health centre to deal with all cases. There is therefore an urgent need to have it upgraded to a reasonable standard.
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is need for collaboration between program developers and NGO to address some of their developmental needs in a consultative and participatory approach. 2. Since the National Roads Authority has mandates over road construction, an MOU has been signed with KMC to take up all road related developments in the municipality including Bakau, it was an information for the meeting to know that all works to be done due consultations will be done and that the current thinking is having drainage systems alongside any new road to be built in the Bakau. 3. Awareness raised on processes and procedures to demand their rights from duty bearers.
4.	Way forward	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pro-PAG to continue their community sensitization, training and capacity building 2. Evaluation of PRSP 11 and map the way forward for the remaining period up to 2011 3. Implement the recommendation for the decentralization

List of Priorities from Bakau KMC

1. Road network including drainage system
2. Health (upgrading of facilities)
3. Environment
4. Fisheries
5. Street lights
6. Gardening
7. Recreation (upgrading of facilities)
8. Skills training
9. Tourism (Rates)
10. Education (library)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON 5TH DECEMBER 2009
IN NUSRAT SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL - SEREKUNDA CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY, KMC:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Few participants have ever heard of the PRSP. (only 6 out of xxx) 2. The Participants understanding of the PRSP design and formulation were consequently limited. Few of them knew that the PRSP is a national document for reducing poverty.
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those with an idea of the PRSP as a development framework have heard of the it on either the radio or the TV. 2. The participants took the view that it was the responsibility of government and other duty bearers to raise awareness through appropriate agencies like Pro-PAG 3. They agreed that the knowledge acquired should be disseminated by all participants of the workshop to their respective communities during naming ceremonies, daras, religious congregations and Friday sermons in mosques and others. 4. The misconception about gender relations were discussed and clarified. The the 50/50 concept by earlier advocates of gender equality and equity led to unnecessary tensions between male and female believers. 5. It was argued that the huge investment in education for girls is being frustrated by teenage pregnancy and high girl school drop outs rates, hence the need for more sensitization.
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The meeting agreed that the authorities should raise awareness for the inclusion of all persons with disabilities in development programming. 2. It was felt that the knowledge acquired from the workshop should be disseminated in other fora with possible funding from the municipality. 3. The need was expressed to conduct research on burning issues to inform duty bearers of the changing priorities as seen through the eyes of citizens rather than taking issues from duty bearers own perspectives. The burning issues can then form the basss for advocacy.
4.	Way forward	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pro-PAG to continue the sensitization campaign targeting communities and households 2. LGAs to take on board the issue of disability in development planning 3. Counseling services to be provided for right holders. More importantly, grassroots consultations should form the basis for any development priority rankings. 4. LGAs to provide an efficient, reliable and functional ambulance services for the JFP Hospital that is serving the area. Access from the hospital to the main road is not easy as a result of a design error thus creating difficulties in situations of evacuation to referral centers. That needs to be rectified. 5. Council to plough back proceeds from the community market at Borehole to take care of important market needs. 6. Sports and recreational facilities should be provided as there is none in the area. That way, accidents involving children using the streets for the purpose of recreation will be drastically reduced. 7. The approach to raising the awareness of National Assembly members was well designed and effective. It was suggested that such an intervention be replicated for councilors of KMC. 8. Sensitization of communities and inhabitants of KMC on the PRSP concepts and

		<p>processes should be conducted.</p> <p>9. Ward representatives to conduct step down trainings on the PRSP processes.</p> <p>10. Right holders to take duty bearers to task and to ensure that development is participatory</p> <p>11. Capacity building interventions to be conducted to empower local stakeholders to exercise oversight of public service delivery and performance monitoring</p> <p>12. Mass sensitization is required for social accountability</p> <p>13. Support should be given to Disabled Persons to realize their full potential</p>
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List of Priorities from Serekunda Central KMC

1. Capacity building for councilors and municipal staff (Participatory Budgeting)
2. Road network development
3. Improving the access to health services
4. Improving the access to water services
5. Provision of Sports and recreational centers
6. Increasing market outlets

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON 9TH DECEMBER 2009 WITH TAC MEMBERS IN THE KMC CHAMBERS KMC:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most participants at Municipal council level are knowledgeable about the PRSP. 2. As expected, a good number of the Participants took part in the PRSP design and formulation processes and for that reason know that the PRSP is a strategy for reducing poverty.
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Participants are of the opinion that stakeholders should take part in the planning and the judicious allocation of resources via the budget, 2. It was argued that most of the problems highlighted at forum were not representatives of community priorities. 3. Much emphasis was made for all sections of society to take keen interest in the PRSP implementation process. 4. It was agreed that people with disabilities needed to be included under cross cutting issues.
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was alleged that the port expansion project has resulted in increasing poverty since the people affected have not been compensated. 2. The issue of marketing and storage facilities have not been taken on board the PRSP intervention processes 3. The decentralization agenda is stalled and needed to be given the attention it deserves. 4. The participants are of the opinion that the planning function does not capture the needs and aspirations of the communities adequately. 5. They reckon that despite the gaps and challenges observed, there are key developments taking place from the Annual Progress Report. 6. Capacity building for professionals like teachers is not going well and that is

		<p>compounded by the rates of attrition observed.</p> <p>7. Fish scarcity in the aftermath of Tobaski was underscored and was considered to be the result lack of engagement by the youths in the sector.</p> <p>8. KMC's interventions in education, Micro finance and youth development and empowerment through the relevant agencies were commended and give testimony of the municipality's commitment to social development.</p>
4.	Way forward	<p>Proposed strategies for the way forward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participatory budgeting 2. Capacity building 3. Strengthening the decentralization process 4. Access to the PRSP document (Hard copy) 5. Replicating this workshops at grassroots level.

