RAISING CITIZEN AWARENESS ABOUT THE SDGS: *Engaging Communities, Women and Youth for more inclusive cities*

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INCLUSIVE CITIES

ZERO HUNGER

- **What do we mean by inclusive cities?**

It refers to the inclusive participation of all relevant stakeholder in development processes, integrated development initiatives which are cognizant to the needs and interest of different groups

- **How can we measure success?**

Through a consultative approach of Focus Group Discussions of different sub groups on regular basis.

- **Examples from Our Cities/Regions?**

We have special permanent seats reserved for representatives of Youth, Women, and Traditional Leaders in our Council, thus to ensuring decision making promoting special considerations for the under represented groups within the region.

Why is the Challenged-Based approach effective

I. It provides an opportunity for the discovery of innovative models relevant to addressing contemporary issues

II. Promotes the direct participation of many relevant stakeholders in the identification and application of recommended solutions.

III. And support the realization of new and or hidden potentials that could address current problems in our environment.

Engagement of excluded groups in community development with SDG Focus

- **Outreach and Engagements**

This community has great potential to encouraging inclusive generation of evidence, citation, recommendations, factual happenings, and justifications relating to development activities. Especially, in hard to reach areas.

- **Examples**

On the theme of leaving no one behind, the Council do have regular Outreach sessions with decentralized structures-Ward Development Committees (WDC) and other structured groups such as the Gambia Federation of Disabled (GFD), Community-Base Organizations (CBOs), and Other marginalize groups through our Multi-Disciplinary Facilitation Team (MDFT) Comprising of local stakeholders. especially in surveys, Mid-Term Reviews, Planning Exercises, Sensitizations, and other relevant activities.

YOUTH AND GENDER INCLUSION

- **How can we connect and engaged both young and older citizens?**

Through the involvement of organize youth groups and traditional leadership committees to influencing greater connection with the general fraternity. In our region, we have the Regional Youth Committee, and the Regional Committee of Chiefs

- **How do we address gender disparities?**

Creation of quotas (e.g. 50/50) in developing activities through gender mainstreaming, and the sensitization of both genders on the impacts of inclusive participation in social roles

CONNECTION AND SYNERGIES

- **How do we see connection and synergies between green socially inclusive city planning?**

It creates an avenue for knowledge sharing, a strong commitment towards implementation and evaluations.

- **examples**

We organize a consultative meetings with our decentralized structures and stakeholders during the development of our strategic development plan 2019-2022 and domestication of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 through the VLR.

PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

This serves as a mechanism for ensuring knowledge management, rapid comprehension of various viable techniques in achieving solutions, and the realization of joint stakeholder commitments in supporting rapid change.

- **What could UNECE do more to support?**

▪*Provide Opportunity to learning best practice towards the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2030*

▪*Provide both technical and financial support*

▪*Institutionalize VLR to measure progress in the implementation of the SDGs*

ON THE USE OF VLRs

- **How can cities use VLRs to engage or communicate with residents?**

Conduct situational analysis and sensitize the populace on progressing sectors, and encouraging positive behavioral change to accelerate commitment and mobilize needed resources to urgently redress contemporary alarming issues, relevant to their livelihoods and Human Development Needs.

- **Examples?**
- *Ward and Community level sensitization and consultation aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births globally compare to Kuntaur Local Government Area registering 38 per 1000 which is above the national threshold of 31 per 1000 (MICS 2018)*
- *No poverty, the region is the poorest with 72.4% against the national average of 48.6%, rural 69.9 and urban 31.6%*

THANK YOU