THE EDUCATION FOR ALL CAMPAIGN NETWORK- (EFANet)
ANNUAL REPORT
AUGUST 2017 - NOVEMBER 2020

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List of abbreviations

AAITG-	Action Aid International The Gambia
AGM-	Annual General Meeting
ANCEFA-	Africa Network Campaign on Education For All
CRPD-	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSEF-	Civil Society Education Fund
CSOs -	Civil Society Organizations
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
ECD-	Early Childhood Development
CPA	Child Protection Alliance
ECOZ	Education Coalition for Zimbabwe
EFA -	Education For All
EFANet-	Education For All Campaign Network
EOL	Education Out Loud
FAA-	Finance and Admin Assistant
FAO-	Finance and Admin Officer
FAWEGAM-	Forum for African Women Educationalists- The Gambia Chapter

GAWE-	Global Action Week for Education
GCE-	Global Campaign for Education
GFD-	The Gambia Federation for the Disabled
GPE-	Global Partnership for Education
GTU-	The Gambia Teachers' Union
IRI	International Republican Institute
M&E-	Monitoring & Evaluation
MoBSE-	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
NAMs-	National Assembly Members
NC-	National Coordinator
NECs-	National Education Coalitions
NGOs-	Non- Governmental Organizations
NaSMaC-	National School Management Committees
PA-	Programme Assistant
PO-	Programme Officer
PS-	Permanent Secretary
RSMCs	Regional School Management Committees
SDG-	Sustainable Development Goal
SMCs-	School Management Committees
SOS	Save Our Soul
SP-	Strategic Plan
SSR	Security Sector Reform
TJ	Transitional Justice
TJWG	Transitional Justice Working Group

UNESCO/NATCOM- United Nation Education for Scientific and Cultural Organization/ National Commission

UNICEF- United Nations International Children Emergency

1. INTRODUCTION

The Education For All Campaign Network (EFANet)- The Gambia, is the National Education Coalition in The Gambia that advocates for the realization of quality Education For All (EFA). The network also aims to influence policy changes by mobilizing, building and strengthening the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in order to advocate effectively for the realization of quality education for all. The vision of the network is **"*Education in The Gambia is of good quality, equitable, inclusive, and accessible to all*."** and its mission is *"***To build an informed and skilled network of NGOs/CSOs to achieve a coordinated and credible advocacy for the rights of all to achieve good quality education by 2030 and beyond*".**

EFANet was established in 2002 in response to the call of the Dakar Framework for Action to mobilize wider participation of civil society in the EFA agenda. EFANet comprises of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), The Gambia Teachers' Union (GTU) and other civil society organizations that are actively involved in education processes in The Gambia. In order to amplify the voices and platforms to influence policy, EFANet has built a wide range of networks and a variety of partnerships at the local, national, regional and international levels. Such strategic partnerships are with a variety of grassroots organizations through EFANet's Regional Chapters, the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education **(**MoBSE), the National Assembly Members (NAMs), other CSOs, and national and international NGOs. EFANet is a member of the Africa Network Campaign on Education For All (ANCEFA) and the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) Movement. These partnerships have resulted in the harnessing of energies and resources to achieve a common vision and mission. Through these partnerships, the right to education is being sought through the rights-based approach coupled with a pro-poor, gender responsive and inclusive education policies, programmes and activities.

2. FUNDING SOURCES TO DATE

This report contains briefs of all activities implemented by EFANet during the period under review. The implementation of such activities was made possible by donors. The Network will like to express its profound gratitude to such donors. In the same vein, the Network is by extension thanking those who have committed themselves to fund some of its upcoming activities. Below are the donors that contributed to the funding of the Network's activities:

I. Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF)

The Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF) is a global education fund programme set up in 2009 after the faced out of the Common Wealth Education Fund (CEF), through the support of the **Global Partnership for Education** (GPE) to support citizen engagement in education sector policy, planning, budgeting and monitoring. It was founded on a shared understanding that informed broad-based and locally-driven civil society participation which is crucial in delivering national and international education goals. While governments are responsible for guaranteeing the right to free, inclusive and quality education for all citizens, civil society can and should play a crucial role in bringing diverse voices together under common platforms to hold governments and donors accountable for their commitments, and to ensure relevance and equity within education sector plans, programmes and budgets.

In this regard, CSEF provides grant funding and technical support to representative and democratic ***National Civil Society Education Coalitions*** to strengthen citizen and civil society participation in national education sector planning and policy processes, research, analysis and tracking, and engagement and input to regional and global policy processes. Support is also provided through guidelines for national planning and operations, technical support and capacity development, and linking local, national and regional and global activities in order to maximize impact. EFANet received grant funding from CSEF from the year 2009 to 2019 before Education Out Loud-(EOL) took over.

II. Action Aid International The Gambia (AAITG)

ActionAid International-The Gambia (AAITG)) is an Affiliate Member of ActionAid International (AAI) – a global movement of people working to further human rights for all and defeat poverty. AAITG has been in existence in The Gambia since 1979 to promote the rights and needs of the poorest people in The Gambia, including health, education, clean water and a decent living. AAITG also works in over 40 countries across the world to promote the right of all to quality education; train teachers and advance the political influence of people living in poverty to hold governments and corporate bodies accountable. Furthermore, AAITG also build the resilience of people living in poverty to conflicts and disasters as well as make sure local communities are involved in decisions around the national education system. Action Aid International – The Gambia provided budgetary support to EFANet during the

institutionalization and capacity building of National School Management Committee (NasMaC) to complement CSEF III project.