List of Priorities from KMC TAC members

1. Road network and drainage
2. Access to Water and Electricity
3. Microfinance
4. Sanitation (Public toilets and waste management)
5. Education (provision of high school facilities)
6. Skills training
7. Labor saving devices
8. Security
9. Recreational facilities

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2009 WITH TAC MEMBERS IN KEREWAN NBR:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most participants at regional level have never heard of the PRSP. 2. When participants understanding of the PRSP design and formulation processes were probe, a reasonable number knew that the PRSP is a national document to reduce poverty.
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	On the PRSP implementation process, it was clear that most TAC members were initial designers of the first paper but one factor identified was the issue of attrition and staff movement. Some participants even emphasized the fact that they have been implementing and monitoring PRSP related activities.
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	<p>The participants agreed that a lot had been achieved in 2008 (according to the report) but recognized that there was still room for more improvement.</p> <p>Participants expressed the desire to be issued hard copies of the PRSP.</p>

4.	Way forward	<p>The following constitutes the recommendation for the way forward</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pro-PAG to continue the sensitization process and advocacy work for the poor 2. Conduct more consultations at grassroots level 3. Conduct mass communication for social accountability 4. Develop programs to support Disabled Persons
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List of Priorities from Kerewan NBR

1. Road network
2. Water
3. Health
4. Agriculture
5. Environment
6. Education

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2009 IN ILLISSIA - UPPER BADDIBU NBR:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	Only two participants have heard of the PRSP beforehand. When their understanding of the PRSP design and formulation was probed, it was realized none could tell that the PRSP was designed to resolve or alleviate problems of poverty.
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Corresponding activities for sensitization on the PRSP were proposed by the NAM of the area. 2. Even though education was a key component of the poverty reduction strategy paper, it was clear that it required more concerted efforts by all to achieve the education objectives 3. A new provision to monitor children and teacher absenteeism in the area was highlighted and the meeting was informed that the government was investing in the education sector but what remains as parent's contribution was to send their children to school and more importantly to invest in their learning needs.
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	<p>Since poverty is multifaceted, it was agreed that there is a correlation between poverty and the levels of education attained, thus the need for the following to reduce the menace:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure continued community sensitization on poverty reduction 2. Ensure greater access to micro finance and skills training for women 3. Monitor access to cell phones for children of school going age (Free calls)
4.	Way forward	Pro-PAG to continue the sensitization process and to make adequate provisions for their involvement in the next phase of the PRSP

List of Priorities from Illessia Upper Baddibu NBR:

1. Agriculture

2. Electricity
3. Water
4. Health
5. Skills training/education
6. Road/ communication/infrastructure
7. Micro finance

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON 19TH NOVEMBER 2009 IN ESSAU - LOWER NUMIE NBR:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	Only three participants had prior knowledge of the PRSP. A multitude of answers were given on the meaning of the PRSP (a national document to reduce poverty).
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	<p>Even though a few participants have heard of the PRSP, they acknowledged that this type of sensitization workshop was never held to enlighten them on policy issues and to share relevant information. Other issues including gender as a crosscutting issue under the PRSP provoked debate in the wake of the Beijing plus 15 meeting in Banjul.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Even though participant's knowledge on development was low it was agreed that no meaningful development can take place without grassroots consultations. 2. Education as a basic Human Right was considered to be expensive for the average Gambian, hence the need to have free, inclusive quality education for all. 3. Government to develop programs for Disabled Persons if they are to reach their full potential.

3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As highlight in the report, the Rural Electrification Project in the area has not covered the entire district due to funding gap. For the extension of utilities services the current cost for water as a basic need for all is high (GMD6610. 00) even though the cost for electricity was reduced by half (GMD3000. 00) 2. Access to education in some schools has been difficult with the double shift. Before the arrangement was revisited, the generally accepted idea was that children attending afternoon shift were academically backward compared to their peers who attend the morning shifts. 3. The issue of school absenteeism was highlighted and that parents are using children for other immediate gains like petty trading around the ferry terminal. 4. It was revealed that the number of graduates at all levels of education were increasing on an annual basis and that it was in the nation's best interest to device proactive options for self employment as the white color jobs will not be available to all. 5. Access to training for ECD teachers, better service conditions and increasing enrollment for this level could form an integral part of moulding children to become better learners. 6. The discussion revealed that at the current rate of expansion of urban development in the area and its proximity to Banjul, part of the agricultural land is being lost to developmental and residential purposes,. 7. Information was shared on the special provisions arranged by VISCAS through two commercial banks: Access and Trust to give loan at 7 per cent interest on all loans to encourage women to take up micro finance ventures.
4.	Way forward	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct timely consultation on developmental issues with Pro-PAG as the facilitation agency 2. Develop Village and Ward action plans to form the basis for all projects. 3. Scale up the PRSP II intervention processes over the remaining two years. 4. More investments are needed in fisheries for poverty reduction

List of Priorities from Essau lower Numie NBR:

