

Lessons Learnt:

Lessons learnt from previous interventions in support to the democratic transition under the form of budget support induce the adoption of a more balanced approach between budget support and project approach.

The adoption of a new, more progressive Constitution is the cornerstone of the democratic transition in The Gambia. Should a new Constitution not see the day, an alternative scenario for EU support will need to be devised. This could be one of the main issues to assess on the occasion of the Mid-Term Review of the MIP.

This Action also builds on key lessons learnt during the implementation of the UNDP Governance Programme from 2017 to date, most notably, in ensuring that all relevant stakeholders at institutional and community levels are involved at the beginning of project development to ensure ownership and sustainability, and that this direct engagement is maintained, particularly with stakeholders outside the Greater Banjul Area.

Specifically, from the Strengthening Democracy project, this Action will seek to ensure sustained advocacy and collaborative dialogue with National Assembly Members on the content and significance of bills, including on constitutional amendments, as well as to pair international and national consultants to undertake research/study to promote the leverage of comparative analyses and enhance the quality of debate. On Rule of Law, a sector wide national Rule of Law Roadmap aligned with the NDP has been formulated and it would be imperative to not duplicate the production of existing policies and strategies.

Furthermore, this Action will support implementation of the EU Election Observation mission (EU EOM) recommendations, notably strengthening fact checking institutions and enhancing measures to protect whistle-blowers. Finally, lessons learnt from the Leadership and Accountability project emphasize the need for sustained inclusive engagements between duty bearers and rights holders at local level to strengthen transparency and accountability, as well as the need for targeted institutional support for advocacy, inter-party dialogues, political participation of women, youth and PwDs.