III. Future In Our Hands – The Gambia

Future In Our Hands – The Gambia (FIOH-TG) is an affiliation of Future In Our Hands Sweden and also a member to the EFANet. It was established in The Gambia in the late 1980s as an international charitable organization concentrating on the promotion of the rights to education for all, through building and of schools and providing scholarships to the needy students in country. FIOH also train and build capacities of rural community members light skill in The Gambia through its community development programmes. FIOH also provided a budgetary support to the coalition for the institutionalization and capacity building of National School Management Committee (NaSMaC) to complement **CSEF phase III** project.

IV. Child Fund – The Gambia

Child Fund previously called the Christian Children Fund was first found in China and start operation in The Gambia in the late 1970s Child Fund is a member organization of EFANet and a reliable partner in the promotion of Education. It focuses mainly on providing scholarships and support to vulnerable children and their families mainly within the West Coast Region through its sponsorship programmes. EFANet and ChildFund have enjoyed a long standing and cordial relationship through enhanced networking and partnership building. ChildFund provided budgetary support to EFANet for the implementation of the Institutionalization and Capacity Building of National School Management Committee (NaSMaC) to complement CSEF phase III project.

V. Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE)

Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, is the Gambia government's ministry/institution that is mandated to provide education to all Gambians as well as promote Education for All goals and recently Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4. MoBSE and EFANet has built a very cordial working relationship since the inception of the coalition in 2002. MoBSE also has supported EFANet through budgetary support to compliment the CSEF funds. MoBSE also in 2020 donated the coalition a four-wheel land cruiser to facilitate the office errands.

VI. SOS children Village The Gambia

Over the years, EFANet has a cordial working relationship with Save Our Soul (SOS) in the promotion of right to equitable quality, relevant and inclusive education for all in The Gambia. SOS, since its inception in The Gambia has extensively invested in the area of education, early childhood development, health and orphanage care. SOS is also amongst the institutions that provided budgetary support to EFANet during the period under review.

VII. Education Out Loud.

Since the faced out of CSEF, Education Out Loud (EOL) was established by the Global Partnership for Education in April 2019 under its Advocacy and Social Accountability initiative to support and strengthen National Education Coalitions and other Civil Society Organisations to promote social accountability in education. The fund supports civil society to be active and influential in shaping education policy to better meet the needs of communities, especially of vulnerable and marginalized populations. Education Out Loud aims to enhance civil society capacities to engage in education sector planning, policy dialogue and monitoring and to promote transparency and accountability of national education sector policy. It also seeks to create a stronger global and regional enabling environment for civil society advocacy and transparency efforts in education. The Education Out Loud grant funding is managed by Oxfam IBIS. EFANet started receiving funding from Education Out Loud in January this year (2020).

3 ACTIVITIES FROM AUGUST 2017 TO NOVEMBER 2020

This report contains briefs reports of activities implemented by EFANet from August 2017 – November, 2020 and other engagements with partners/members as a coalition and herein refer to the year under review. The activities are reported under the following components:

3.1. Governance and oversight
3.2.Capacity building and strengthening of the coalition
3.3.Research Monitoring and Documentation
3.4.Advocacy and Awareness raising
3.5.Networking and partnership

GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

Activities reported under this headline revealed the governance and oversight function of the different governance layers of the coalition as well as the level of transparency on how the oversight functions are executed.

I. EFANet General Assembly 2017

EFANet held its ***3rd*** **General Assembly** (**GA**) on the **7th and 8th August** 2017, at the **Baobab Holiday Resort in Bijilo**. The two-day meeting was set aside to update the Network's members of its activities and to elect a new Board of Directors in the capacity of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Treasurer to serve as an oversight body and steer the affairs of the coalition for the period under review. The GA meeting targeted the Honorable Minister, Claudiana A Cole, EFANet's international partner organisations from the African Network Campaign on Education For All (ANCEFA) & OXFAM-IBIS, members at the national level, delegates from the regions, EFANet's Board of Directors, and partners.

The GA meeting was meant to review policies and programmes activities and the financial reports, the constitution, discuss the key challenges facing the network and identify solutions for redress. Also, the meeting was meant to elect a new board of directors (Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Treasurer) to steer the affairs of the coalition for the three consecutive years. Three weeks prior to the general assembly regional chapter election were held in all the 7 EFANet Regional chapters to elect regional executives who also serve in the board of directors.

II. EFANet Quarterly Board Meetings

EFANet Board of Directors hold regular board meetings to review EFANet policies and programmes, to receive quarterly updates from the EFANet regional chapters as well as the secretariat on the coalition's activities and financial reports. The Quarterly Board Meetings are also used to conduct appraisals on the performance of the secretariat staff, identify strategies for implementation and take policy decisions.

III. EFANet Regional Chapter Executive meetings

All the eight EFANet regional chapters hold quarterly regional executive chapter meetings to review the regional chapters' activities, come up with advocacy strategies in order to engage the relevant stakeholders at their various chapter level. During these meetings, the various regional chapter Chairpersons also update their chapter executive on the work of the secretariat and the various decisions taken or made at the Board level.