1. Agriculture
2. Water
3. Skills training and employment
4. Education (Free)
5. Health
6. Micro finance
7. Electricity

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2009 IN NJAU - UPPER SALOUM CONSTITUENCY CRRN:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
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1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	None of the participants had a clear knowledge of the PRSP and very few of them have ever heard of the concept, let alone knowing what it meant.
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	<p>Participants perception on the PRSP formulation process at the end of the presentation, was sought and reported as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation was not adequate 2. Low and poor representation at meetings have narrowed the scope for grassroots participation. 3. Both the scope to involve more people and the frequency of consultations are inadequate.
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	<p>Participants agreed that there were marked improvement especially in groundnut marketing in 2008 compared to 2007 and further enumerated the following achievements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some closed Groundnut buying seccos were re-open to improve access and no more credit buying of groundnuts, shifting the start of trade season from December to November as most groundnuts are of the early varieties. 2. Farmers felt that the objective of commercial farming will not be realized without access to resources like tractors to embark upon large scale cultivation. It is felt that unlike other crops, Nerica rice production has realized remarkable improvement and with such a rate; much could be registered giving way to commercialization. 3. The number of VISACA Banks has increased but funds available for loans are inadequate for commercial farming ventures. 4. Disparity between boys and girls in Upper basic and Senior Secondary schools in terms of enrolment, retention and performance are mainly due to teenage pregnancy and early marriage and not being able to have guardians for their children in the communities where Senior Secondary are situated. 5. Access to health services within a radius of 5 Kilometers from all corners in the Gambia was highly contested. 6. Child labor and farm work are always conflicting these requires more advocacy 7. Appeal for human resource development for those tasked to further the cause of Pillar 4 especially the CDO and the decentralized Local Government Officers. 8. Loans disbursed to beneficiaries are inadequate to make any meaningful investment with the associated negative high interest rates. 9. The sporting facilities in the rural communities are not adequate. 10. Failure to reach target on the administration of Vitamin A and de-worming tablets on children age 6 to 59 months, were as a result of some parents being reluctant in cooperating with health workers.
4.	Way forward	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is need to commit more resources to the Agriculture sector. 2. There is need to provide a hospital at Upper Saloum District. 3. Consider making boys education free and train more teachers 4. Stringent measure be taken on bush fires, greater percentage of which emanates from Senegal 5. Poverty intervention programmes should be made known to community leaders. 6. NCCE should be fully decentralized, increase no of visits to rural communities and have more air time on civil right matters 7. Increase funding allocations of the Department of Community Development to meet

demands from communities for development requests.

List of Priorities from Njau - Upper Saloum Constituency CRRN

1. More resources to be committed to the Agriculture sub-sector.
2. Consider to have a hospital at Upper Saloum District.
3. Quality education to be accessible and affordable for all

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2009 IN JARUMEH - CONSTITUENCY CCRN:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	Participants in their responses indicated that they may have heard of PRSP, but more often than not, the purpose of meetings are not always known to them.
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	The participants' perceptions were solicited and most of them explained that it was good that they were consulted. Some are of the opinion that the formulation process went well but that the implementation process was slow.
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	<p>The reaction of the participants to the report could be captured as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cost for electricity is not affordable by the ordinary person. 2. Feeder roads are mostly not rehabilitated by LGAs 3. Access to telecommunication poses difficulties in some areas 4. River transport could be a means for sustainable transportation 5. Not all the groundnut produced was marketed during the year. 6. Not sufficient inputs were available - e.g. Fertilizer 7. Low female representation at the meeting was raised as a serious concern. 8. Access to health facility within a radius of 5 Km nationally was highly contested 9. An appeal was made to help educators in the traditional 'MAJLIS' system 10. The hardship allowance of 35% paid to those in hard to reach areas is considered insufficient as salaries are too low. 11. Pupil's attendance and contact hours are considered low. 12. Low discipline is apparent in schools which is a consequence of the abolishment of corporal punishments. 13. Some communities do struggle to access clean water supply. 14. Empowering communities to initiate their own development priorities would give a sense of ownerships and direction. 15. Nonpayment of loans in one community should not affect the inhabitant of other constituencies. 16. Some VDCs were established long before the Local Government Act through the support of AAITG and the ad-hoc manner in which some VDCs were formed was of concern. 17. The need to sensitize the rural populace on the PRSP was emphasized.

4.	Way forward	<p>The following recommendations were made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is need for the provision of enough, water and electricity to all communities 2. Attitudinal change toward projects beneficiaries to initiate projects and take ownership of them. 3. Conduct annual capacity building for VDC members 4. PURA to accelerate the harmonization of cross network tariff 5. The training on artisanal fishing should be followed by the provision of fishing gears
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List of priorities from Jarumeh CCRN

1. Provision of portable water and electricity
2. Capacity building for VDC members.

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON 19TH NOVEMBER 2009
IN KUNTAUR - NANIJA CONSTITUENCY CCRN:**

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	Generally the participants' knowledge about the PRSP was very scanty, one recalled attending a PRSP related meeting. On the formulation process many felt that the consultation was not adequate as most TAC members and other civil servants were not familiar with the process.
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	The participants' perceptions on the implementation process indicated that training and consultations do not trickle down to the junior staff.
3.	Presentation on the 2008 APR	<p>The following captured the reactions of the audience:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Infrastructures like internet facilities are not accessible in the area. 2. Reservations were made as to whether Kuntaur is a district hospital. 3. The provision of 24 hours solar energy instead of 6 hours to Local council regional offices was challenged. 4. Some rehabilitation works carried out by some council were not reported. 5. NGOs activities are not coordinated. 6. The planting of over 1 million Melina trees could have been replaced with edible forest trees as such varieties are running out. 7. Sectoral representatives to meetings do not give timely feed backs.
4.	Way forward	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Validation of the APR should be done at all levels. 2. The public service reform should be accelerated. 3. Tracking of resources for development projects should be institutionalized. 4. Minimal fees to be charged for maternal health service delivery. 5. Increase sensitization on PRSP II 6. The implementation of the decentralization process should be accelerated. 7. There is need to make available documents like the PRSP and the National budget at all levels.

