

POLICY SUPPORT FACILITY

Reform Implementation Support
Development of an Innovation Fund in The Gambia



Result Factsheet



OBJECTIVES

The PSF service aimed to assist the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (MoHERST) in setting up and operationalising a **National Innovation Fund**, to accelerate The Gambia's transition to an innovation-led and knowledge-based economy.



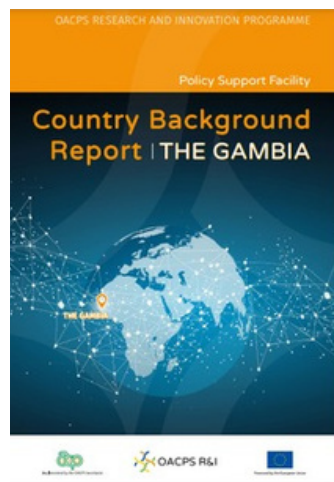
METHODOLOGY

- Planning phase: a desktop review of relevant national and regional R&I documents to get key insights in the R&I system, its needs, challenges and recent developments.
- Field phase: information collection from a wide range of stakeholders (interviews and workshops).
- Closing phase: presentation of main recommendations during a validation event to foster ownership and trust from a broad set of stakeholders.



OUTPUTS

Two reports were published:



MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Launch the National Innovation Fund**, as soon as possible;
- **Ensure its funding through an annual flexible allocation by the Gambian government**, leveraged by other national and international organisations and the private sector;
- **Initiate an ambitious national programme** (led by MoHERST);
- **Enhance information flow and collaboration** among universities, the public and private sector actors, and civil society;
- **Increase national and international collaboration** and encourage continuous learning from other countries (such as Botswana, South Africa, Mozambique, Rwanda, etc.).



NEXT STEPS

A National Research and Innovation Fund Bill has been approved for the operationalisation of the NIF.

Apart from the 3 M Dalasis (around 100k Euro) already allocated by the government to the National Innovation Fund -NIF, MoHERST is awaiting the endorsement by the Cabinet of additional resources.

MoHERST is also actively seeking new international partners to further expand the NIF.



DURATION

August 2021 - February 2022



TEAM

6 international experts
10 national representatives from different institutions



STAKEHOLDERS

70 representatives of over 20 institutions



KEYWORDS

gender equality in STEM,
indigenous knowledge systems, grassroots innovations, innovation fund



CONTACT

psf@oacps-ri.eu
www.oacps-ri.eu