3.7 CAPACITY BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING OF THE COALITION

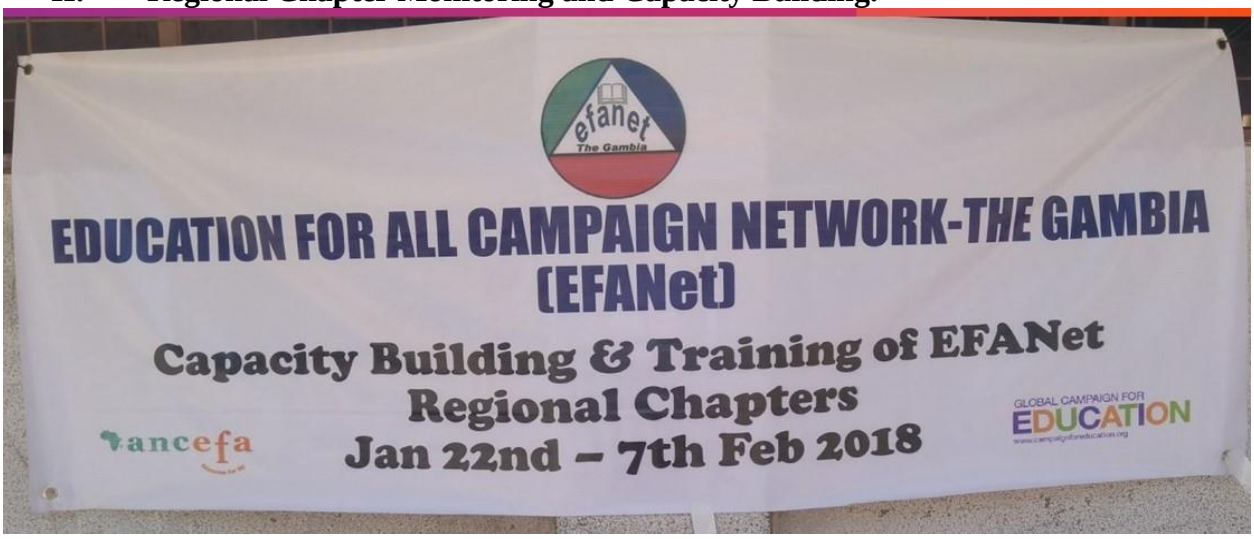
I. Induction of EFANET Board of Directors and secretariat staff

Following the successful conduct of EFANet's GA and election of the newly elected Board of Directors, a 2-day induction training was held for the BoDs and secretariat staff on Networking & Coalition Building; Financial Management; Advocacy & Policy Influencing; Communication Skills and Capacity Building on Financial audits. The induction training was held on the 9th and 10th August 2017, at the Baobab Holiday Resort in Bijilo.

The main objectives of the induction training were to strengthen the capacity of the new BoDs and secretariat staff on resource mobilization; the coalition's governance structure and on the roles and responsibilities of the Board and the secretariat

Cross Section of the participants at the induction

II. Regional Chapter Monitoring and Capacity Building.



The Coalition, from the 22nd to the 26th January 2018, and 20th and 21st February 2018 conducted monitoring and capacity building training for its regional chapter members in all EFANet regional chapters. The main objective of the regional chapter monitoring and capacity building was to gather information on the strengths and weaknesses and areas for improvement in the various regional chapters and to support in building their capacities in the advocacy for access to quality education for all in The Gambia.

III. Review and Development of EFANet Strategic Plan 2019-2024

a. Regional Consultation and Review of The EFANet Strategic Plan 2019-2024

EFANet embarked on a regional consultation for the review and development of its fifth strategic plan to guide the Coalition's organizational, management and advocacy on access to quality education for all in The Gambia for the period 2019-2024 from the 23rd - 26th July 2018 in regions six (Basse), five (Janjangbureh), four (Mansankonko) and three (Kerewan). The activity targeted fifteen participants in each of the regions.

The regional consultation was meant to have a greater stakeholder participation and consensus particularly from regional and grassroots structures towards the achievement of access and relevance to education and to ensure the achievement of SDG 4 which is meant to "Ensure an Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Life-long Learning Opportunities for all.

The participants were informed about the objective and expectations of the of the activity; they were also given an overview of the EFANet progress report from 2015 to date; there was also a discussion on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (S.W.O.T) of their individual chapters as well as on the Vision and Mission of the new strategic plan 2019-2024. In addition, the participants also had discussions on the three Strategic Objectives () of the previous Strategic Plan 2015-2018 and identified activities for the new Strategic Plan 2019-2024.

b. Development and Validation EFANet Strategic Plan 2019-2024

As part of the reviewing process of EFANet's 2015-2018 Strategic plan and developing a new strategic plan for 2019-2024, the secretariat hired a consultant to facilitate the process and conduct literature review on the previous EFANet strategic plan and other policy documents relevant to the promotion of education and produce initial draft of the strategic plan. The strategic plan is meant to guide the coalition's advocacy programmes and sets the strategic directions of the Network.

On December 2018, thirty (30) participants were drawn from thirteen (13) EFANet member organisations and seven (7) regional chapters to conduct social validation on the new draft strategic plan and authenticate it for the Network's operations at the Regional Education Directorate 1 conference hall, Jeshwang. The development of the 2019-2024 strategic plan which is a significant milestone for the coalition had achieved a greater stakeholder's participation and

consensus towards the achievement of access, relevance and quality education and the sustainable development goal (SDG)n 4 in The Gambia.

c. **Sensitization on the use of Internal assessment Results to Some Vice Principals and Senior Teachers in Upper Basic Schools in Regions 1,2 & 4**

The sensitization on the use of internal assessment results was conducted in regions 1, 4 & 2 respectively from the 20th, 21st and 22nd December, 2018. EFANet advocacy for positive achievement in children's performance funded the activity. In the implementation of the activity, SQAD was supported with funds by EFANet through CSEF III project to carry out the sensitization on the use of Internal Assessment Results to improve learning outcome of students in Basic Schools in The Gambia. There had been more 98% attendances from across the three regions 1, 4 and 2 respectively. This shows how significant and importance attached by teachers to this activity.