List of priorities from Kuntaur - CRRN

1. Attitudinal change to embrace development initiatives.
2. The government Public service reform to be accelerated.
3. Tracking of resources for development projects be institutionalized.



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2009 WITH TAC MEMBERS IN JANJABUREH CRRS:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	Participant's knowledge and perception about PRSP was solicited. From the few responses given, it could be inferred that the PRSP process is not well known in the community
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	Participants' perception on the implementation process despite all development projects was low.

3.	Presentation on the 2008 APR	<p>Appropriate strategies should be device to militate against the reoccurrence of the problems outlined in the report. The following suggestions are offered for consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase allocation for pro-poor programs and projects and the re-emergence of agricultural bank for better and meaningful investment in the sector would better reduce poverty. 2. Slow pace of implementation of the decentralization process and top-down approach are to blame for some project delay. 3. Proper use of forest resources to minimize depletion of the forest cover and the relevant polices will control deforestation.
4.	Way forward	<p>The following suggestions are recommended as the way forward</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the allocation for pro-poor budget against population issues including the natural resource sub-sectors especially forestry, water resources and fisheries. 2. Fully implement the local Government decentralization plan 3. Advocate for better attitudinal changes to embrace development initiatives and programme 4. Stakeholders of sectors at central, regional and district levels should have an input in the APR. 5. Increase capacity building at all levels

List of Priorities from Janjabureh CRRS

1. Increased, pro-poor budget
2. Population issues for all development plans.
3. Development of our natural resource sub-sectors especially Forestry, Water resources and Fisheries.
4. Governance



Above: Regional Governor Seckan at the North Bank TAC meeting flanked by Team leader

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2009
IN BRIKAMABA - LOWER FULLADU WEST CONSTITUENCY CRRS:**

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	Participants in their responses indicated that they do not know about PRSP even though some do hear about it from the radio, workshops, and meetings held. Series of similar activities were attended but could not established the link to PRSP
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	The participant's perceptions on the presentation include educating and enlightening the masses is the key to fight poverty and enhance sustainable development.
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	Participants agreed that there were marked improvement in groundnut marketing in 2008 compared to 2007. But further lamented the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of feeder roads • Access to electricity • Youth migration • Lack of adequate markets and storage facilities for agricultural produce • Access to portable water supply • High cost for education, poor remuneration for public school teachers and inadequate furniture is affecting schooling
4.	Way forward	Continuous participatory planning and increase sensitization on development issues at all levels.

List of priorities from Brikamaba- Lower Fulladu West Constituency CRRS

1. Transparency and accountability of VDCs and to be committed to development
2. Display of good leadership qualities. Collective interest to supersede individual interest.
3. Community participation and capacity building to be encouraged
4. Participatory planning to be encouraged
5. Increase sensitization of development issues.

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2009
IN WALLY KUNDA - NIAMINA WEST CONSTITUENCY CRRS:**

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
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1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	Participants in their responses indicated that they do not know about PRSP even though some do hear about it from national radio, workshops and meetings held.
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	Participants express that the next PRSP implementation process should be broadened to target more stakeholders.
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	<p>Under each pillar participants raised some concerns including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A stable price for commodities. • Expansion of the groundnuts buying season • Lack of market for vegetables and storage • Poor transport network • Cold storage and marketing of fish • Late supply of insecticide • Accessibility and affordability of livestock medicines • Availability of simple oil refiner • Youth migration • Mechanized agriculture, access to fertilizer and credit • Intrusion and destruction wildlife especially hippos and bush pigs • Funding gaps for Daras (Majilis) • High cost for education and retention of girls in schools. • High charges for ambulance to take referrals to Bansang hospital
4.	Way forward	It is generally felt that both the scope to involve more people and the frequency of consultations are inadequate and needs improving.

List of priorities from Wally Kunda Niamina West Constituency CRRS

1. Expand the management structure of VISACAS
 - a. Conduct capacity building for extension workers.
2. More poverty development assistant to the rural areas.
3. To provide business opportunities for women. Micro finance
4. To assist in the conservation of the forest Environment
5. Diversify purchase of groundnuts.
6. Provide water points for the animals. Water for livestock
7. To take elected representatives to tasks on development issues.



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD WITH TAC MEMBERS ON 22ND NOVEMBER 2009 IN BASSE URR:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	Only 3 participants claim to have heard of the PRSP and described it as a national document to reduce poverty that was being implemented since 2003.
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	<p>Participant's perception of the implementation process of the PRSP was mixed even though most of them had been directly involved in PRSP related activities.</p> <p>Community members at all levels are taking ownership of community resources like stand pipes.</p> <p>Awareness is still lacking in some quarters if communities are to take ownership of their development.</p> <p>Mention was made to an instance where Pro-PAG's advocacy and lobbying initiative yielded another senior secondary school in the region. These achievements could not have been possible without grassroots consultations.</p>
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	The Community Development Officer who has been directly involved in the implementation of some projects in the region alluded to the significant achievements in the development of URR in recent years. Other community members added their voice and thanked government and partners for bringing development to their door steps.

