

Promoting Good Governance in The Gambia ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Venue: TANGO COMPLEX Date: 29th October 2011

Funded by: EUROPEAN UNION

Pro-PAG, Working towards a poverty-free Nation



Pro-PAG Annual General Meeting at the TANGO premises
October 2011.

WHY YOU CAN RELY ON US

We communicate with our members, partners, National Assembly Members and community groups through quarterly workshops and community consultations and visits.

We are now organised and have an executive board which consists of an executive director and 7 board members who were elected at our General Assembly in October 2011 to serve a two year term.

We are affiliated with of The Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO), The Education for All Networks (EFANET), the Child Protection Alliance (CPA) and the United Nations Development Programme.

Our donors have been the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), ActionAID, UNICEF and the European Union (EU).



CONTACT US

Garba Jahumpa Road, Bakau Newtown, Serrekunda

Executive Director: Omar Jobe

Tel: (220) 449 4338

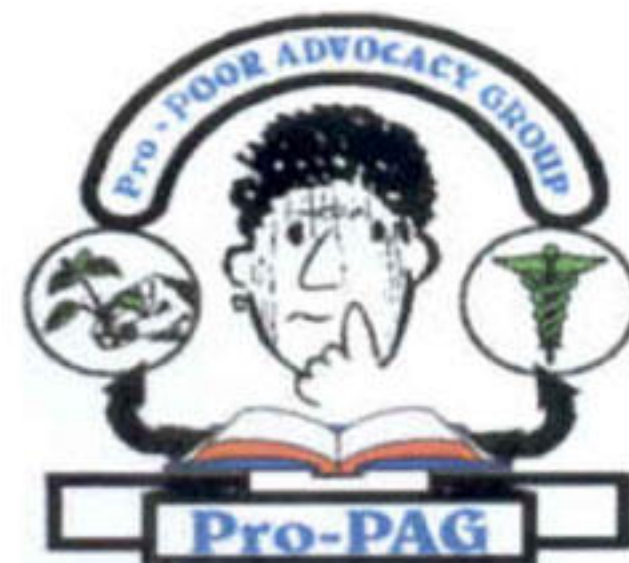
Fax: (220) 449 4219

Email: omar.jobe@yahoo.fr

Website: www.pro-pag.org



The production of this organisational profile has been funded by the European Union under the Non-State Actors Strengthening Programme.



PRO-PAG



SOFRECO



WHO WE ARE

Pro-Poor Advocacy Group is a membership based organisation committed to working towards a poverty free Gambia where every man, woman and child has equitable access to productive resources and basic social services.



OUR OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate and monitor the formulation of a national budget that is responsive to the needs of the poor, by engaging with decision makers at national and local levels and forging strategic relationships with National Assembly Members.
- Improve the ability of local government authorities to; collect funds effectively, allocate funds according to community needs and ensure funds are delivered as intended.
- Provide all community members with the tools and awareness to actively participate in the formulation of budgets that will best serve their needs.

"This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the Non State Actors Strengthening Programme in The Gambia and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union."

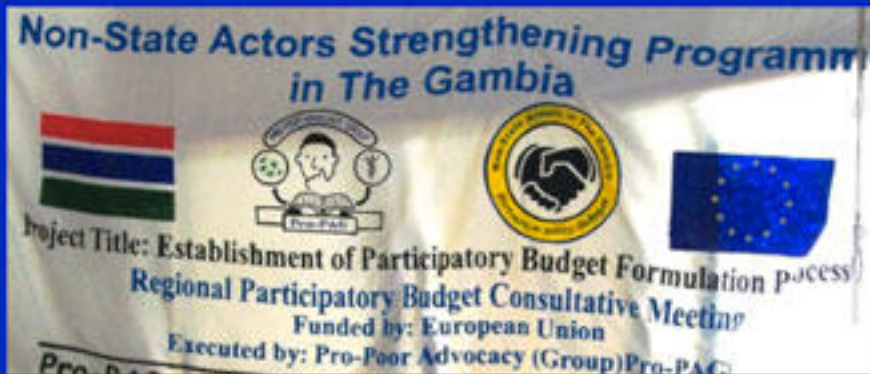
WHAT WE DO AND WHY WE DO IT

The Pro-Poor Advocacy Group (Pro-PAG) is a Civil Society Organisation founded in 2003 and registered with NGO Affairs. Our unique mandate is to engage The Gambian Government on pro-poor policies, projects and programmes using the national budget as a key advocacy tool.

Pro-PAG aims to improve living standards for the poor, the marginalised and the excluded, with a special focus on women and children. We hope to achieve this through the participatory budget process, public education, sensitisations and public expenditure tracking.

Participatory budget process –this involves ordinary citizens being part of the dialogue that decides how some of the public budget is spent. Participatory budgeting empowers citizens and creates a space for people to discuss and prioritise projects that are funded by public money.

Public expenditure tracking is a system that involves openly presenting how public funds are being spent and encourages transparency and government financial accountability.



The participatory budget process and public expenditure tracking is important in The Gambia because it seeks to engage public participation in, and the monitoring of government spending. This should result in increased transparency and encourage public spending where it is most needed and wanted by ordinary people.

WHAT WE DO BEST

Pro-PAG operates in regions across The Gambia: Banjul; Kanifing Municipality; Western Region; Lower River Region; Central River Region; Upper River Region; and the North Bank Region.

Our purpose is to work constructively and cooperatively with local communities and the government, to critically analyse policy and highlight policy gaps, if need be. We do so in a manner that benefits both government actors and the communities they aim to serve.



Pro-PAG aims to allow The Gambian people to engage with decision makers over how national funds are spent, through:

(1) Lobbying and advocacy

- Budget Advocacy: our participatory budget formation workshops directly involve approximately one hundred participants selected to form a cross-section of groups within the region. Identified priorities are then shared with Government ministries in the form of output reports.

- We have carried out budget monitoring services for organisations such as UNICEF, UNDP and the National Planning Commission.

(2) Capacity Building and Community Mobilisation

We conduct:

- Capacity building workshops for members and partners.
- Field training and interventions in schools and hospitals nationwide with National Assembly Members.
- Hands-on training: for example facilitating trips for National Assembly Members to provincial schools, health centres or agricultural sites.
- Pro-PAG ran a series of capacity building trainings in the Upper Nuimi District, North Bank Region on Economic Literacy and Budget accountability for Governance.

The feedback from participants was very positive. The Chairman of Kerewan Area Council, Alhaji Ceesay said that:

"The training has plugged the information gap, which is an essential step towards improving democratic accountability."

Pro-PAG associates have benefited from training from organisations such as the Child Protection Alliance, Education for All Network, Action AID, the Government of The Gambia and the African Network Campaign on Education for All.

(3) Poverty Research and Monitoring

We do:

- Community Scorecards.
- Budget tracking and reporting.
- Publication of brochures, leaflets and articles.