Objectives:

- To improve learning outcome in external assessment in schools.
- To support in ensuring that internal and external assessments are of identical achievements in schools.
- To build the capacity of teachers in Upper Basic Schools on key issues in school-based assessment procedures.

d. Institutionalisation and capacity building of National School Management Committees (NaSMaCs)

In light of ensuring effective and efficient school management for the provision of quality education for all, EFANet in collaboration with MoBSE and partners organized a two-day

convergent for the Institutionalization and capacity building of School Management Committees (SMCs) for effective community participation for Improved Learning Outcomes and sustainable development. All the six (6) educational regions and relevant stakeholders working directly with MoBSE were invited to this convergent. Participants were mainly from all the school clusters in the whole country. Meaning, all schools were represented through their cluster representatives.

The Institutionalization of School Management Committees was meant to enhance effective community participation for Improved Learning Outcomes and Sustainable Development. It was also meant to review and adapt the National School Management Committee (NaSMaCs) constitution, to elect an executive committee that will steer the affairs of the parent body as well as to conduct a short induction session for the newly constituted executive body of the NaSMaC.

The National School Management Committee coordinators initiated the need to be supported by EFANet to institutionalize the school management structure at the national level. This is mainly because the School Management Committees and their sub-committees are formed at the school, cluster and regional levels but not at the National level. The formation of the NaSMaCs was conducted through a National consultation effort by first engaging all the six Regional Education Directorates (REDs) to confirm the establishment of school SMCs, cluster SMCs and Regional SMCs. The regional engagement and consultation meetings led to the Institutionalization of the NaSMaCs.

The NaSMaC constitution was reviewed and adapted after a thorough and meticulous process. An interim election body was formed to conduct the election process of NaSMaC which declared various positions i.e. Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, General Secretary, Auditor, Treasurer and Six Regional Chairpersons in the executive committee as vacant and open for contest according the NaSMaCs constitution. The review and adaption of the constitution was conducted before the formations of the structures. The formation of the executive body was informed by the dictates of the adapted NaSMaCs constitution under Article 2 of the National Executive Committee (NEC) which states: The NEC shall be elected through an election process and it shall be made up of 11 persons as follows: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, General Secretary, Auditor, Treasurer and Six Regional Chairpersons.

e. Capacity building of ECD facilitators and care givers in Region 5 and Region 6 in 2018

EFANet in collaboration with the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MOBSE) Early Childhood Education (ECD) Unit embarked on a two day training for ECD Facilitators and Caregivers on the 19th and 20th September, 2018 in regions five (Janjangbureh) and six (Basse). The training was attended by the ECD School Heads and Facilitators/ Teachers as well as the

ECD Management Committees from the regions. The training was conducted by the ECD Unit Head, Ms. Haddy. Khan and the EFANet team. The Focal Points together with the Regional Education Directorates in the regions facilitated the mobilization and identification of the participants which was very representatives.

The objective of the activity was to enhance the understanding of the ECD Facilitators and Care givers on the Parenting Programme and the Pre-School Programme as well as on their roles and responsibilities, identify the strengths and challenges of the ECD facilitators and care givers on the Parenting and Pre-School Programme and identify possible solutions to address them. The activity was also meant to give the Facilitators and Management Committees the opportunity to liaise amongst themselves and learn from best practices.

f. EFANet Bi-Annual membership meeting and capacity building training

a. 2017 Bi-annual Membership Meeting

EFANet conducted a two-day Bi-annual Membership Meeting and Capacity Building Training for its members on the 14thand15th September 2017, at the RED. The event targeted the Coalition member organizations both at the national & regional level and media personnel both from the electronic & print media. During the two-day membership meeting and capacity building key topics crucial to the growth of the coalition such as "Leadership and Organizational Management; Sustainable Development Goal 4; Coalition Building & Networking Strategies; Education Financing: Budget Analysis and Expenditure Tracking and Monitoring & Evaluation" amongst others were treated.

The event was meant to create a platform where the Coalition members meet and review the coalition's past activities, identify its successes and challenges for solutions, as well as identify new activities for the CSEF 2018 Proposal. The training also provided members the opportunity to share information, best practices and strengthen the networking amongst the members. Also,

the meeting was meant to persuade all members to renew their commitment and participate in the activities of the Coalition for their collective achievement and provide them with the requisite to enhance their performances in building a more vibrant and successful coalition.

b. 2018 Bi-annual Membership Meeting

EFANet conducted a Bi-annual membership meeting and capacity building training for its members to share information on programmes activities and advocacy strategies on the 8th and 9th of November, 2018. The event brought together various coalition member originations of different categories, the seven (7) regional chapters and member partners.

The main purpose of this bi annual meeting and capacity training was to build the capacity of coalition members and to share experiences and updates on implementation of activities against planned. During the two event capacities of participants were built on "Advocacy Skills and Techniques; Coalition Building and Networking; Leadership and Organizational Management; Budget interpretation and analysis; and Monitoring and Evaluation of Programmes and Projects". Also, both successes and challenges of the coalition and members were identified and discussed for solution.

c. 2019 Bi-annual Membership Meeting

EFANet on the 8th and 9th of November 2018 conducted a two days Bi-annual Membership Meeting and Capacity Building Training for its members at the RED1to share information, programme activities and their organization's best practices. More importantly, the meeting was also used to discuss successes the coalition has registered, identify the constraints affecting the Network and suggest possible solutions to address them. Moreover, the meeting was coupled with trainings to build the capacity of members and to foster the building of a more vibrant and successful coalition. The meeting and training was attended by various members from the national and regional level.