4.	Way forward	<p>Above all, participants expressed appreciation of the quality of facilitation and the fact that they were made to be aware that they are subjects of rights and not objects of pity and that as taxpayers, they are entitled to quality services. They gained the assurance that all developmental projects will be consultative and proposed the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct timely consultation on development issues through Pro-PAG 2. Follow up on the needs of communities for the next PRSP implementation phase 3. Ensure that feedback on key issues discussed are disseminated at appropriate levels for the need of the poor
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List of Priorities from Basse

1. Health (Inadequate materials and electricity back up)
2. Water (Expansion and improvement of water supply)
3. Road network
4. Agriculture (Revitalization of cotton production)
5. Micro finance
6. Education and skills training
7. Marketing of garden produce
8. Environment (Flood at ferry crossings)
9. Electricity network expansion
10. Decentralization (Issues related to restructuring)
11. Marketing of poultry produce

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2009 IN SUDUWOLE - KANTORA CONSTITUENCY URR:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	Only 4 participants were found to be knowledgeable about the PRSP. They intimated that it was over the national radio that they got the information. But although they have heard of the word, they did not understand that the PRSP is a national document geared towards reducing poverty in The Gambia.
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	<p>Most community representatives indicated that the water and electricity shortage in the district has improved over the years, but lamented the lack of knowledge of the level of and sources of revenue for development accruing to the LGA. Participants express the desire for more capacity building and sensitization in the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Change of attitude 2. Human Rights including Women's Rights 3. Child Rights and culture 4. Bottom-up approaches to development 5. Interventions for youth development and empowerment 6. Appropriate intervention programs for Disable Persons <p>Participants lamented the lack of awareness at community level and the way it is impacting negatively on the good work the CDDP project is registering in the area</p>

3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	Achievements on government projects and activities were well appreciated but lack of adequate farm inputs and pastures for their livestock is a major concern in URR. Participants however expressed appreciation of all the developments that have taken place. The posited that for more development to take root, a change of attitude was necessary.
4.	Way forward	The following recommendations have been proposed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pro- PAG and relevant players to ensure continued grassroots consultations to develop programs for the next PRSP 2. Support in the provision of teachers quarters in the district through advocacy 3. Move all development initiatives forward through the relevant structures.

List of Priorities from Sudwole Kantora URR

1. Road network
2. Access to electricity
3. Access to health services
4. Market for garden produce
5. Drugs for livestock
6. Skills training
7. Access to Micro finance
8. Access to labor saving devices
9. Fishing
10. Access to education

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2009 IN DASILAMEH - SANDU CONSTITUENCY URR:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	Only 3 participants have heard of the PRSP but did not understand PRSP as a national document to reduce poverty.
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	At the end of the presentation, issues were raised as to on the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The importance of information sources on national revenue and expenditure was highlighted. 2. Even though their knowledge on the PRSP document was low, participants wanted to have more information and training sessions on the PRSP. 3. For the first time some are aware of their personal contributions towards national budget from daily business transaction in local shops. 4. The right of people with disabilities was emphasized. 5. Women for the first time understood that their contribution to national development forms an integral part of the PRSP pillars. 6. Concern was raised on feedback mechanisms from the regional level to communities

3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	This presentation triggered discussions on development, but participants agreed that the best measure to fight poverty and hunger was through mass education.
4.	Way forward	<p>The following recommendations were proposed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a realistic plan to fight poverty and have a common agenda in the interest of development in the area of Education, Health and Agriculture. 2. Disseminate relevant information through the (VDC). 3. Seek the support of Pro-PAG to have projects in their area during the next PRSP

List of Priorities from Dasilameh Sandu district URR

1. Agriculture including faming inputs
2. Access to education
3. Marketing of garden produce
4. Communication
5. Access to Water
6. Access to electricity
7. Road network development
8. Access to health service



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD WITH TAC MEMBERS ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2009 IN MANSAKONKO LRR:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	<p>Participants knowledge on PRSP process and formulation was assessed, it became evident that Community participants do not know much about the PRSP. However, few expressed the following views:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The PRSP came after difficulties in the implementation of the SAP, when the SAP failed because of the improper approach, corruption and other problems; the PRSP came as a replacement to the former. 2. The PRSP is a corrective intervention for poverty reduction 3. PRSP II is here to help reduce poverty not by giving physical money to beneficiaries but to give them the required capacity particularly farmers. 4. Women are key in the implementation of PRSP II 5. PRSP II is more participatory than the SAP since beneficiaries are greatly involved 6. Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon which includes health, education, the environment and agriculture. 7. The PRSP II is closely linked to the MDGs 8. PRSP II is the blueprint of the government to address poverty issues which goes up to 2011
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	<p>On the implementation process, it was not very consultative, participants felt that only the same people were always brought together and they recommended bringing in new participants to get diverse views. The following were suggested:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation of people on the process of moving the PRSP should have been more frequent than it was. It was suggested that quarterly consultations be held. 2. The process is already in place but the understanding of the PRSP is limited 3. There was wider consultation, because of the frequent staff movement institutional memory was lost 4. The TAC and other structures were not in place during the consultation process 5. People were not properly sensitized to fully understand what poverty is all about 6. Regional difference was not taken into consideration during the consultation 7. The regional structures were not capacities enough to take up responsibilities in the implementation of the PRSP. 8. Fewer women were involved in the consultation and the appropriate structures were not adequately involved.
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	<p>Fed back on the presentations constitutes the following:</p> <p>Some issues highlighted in the report were highly contested to be wrong and could be misleading e.g.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The teacher/student ratio is 1:1. Instead this should read the textbook/student ration is 1:45 2. High cost of electricity is an obvious challenge under utilities regulation but did not feature 3. Percentage (%) of enrolment and retention at the lower basic kevel is at par and not different as reported 4. Suggestion that the MFIs should not be the access route to credit and interest rates on loans should be minimal, 5. The number of qualified teachers graduated from 2007 to 2008 is more than reported. It is estimated to be over 200 graduates. 6. The number of trained Nurses over the years is also more than what has been reported looking at the number of trained Nurses from the three training institutions (CHN, SEN and SRN). 7. A number of projects implemented under the department of Agriculture are not coordinated 8. Basse and Kuntaur health facilities have been upgraded to major health centre and not upgraded to district hospitals as 9. Under and over malnutrition is an important health challenge but not reported. 10. Child development which includes the introduction of supplementary food and play materials is not reflected. 11. There is little or no human resources to handle most cross-cutting issues in the region

