

*Gambia & Sierra Leone*

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## **Policy plan Foundation Progress Gambia & Sierra Leone 2023-2028**

### **1 Introduction**

The Foundation Progress Gambia & Sierra Leone was established on July 12, 2023. The statutory purpose of the Foundation is as follows:

*“ supporting underprivileged families, especially young people in West Africa and in particular Gambia and Sierra Leone, aimed at improving their personal circumstances and their future prospects.”*

The Foundation also aims to perform all further actions that are related to the aforementioned object in the broadest sense or that may be conducive to it. The Foundation tries to achieve its goal, among other things, by providing support for education and training, health care, nutrition, clothing and the creation of sanitary facilities, sustainable energy and water supply”.

The Foundation Progress Gambia & Sierra Leone is registered by the Chamber of Commerce under Chamber of Commerce number 90819802

### **2. Background**

The founders (and first board members) of the Foundation have been involved in projects and support activities in The Gambia and Sierra Leone for several years. In The Gambia, it mainly concerns agricultural projects, such as the learn-work farm in Sifoe, which was set up and is now run by three young Gambians. Here they learn agricultural entrepreneurship and students of the agricultural school complete their practical period here. Also a farm in Kafuta, with 4 hectares of organic products and a lot of support for education and training. Every year in the month of November, a youth meeting is organized in The Gambia on the themes of empowerment and the consequences of climate change. Incidentally, the construction of basic sanitary facilities is supported, as is the realization of small-scale solar energy facilities. In Sierra Leone, small-

scale initiatives for starting entrepreneurs are supported, improvement of living conditions, water and energy supply. In The Gambia there are contacts with football associations, whereby necessary material is occasionally made available and various talented players are supported in their development. Resources are occasionally made available for extra nutrition.

Both The Gambia and Sierra Leone are among the poorest countries in Africa with very low average incomes. There is little industrial development and access to education is not possible for all young people due to the lack of financial opportunities. In The Gambia, tourism has already developed somewhat more than in Sierra Leone.

Most employment can be found in the agricultural sector, tourism and construction activities such as housing and infrastructure. It is a major task to offer large groups of young people the prospect of a better future, which will also reduce the choice for a risky journey to Europe.

### 3. Vision and mission

The core of our vision for young people in The Gambia and Sierra Leone is that sustainable development, aimed at an independent existence, is essential for a better future. Support with education, training, training and knowledge sharing is of great importance in this regard. Improving personal living conditions can contribute to a better basis for working on these aspects. Poverty, poor living conditions, lack of food, availability of basic facilities such as water and electricity are still too often an obstacle to work on personal development. Education offers young people the opportunity to develop themselves and to contribute to the development of these countries through the knowledge and skills they have acquired, so that the focus will be less on choosing the so-called 'backway', an uncertain adventure with all the associated dangers towards Europe.

### 4. Ambitions

For the duration of this policy plan (present until the end of 2028), the board has formulated a number of ambitions, namely:

- Maintenance and reinforcement of the agricultural projects already started
- Offering more opportunities to follow education & training
- Thinking along and providing support for projects in order to be (as much as possible) self-supporting in the future and to create more employment.
- Supporting small-scale projects for basic sanitation, solar energy and sufficient water availability.
- Incidental support for necessary medical care and nutrition
- Recruiting sponsors so that sufficient resources are available to realize the intended ambitions. To this end, the board will use its own network, further expand the existing website with input from the participants from the countries mentioned and seek publicity to get as many people, organizations and funds as possible enthusiastic about helping to realize the ambitions.
- Sharing good practices to inspire others to develop initiatives and come up with proposals

## 5. Remuneration and benefits:

The board members of the Foundation receive no remuneration for their work. This is also included in the articles of association of the Foundation. Necessary costs incurred by the board in the context of the activities can be reimbursed in consultation.

## 6. Accountability

The board will evaluate the policy plan annually and adjust it if necessary. An annual report, including a financial statement, will be drawn up every year and published on the Foundation's website.

<https://sites.webaware.nl/nic> (in development)

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