The purpose of the training was to build the capacity of EFANet's members on Advocacy Skills and Techniques; Research Methodologies; Coalition Building and Networking Strategies; Leadership and Management Skills and other related topics. The meeting and training was also meant for the coalition members to network amongst themselves, share best practices, discuss their achievements as well as the challenges and identify solutions to address them.

g. **Strengthening of regional chapter meetings (March 2019)**

From the 19th to the 21st March 2019, EFANet organized a regional chapter membership mapping and formation of regional chapter executive member for regions 6, 5 and 4 on strengthening advocacy for quality education for all in the Gambia through effective regional chapters. The objective of the meeting was to strengthen EFANet Regional chapter 4 and 6 and separation of region 5 into North and South. During the meetings in the 3 selected regions, chapter members were informed on the general mandate of EFANet as the national education coalition in The Gambia and chapter executives were formalized.

h. Review and validation of EFANet governance and operational policy documents in 2018

EFANet hired the services of a consultancy firm called BOBE in 2018 to review and update six of its institutional and operational documents namely: The Constitution, Finance Manual, Board Manual, Terms and Conditions of Service, Resource Mobilization and Communication Strategy in order to strengthen its institutional and operational standards. As part of the finalization process, a validation workshop was organized on the 27th December 2019 at the Regional Education Directorate to give EFANet Board of Directors and member organizations to review the updated documents and have their inputs into the policies before they are finalized. In attendance was the coalition's Board of Directors (BoDs) and the members from various institutions.

The objective of the validation was to give the BoDs and coalition members the opportunity to assess the reviewed documents and gather the inputs in the documents before their finalization as well as to validate them.

The validation meeting was well attended and participatory in that the participants during the discussions and group works came up with relevant recommendations for the BOBE to incorporate. The report was also validated at the end of the workshop and the recommendations of the participants were given to the consultants to add to their work.

At the end of the group work, the participants came up with recommendations and presented them at the meeting for the consultants to add into their updated documents. After all the presentations, the inputs were submitted to the consultants for enhancement of the operational and policy documents report.

i. Capacity building training for Upper Basic Schools and Senior Teachers on monitoring and supervision of teaching and learning improved learning outcomes

EFANet in partnership with MoBSE's Standard Quality Assurance Department (SQAD) from the 26th – 28th of March 2019 conducted a capacity building training for Seventy-five (75) Upper Basic Schools Senior Teachers from Regional Education Directorates 3, 5 and 6.

The training was meant to build the capacities of upper basic senior teachers on monitoring and support giving, preparation and use of test blue print, test / item writing and administration. The training had envisaged to improve learning outcomes / results of the students.

j. Capacity building & strengthening of Mothers' clubs

a. Expansion and capacity building of Networks of Mothers'' Clubs to promote girls' education (2019)

In September 5 & 6, 2019, EFANet partnered with the Forum for African Women Educationalists – Gambia Chapter (FAWEGAM) to conduct a sensitisation and capacity building training for the networks of Mothers' clubs in region six (6) to promote girls' education in the region.

The objective of the training was to give the network of mothers' clubs the opportunity to better coordinate their clusters and regional Networks to enhance the institutionalisation of a strong National Network of Mothers' Club that will advocate for increased enrolments, retention and completion of girls' schooling through advocacy and community sensitisation campaigns as well as to monitor the performance of girls in schools. Also, key amongst the objectives of the event was to build a strong and unify community network to serve as a mouth piece and to hold the government accountable for delivering equitable quality, inclusive and relevant education to all with specific attention to girls and vulnerable children in the society.

b. Institutionalization and capacity building of Regional Networks of Mothers' Clubs (2020)

EFANet in collaboration with FAWEGAM conducted an institutionalisation of regional Network of Mothers' Clubs Executives from the **29th September to 1st October 2020,** to conduct monitoring and promote attendance and retention of girls, vulnerable and marginalised children and youths to education in CRR, LRR, and NBR regions. The engagement was aimed at supporting the institutionalisation of regional networks of mothers' clubs' executives and to build their capacities to be better structured and more effective in monitoring the attendance and retention of girls as well as for the vulnerable and marginalised children and youths in schools.

The activity was also meant to promote the networks community participation to improved learning outcomes and sustainable development.

k. Capacity Building of EFANet Staff and Board – January 2020

EFANet conducted a capacity building training for the board and staff of the secretariat as the CSEF phase III fund was facing out. The capacity building training was held on the 11th and 12th January 2020, and it was aimed to strengthen the governance and management systems of the board and the Secretariat.

The capacity building training was facilitated by 3 regional agencies: Global Campaign for Education (GCE), African Network Campaign on Education For All (ANCEFA) and OXFAM-IBIS. The training provided the board and secretariat staff with capacities to manage the coalition in a transparent and accountable manner and ensure to its credibility in dealing with partners and the government ministries. The training also provided them capacity to move forward to the ASA Education Out Loud project.

The objective of the training was meant to: appreciate good corporate governance, raise awareness on the roles, responsibilities and separation of powers between the Board (and its various Committees) and the Secretariat, highlight features of well-run and poorly run Boards,share and sensitize on the ANCEFA Governance Manual and Toolkit.