		<p>There are no challenges related to water, sanitation and the environment</p> <p>13. Soil infertility should have been reflected as an important challenge under agriculture</p> <p>14. Government should have subsidized fertilizer so that farmers are able to afford it for high yields.</p> <p>15. It has been realized that the training of fishermen to develop the fishing sector is only limited to the urban coastal areas which could have been extended to the country-side.</p>
4.	Way forward	<p>It was thought that before any intervention is made in this area, the people concerned should be thoroughly sensitized with a view to change their attitudes even though there were diverse views.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation should have been done with individual women Kafos through PRAs 2. Consultation should also have been done with decentralized structures 3. Participatory Poverty Assessment surveys should be revived and youths be involved. 4. To address problems related to the implementation, it is important to carry out a continuous monitoring of activities 5. Activities should be prioritized during the implementation 6. There is need to review the implementation strategies and the whole package of the programme 7. The consultation should have taken the form of bottom-up approach and not the other way round

List of priorities for Mansa Konko LRR

1. Capacity building for community members on their roles in poverty reduction
2. Strengthen the decentralization process
3. Environmental management
4. Communication and road network
5. Capacity building for TAC members
6. Health (Support to the village health delivery services)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD WITH TAC MEMBERS ON DECEMBER 2009 IN BRIKAMA WR:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	<p>Most participants at TAC level have heard of PRSP. (About 80 Per Cent) understood that it was a strategy to reduce poverty. Many have attended meetings and workshops related to PRSP in the Region.</p>
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	<p>On the PRSP implementation process, not many participants could remember the transitory nature, however there were issues related to staff movement especially at the level of the TAC. Some agreed that it was participatory and very consultative. The following issues were raised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The functionality of the decentralization structures 2. Lack of relevant policies 3. Access to relevant information 4. Capacity to organize and make realistic planning at the time of consultations
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	<p>The following were captured during the presentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are hidden costs for most social services that tax payers have to meet including, issuance of cards, laboratory fees, scanning and X Rays, school supplies travelling cost etc.

		2. High indiscipline of students has been attributed to the abolishing of corporal punishment.
4.	Way forward	<p>The following have been proposed as the way forward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage relevant institutions to train TAC members on the use relevant skills 2. Strengthen the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to advocate at grass root level 3. Late disbursements of funds greatly impact on project implementation

List of Priorities from Brikama WR

1. Health Provision for adequate trained doctors; Upgrading of the Brikama Health Centre to the standard of a hospital
2. Agriculture strengthen services to ensure food delivery
 - Additional sub stations because of the size of Brikama
3. Education Brikama has no Government schools and the students travel a distant to attend high schools
4. Governance Governor's office needs its own planning officer, press communication officer and development officer.
5. Skills training Increase in skill centers or improve the standard of the existing ones

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON IN BUSUMBALA - KOMBO NORTH CONSTITUENCY WR:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	Participant's knowledge in PRSP implementation process was assessed in Busumbala. It was clearly established that the document is not well known to those who attended the workshop. About 12% of them are aware of what the PRSP is all about. From the few answers given, the information in a nutshell is that the PRSP is a document with diverse strategies to eradicate poverty.
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	The provisions under the various pillars of the PRSP have catered for most concerns of the poor. However more has to be done to strengthen the governance structures and increase the level of awareness in the PRSP implementation process.
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	<p>Participants have express concern at the rate of development in their area. It was felt that all development projects should be community driven and demand-led, The following concerns were raised.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More sensitization on the PRSP and related documents will widen their knowledge base 2. Encouragement of privatization and competition in the market could stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty 3. The decentralization structures are weak making local community structures weaker 4. An increase in skills training will help reduce poverty among women

4.	Way forward	<p>The following were recommended as the way forward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More sensitization of the PRSP process will enhance ownership to community projects 2. The Local Government Structures need to be strengthen for effective decision making at grass root level 3. There is need to empower women in addressing all poverty reduction strategies
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List of priorities from Busumbala WR

- Access to Water and Electricity
- Health Upgrading of health facilities
- Agriculture (Women's vegetable garden)
- Employment (More employment opportunities) the priorities are not for Busumbala but for the constituency

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON IN SOMITA - FONI KANSALA CONSTITUENCY WR:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	<p>About 60% of those who attended the workshop had no basic knowledge of the PRSP. It is known mainly by the literates population in the area. Most participants knew that the PRSP is in place to reduce poverty in the Gambia and that there are various interventions.</p>
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	<p>On the PRSP implementation process these were the comments from the presentations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The strategies are great, but it is the follow ups and dissemination through the relevant channel that is lacking 2. Generally there is knowledge gap in the PRSP implementation process 3. The mindsets of the people about workshops need to change. 4. Generally the targeted people for the workshop is adequate but the coverage is not 5. The tools used for the formulation process (SCORE cards) were not user friendly 6. The high attrition rate in the health sector. insufficient trained staff and drugs are of great concern to tax payers 7. Lack of discipline in schools, commitment and level of unqualified teachers could be factors for poor results 8. The use of foreign currency (CFA) to buy goods in the market is affecting the business community and consumers 9. The National Assessment Test taken by grades 3-5 shows no positive impact on the students
3.	Presentation of the 2008 APR	<p>The comments from the presentation include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To boost production in agriculture there is an urgent need for more boreholes 2. NRA should make sure that effective planning takes place. 3. Not many investors are interested Agriculture