Spot meetings and capacity assessment.

As part of the capacity building and orientation of EFANet board and secretariat staff, several pre-training activities/spot meetings took place between the facilitators from ANCEFA/ IBIS OXFAM and members of the board of directors and the secretariat through the National Coordinator and finance team. The purposes of these meetings were to assess and identify the capacity gaps of the organisation and develop an appropriate training guide for the two-day training.

Two meetings were also held between the visiting facilitators and MoBSE and GTU.

l. Setting up of EFANet Technical committee – June 2020

In June 2020, EFANet set up a 3 individual Technical Committee to support the coordination of activities and programmes of the secretariat in order to effectively advocate for the rights of all to education. The formation of this committee was a response to one of the recommendations made during the capacity building of EFANet staff and board which was facilitated by ANCEFA and OXFAM IBIS and the due diligence and technical support visit by EOL Regional Office in January 2020.

m. Membership Mapping and Recruitment of New Potential Members

EFANet embarked on a three (3) day **Membership Mapping and Recruitment of Potential Members from the 14TH-16TH July, 2020** in 6 of EFANet regional chapters in the 5 Regional Education Directorates (RED) (North Bank Region, Central River Region, Upper River Region, Lower River Region and West Coast Region). As a coalition that derives its strengths and motivation from its members in its advocacy to engage all relevant stakeholders, EFANet recognizes and values the peculiar role its member organisations play in achieving its goal.

The main objective of the exercise was meant to recruit more members particularly the marginalize groups to be part of the coalition's membership as well as strengthen the capacities of its members for equitable participation of marginalized groups in order to advocate effectively for the realization of quality education in The Gambia. It was also aimed at assessing the knowledge base of the recruited members on EFANet's role in the country and to brief them on the coalition background and mandate.

Meeting held at Kaur Janneh Kunda, Lower Saloum and Fass Bamba, Upper Saloum in Central River Region North

n. Orientation of New Potential Members

In response to the membership mapping exercise conducted in July, EFANet on the 28th of September 2020, oriented 15 of its newly mapped and recruited members at the NACCUG Conference Hall in Bakau. The newly recruited members were from three (3) regional chapters including CRR North, CRR South and URR. During the exercise, 15 participants were invited out of the 30 recruited due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The main objective of the membership orientation meeting was to orient the new members on the Network's, mandate, vision, mission, its membership base and source of funding amongst others. It was also meant to expand EFANet's membership and strengthen the capacities of the members.

Cross section of participants at the Orientation

n. EFANet Board and Staff Retreat

EFANet with grant funding support from the EOL organized a three-day retreat with the coalition's board of directors and secretariat staff on the 9th to 11th November 2020 to review the coalition's existing policy documents and programmes and share learning experiences and best practices ahead of the regional chapter elections and general assembly.

The objective of the retreat was to review three of the Coalition's operational documents namely: **EFANet Constitution, EFANet Board Manual and EFANet Human Resource Manual**. As

guiding documents of the Coalition, the retreat was meant to identify and tease out gaps in these documents and address them to suite our day to day running of activities and to be able to carry out our advocacy to better deliver

o. Developing and Publishing of EFANet Quarterly Newsletters

EFANet develops and produces quarterly newsletters which are distributed amongst its members, partners and other education stakeholders. The purpose of the printing of the newsletters is to updates and share information on the coalition's implemented activities and the activities of its member organisations. The newsletters are also used as advocacy materials to hold the duties bearers accountable on their duties in order to deliver in the achievement of equitable, quality, inclusive and relevant education to the citizens. It also increases the coalition's credibility and visibility.

3.1 RESEARCH, MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION

I. Research on the Effectiveness of the Assessment Methods and their Impact on the Learning Outcomes of Students in Basic Education in The Gambia

EFANet commissioned the service of a consultant to conduct a research on the effectiveness of the assessment methods and their impact on learning outcomes of student in Basic education in The Gambia. The research was meant to analyze policies, programmes, and all measures available on assessment and propose relevant recommendations and actions for the government of The Gambia to formulate strategies and policies in line with its international and national commitments in education.

II. Research on the Status of Basic Education Services Delivery in The Gambia:

In February, 2019 EFANet commissioned a consultant to conduct a research on the status of Basic Education services delivery in The Gambia. This research aimed at studying policies and programmes on equitable delivery of inclusive, quality and relevant education to all Gambians as well government's performance against policy comments, identify challenges and provide recommendations for improvement by the government. The research focused on service delivery in basic education in The Gambia; this affects learners from grade 1 to 9 officially ranging from year 7 to 16. It focused on the provision of infrastructure, teaching and learning materials, teachers supply, access to education rates, ability to retain learners in schools and their educational outcomes.

III. **EFANet conducted a joint monitoring on the conduct of The Gambia Basic Education Certificate Examination (GABECE)**

In order to achieve its aims in influencing government policy by monitoring the implementation of the National Education Sector Policy (NESP) 2016-2030 and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, EFANet in collaboration with its member organization, GTU, embarked on a Nationwide Joint Monitoring of The Gambia Basic Education Certificate

Examination (GABECE) from the 27th – 29th July, 2020 in all the six (6) educational regions of the country. The NESP 2016-2030 was developed by MoBSE to shape the course of education in The Gambia for the next fifteen years. The theme of this policy, "Accessible, equitable and inclusive quality education for sustainable development explains the need to monitor the conduct of the GABECE particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The monitoring targeted five (5) schools per region and in each of the schools, the school head, the examination's supervisor and four students (two boys and two girls) were targeted for the questionnaires.

The objective of the joint monitoring was to administer questionnaires to the various upper basic schools conducting the grade 9 GABECE in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is meant to provide the Network with answers particularly as to whether the general conduct of the GABECE 2020 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic is safe for the school administrators, teachers, supervisors and the students by providing them with Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) like face masks, hand sanitizers, water and soap to wash their hands before entering the school campus and whether the schools are taking the temperatures of everyone entering the school to minimize the spread of the virus.

3.2 **ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS RAISING**

I. Meeting with legislators and other stakeholders on the draft disability Bill

A Cross-Section Of Participants During The Meeting

In their drive to realize equal rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities in the New Gambia, The Gambia Federation of the Disabled (GFD) in collaboration with the EFANet with funding support from the United Nation Development Program (UNDP), International Republican Institute (IRI) and ANCEFA on Thursday, 19th of October 2017, held a one day consultative workshop with National Assembly Members (NAMs) and other stakeholders on the National Draft Disability Bill. The meeting was attended by the NAMs, Civil Society

Organizations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Government Ministries, Media Personnel from the electronic and print Media.

The one-day workshop was meant to create an opportunity for the National Assembly Members and stakeholders to validate the draft Disability Bill as well as advocate for its enactment. The meeting was also meant to bring the participants together to discuss and identify solutions to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in The Gambia.

II. Global Action Week For Education (GAWE)

EFANet, in solidarity with the global community (GCE), together with the members and partners commemorates the Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) annually to remind world leaders of the commitments they made in the World Education Forum in Dakar in the year 2000**.** During this meeting, world leaders adopted the Dakar Framework for Action to promote the right to Education for All (EFA). During this event, a whole week is dedicated to conduct various advocacy activities to commit the government to fulfill its promises. In the same vein, a meeting was held in September 2015 which led o the adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that are meant to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all over the next 15 years. Since the focus of GCE, EFANet and the year's theme is on Accountability for SDG4 which is meant to "***Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all",*** and asking ***governments to keep their promises.*** The GAWE is also celebrated by mobilizing mass participation in order to advocate and campaign for the right to education by engaging the Government and other education stakeholders. Every year, a theme is developed by the GCE movement to intensify the advocacy campaign on education for all.

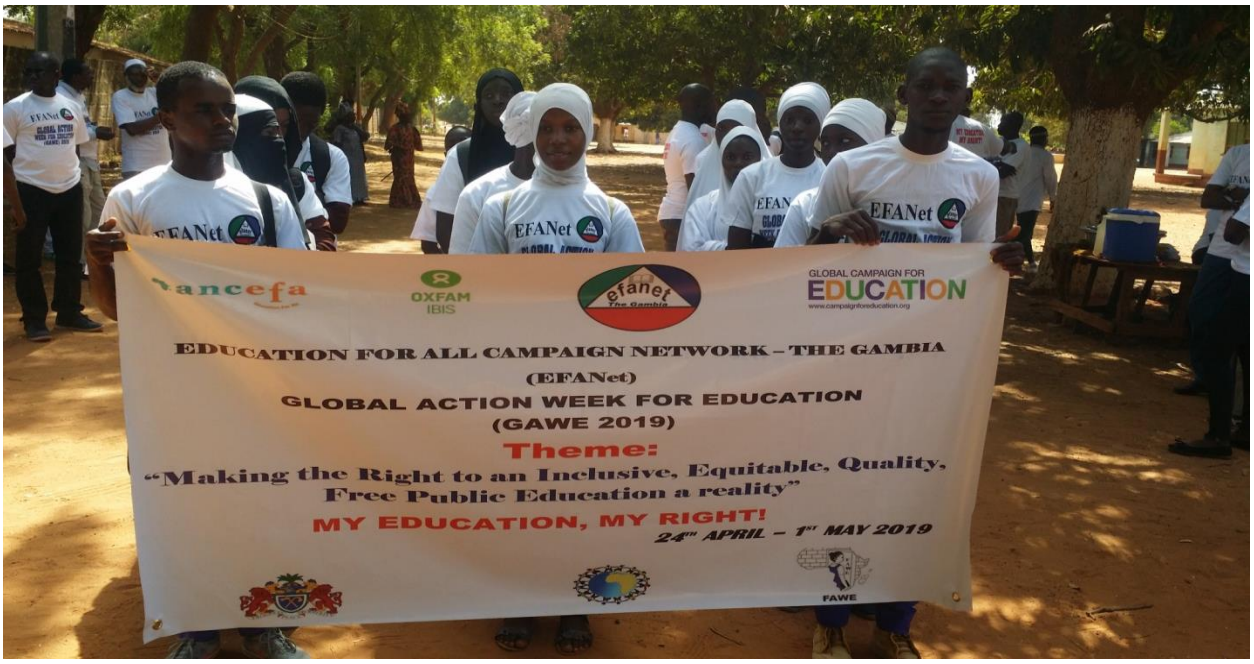
a. Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) 2018 Commemoration

The Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) is commemorated every year by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) movement to remind world leaders of the promises they made in Dakar in the year 2000 to meet the Education for All goals.

EFANet, from the 22nd to the 28th of June 2018, joined the global community to commemorated GAWE 2018 on the theme: ***"Ensuring Accountability for SDG4 and Active Citizen Participation: Keep your Promises!"*** which is a follow-up of the theme addressed in 2017**.** The theme this year explained the need to intensify the mobilization of citizens and civil societies to hold governments and the international community to account for delivering on the full SDG4 agenda, by asking governments to "keep your promises" and to stress the state obligations on building democratic systems and governance through quality, inclusive public education.