4.	Way forward	<p>Participants expressed satisfaction in the manner the proceeding of the workshop was managed. However, they raised concerns on their participation in the next PRSP process, hence the need to have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The required consultation at all levels. 2. Capacity building also featured as a key component of their plan to move the PRSP agenda forward, it was suggested to have Pro- PAG to support through the relevant LGA structures
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List of priorities from Somita WR

- Environment: Lack of proper drainage system
- Agriculture: Difficulty in accessing farm inputs because of its high cost Lack of adequate farm equipment
- Micro Finance: VISACA to be built throughout the country

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS FROM A MEETING HELD ON IN BWIAM FONI BEREKET WR:

No :	TOPICS	COMMENTS/ FEEDBACK FROM THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
1.	Presentation of the PRSP process and discussion on the perception of the PRSP design and formulation process	Knowledge in PRSP design and formulation was assessed. With only few participants being aware of the process, that is an indication that their knowledge level in PRSP is low
2.	Presentation of the PRSP implementation process and discussion on perception of the PRSP implementation process	Despite individual participation in developmental projects and other gainful economic activities participants did not understand the implementation process. At some personal levels participants lamented that they had been involved in training workshops on different subject matters.
3.	Presentation on the 2008 APR	<p>Below are the following comments from the presentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of electricity has created a major setback in the fishing sub-sector. 2. Use of simple and traditional farming instruments should be encouraged because the tractors are not easily accessible because of the user charges 3. Commodity prices are not controlled 4. The issue of land tenure and ownership has posed low productivity. 5. The rural urban drift has implication on development in the area.
4.	Way forward	<p>After the presentation on the way forward the following were proposed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Change in attitude especially in the area of youth migration 2. There is a need to have continuous community sensitization at all levels of society 3. Capacity building especially for VDC members should be regular 4. The implementation of the next PRSP phase should be consultative at all levels but popularization of the current implementation process should form the bases for community needs and aspirations

List of priorities from Bwiam

- Safe drinking water
- Access to electricity
- Environment The land is very salty
- Education High school fees and drop outs
- Micro finance VISACA
- Livestock Construction of a slaughter slab
- Skill centers Multi-purpose centre and the expansion of the present
- Agriculture Irrigation system: Infertility of the land and high cost of fertilizers



Above: Participant scoring his point on a timely face chart at a TAC workshop in Kerewan

Conclusion:

There is a manifested desire by the Gambia Government to scale up PRSP related interventions to meet the annual and 2011 mid-term targets. The countrywide dissemination of the 2008 APR and popularization of the PRSP has raised the level awareness of the process a notch and has led to a renewed sense of ownership of the programme in the communities visited. The national Planning Commission needs to deepen the dissemination and popularization of the PRSP process in more communities across the country and should avail itself of the community radios in all the regions to make the PRSP a household name.

The following Key recommendations are put forward for consideration:

1. Popularization of PRSP II and dissemination of the APR for the current phase should continue on a wider scope
2. All development agendas should be demand driven and community led
3. Participatory and consultative budgeting should be adopted at all levels
4. To stimulate a sustainable economic growth invest and engage Pro - PAG in all public accountability and related processes
5. Conduct interactive meetings between duty bearers and rights holders at all levels
6. Conduct capacity building at all levels
7. Popularization of other policy documents
8. Strengthen the recommendation of the PRSP II on Pro - PAG's role for advocacy and related work
9. Advocate for adequate resources to support the implementation of the next PRSP
10. Implement recommendations of the decentralization process
 11. Establish a Poverty Reduction Dialogue forum
 12. Increase allocations for poverty reduction strategy initiatives
 13. Lobby and advocate for Pro- Poor Policies Projects and Programmes at LGA, National and International Levels.

1. Annex I: List of attendance by LGAs
2. Annex II: Copy of workshop program
3. Annex III: Copy of presentation on PRSP II
4. Annex IV: Copy of presentation on the 2008 APR
5. Annex V: Copy of speech for the Governors/Mayors

Assessment of the workshops

From the participant's perception the general assessment of the workshops were highly rated and included:

1. Attendance
2. Timing
3. Presentations
4. Resource packs
5. Venue
6. Participation

Statement by the Governor

Honourable National Assembly Members,

District Chiefs, Alkalolu and Ward Councilors

Representatives of the Local Government Authority,

Representatives from the NGO Community,

Distinguished Ladies & Gentlemen,

We are indeed pleased to welcome Pro-PAG and its partners to the Central River Region. We welcome you all to this one day session aimed at disseminating the PRSP Annual Progress Report for 2008 and popularize the PRSP process. This consultation is part and parcel of the Poverty Reduction Strategy comprehensive process aimed at sharing the results of the various interventions carried out by the sectors to alleviate poverty in the country.

I am reliably informed that the team led by the Pro-Poor Advocacy Group (Pro-PAG) will also be soliciting the views and perception of the grassroots communities on the PRSP Process and the relevance of our community needs within the programme. As you are well aware, there is a paradigm shift in development thinking from top-down approaches to bottom-up participatory approaches that put local communities at the heart of poverty reduction strategies.

Distinguished Ladies & Gentlemen,

The PRSP provides a road map for the development of The Gambia and serves as a transmission mechanism for the attainment of the MDGs. We all know that PRSP II is MDG-based and will help us deal with the multi-dimensional nature of poverty: low income, poor health and education, gender, insecurity, powerlessness etc.

I would like to recall that the PRSP strategy is country-driven, result-oriented, comprehensive, partnership oriented and is based on a long-term perspective for poverty reduction.

I therefore urge you all to partake fully in the deliberations to make sure that our priorities are adequately captured. That way we can be sure that our needs are taken on board to feed into the planning process at the centralized level.

As a region, we will continue to be committed to the process and we want to urge all stakeholders particularly the National Planning Commission to facilitate timely consultations with all the constituents in a way that would add value to PRSP process.

On that note, I thank you all for your kind attention.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No	Name	Institution	E-mail Address	Contact
1.	Ebrima Manneh	Office of the Governor		9930093
2.	Boray Demba	NEA	dembamansaborry@yahoo.com	7575573
3.	Ebou Sambou	GRTS	boy_samba@yahoo.com	9844342/3100193
4.	Ousman Jatta	GPF		9976015
5.	Famara Jammeh	GFS		7729693
6.	Nyakassi Bojang	GAMTEL	Nyakassi@gamtel.gm	9971551
7.	Ebrahima Konteh	FFHC	kontehbraima@yahoo.com	7041787/9936911
8.	Kebba.N.Sima	AATG	Kebab.sima@	9916973
9.	Momodou Sanneh	GRCS		9993756/7350631
10.	Sinajo Ceesay	DCD	Ceesaysinajo@yahoo.com	9946801
11.	Baboucarr Gaye	RDI	Baboucarr505@yahoo.com	9939595
12.	Mahmoud .L.Jawla	MOYS		7773983
13.	Sainey Fatty	SDF		9959539
14.	Cherno Gaye	Forestry		9816225
15.	Momodou Saidyba	MKAC		6571946
16.	Momodou Touray	Reg. Educ. Directorate	passypassy@hotmail.com	5531730/3955440
17.	Foday Camara	MIKAC		7662398
18.	Kawsu Bayo	RHT	Kawsubayo29@yahoo.com	9988868
19.	Pa Sait Ceesay	MKAC		9954782/7338277
20.	Habib Touray	Agriculture		9922245
21.	Dodou Sowe	NaNA		6503650
22.	Wally Sanneh	Office of the Governor		9907550
23.	Kaddy Sanyang	R/C		6541728

24.	Buba Bojang	Immigration		7704866
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PRIORITY RANKING BY LGA AND SELECTED COMMUNITIES

LGA	COMMUNITY	LIST OF PRIORITIES
BCC	BCC TAC BCC Mix	DRAINAGE SYSTEM CAPACITY BUILDING INCLUDING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE TRAINING OF WARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS • TRAINING ON MARKETING MANAGEMENT
KMC	KMC TAC S/K CENTRAL BAKAU	ROAD NETWORK AND DRAINAGE CAPACITY BUILDING FOR COUNCILORS AND MUNICIPAL STAFF (PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING) ROAD NETWORK INCLUDING DRAINAGE SYSTEM
NBR	KEREWAN TAC ILLESSIA ESSAU	ROAD NETWORK AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURE
URR	BASSE TAC DASILAMEH SUDWOLE	HEALTH (INADEQUATE MATERIALS AND ELECTRICITY) AGRICULTURE INCLUDING FARMING INPUTS ROAD NETWORK
WR	BRIKAMA TAC BUSUMBALLA BWIAM SOMITA	TRAINED DOCTORS ELECTRICITY DRINKING WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM
LRR	MANSA KONKO TAC KENEBA	CAPACITY BUILDING FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON THEIR ROLES IN POVERTY REDUCTION
CRRN	KUNTAUR TAC NJAW JARUMEH	
CRRS	JANJABUREH TAC BRIKAMA BA WALLY KUNDA	

Table 1: List of facilitators in (Team A) by designations, institutions, LGAs

No:	NAME	DESIGNATION	INSTITUTION	LGA COVERED
1.	Rohey Yatta Sey Corre	Research officer & team leader	Pro - PAG	NBR URR KMC BCC
2.	Omar Jobe	Policy and Budget Analyst	Pro - PAG	
3.	Isatou Touray Cessay	Secretary	Pro - PAG	
4.	Baboucarry Touray	Driver	Pro - PAG	
5.	Karamo K. Keita	Ass. Exe. Director	ISRA	
6.	Njaga	CDO URR	DCD	
7.	Bucarry Gaye	CDO NBR	DCD	
8.		CDO BCC	DCD	
9.		CDO KMC	KMC	
10.		CDA Dasilameh	DCD	
11.		CDA Berrending	DCD	

Table 2: List of facilitators in (Team B) by designations, institutions, LGAs

No:	NAME	DESIGNATION	INSTITUTION	LGA COVERED
1.	John Njie	Ag. Director & team leader	Pro - PAG	WR LRR CRRN CRRS
2.	Saloum Sanyang	Financial Controller	Pro - PAG	
3.	Dawda Jallow		NCCE	
4.	Alieu Mbowe		Pro - PAG	
5.	Lamin Nyabally	Driver		
6.	Modou Baldeh	CDO WR	DCD	
7.		CDO LRR	DCD	
8.		CDO CRRN	DCD	
9.		CDO CRRS	KMC	
		CDA	DCD	
		CDA	DCD	