This years' week-long commemoration witnessed various activities including media sensitization (radio talk shows, Social media campaigns) and a highlight event ***"****Bantaba****"****,*** to discuss the theme. This Highlight event was commemorated in region 2 kombo chapter at RED 2 conference hall.

b. Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) 2019 Commemoration



From the 24th of April to 1st May 2019, EFANet together with its member and partner organizations, joined the Civil Society Education Movement to commemorate the GAWE on the theme **"making the right to an inclusive, equitable, quality free public education a reality: My Education, My Right"**, which is a reminder that education is a basic fundamental human right that everyone is entitle to and that it should be all inclusive, equitable, free and of quality to all. The commemoration of the 2019 GAWE is an ideal moment to question the chief stakeholders on their commitments and to assess the fundamental human right to free inclusive quality public education for all will ever become a reality. Hence, it is vital for Civil Society to engage the governments and influence their policies in order to advance the fundamental basic right to education. As part of EFANet's campaign, various advocacy activities such as, planning meetings, press conference, radio talk show, social media campaigns and a "Bantaba" which is also referred to as the main highlight event were embarked on.

For decentralization purpose, North Bank Region (NBR) Kerewan was chosen as the host for the GAWE 2019 Bantaba" or Highlight event since the region is disadvantaged especially in terms of enrolment and retention of girls in school, retaining qualify teachers, preference to boys than girls amongst others.

The main objective of the week-long celebration was to engage all relevant stakeholders on their commitments in the attainment of the SDG 4 by 2030 as well as to facilitate a dialogue between the government and the people on the status of basic education in The Gambia and the importance of guaranteeing the human right to education for the realization of all human rights,

The GAWE 2019 event was also meant to hold the government to account for making the right to an inclusive, equitable, quality, free public education a reality.

c. Retreat with stakeholders to review the Education Policy documents and Programmes

EFANet with grant funding support from EOL organized a three (3) day retreat with stakeholders in education to review the gaps of the Education Sector Policy 2016-2030 that focus on Quality Education and its sub themes in order to identify some of the shortcomings of the education policy and programs and come up with suggested recommendations for redress. The meeting was organized from ***23rd*** *to the* ***25th of September, 2020 at NACCUG conference hall.*** The Meeting was attended by EFANet regional chapters, member organizations as well as partners from MoBSE.

The overall objective of the meeting was to review and identify some of the gaps in the education policy 2016-2030 in order to further engage the government and policy makers on the gaps identified for solution. The activity was also geared towards achieving the Coalition's mandate which aims to achieve **"*the realization of quality education for all in The Gambia by 2030 and transforming the Network into a strong education lobby group*"** and its mission is *"**to build an informed and skilled network of civil society organizations to achieve a coordinated and credible advocacy for the right of all to quality education by 2030."***

d. Engagement with Stakeholders to make Schools Disability Friendly and to Increase the number of Trained and Qualified SNE Teachers

Access to inclusive, equitable quality and relevant education has been a major challenge for children with disabilities in our society compared to their counterparts. This is mainly due to inadequate inclusive planning by the service providers, thus cause poor infrastructural development; inadequate availability Inclusive teaching and learning materials for the special needs students in schools: limited number of trained and qualified Special Needs Education Teachers(SNE) in the regions, inadequate braille reading material in schools for the blind and visually impaired students and inadequate sign language teachers to support the deaf and hard of hearing students. These challenges make access to education overwhelmingly difficult for children with disabilities in The Gambia.

As part of EFANet's advocacy efforts to complement the government's efforts in providing inclusive, equitable, quality and relevant education to all, embarked on a 3-day **engagement with *stakeholders to make schools disability friendly and to increase the numbers of trained and qualified Special Needs Education (SNE) Teachers*** in the regions URR, CRR and LRR (6,5 & 4).

The engagement was aimed at identifying the challenges face by children with disabilities in schools and advocate for solutions by creating a platform for relevant stakeholders to come up with strategies and address them.

e. Education in Emergency Campaign 2020

With the firm conviction that education cannot wait and proving citizens and our members the opportunity to hold the government accountable on the safe school re-opening frame work, EFANet held an Education in Emergency Campaign on the theme ***"Education cannot wait -safe school re-opening!"*** following the government's announcement on the re-opening of schools for the Upper and Senior Secondary and ECD and Lower Basic Schools from 21st -27th October, 2020.

The campaign was meant to raise awareness of key stakeholders and the government to be accountable for the safety of the students, teachers and school administrators. During the week long campaign the coalition held a dialogue with education authorities on the prevailing situation in education in order to influence redesigning of education policies factoring education in emergency situations and sensitise parents, caregivers and teachers on their roles and responsibilities in making sure that students go to school safe and the schools in making sure that all students are safe in the schools premise and are observing all the necessary WHO/MoH and COVID-19 protocols/guidelines to minimise the spread of COVID-19.

As part of this campaign, the coalition conducted various advocacy activities including media talk shows social media campaigns and the main highlight event "Bantaba" as a policy platform to dialogue on the theme ***"Education cannot wait – safe school re-opening***".

This activity was commemorated in replacement of the annual GAWE which was not commemorated this year by the GCE movement and National Education Coalitions due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. However, GCE gave permission to all National Coalitions to observe the global week by covidizing it.

3.3 NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIP

I. Local Education Group

EFANet is a member to the Local Education Group (LEG) under the stewardship of UNICEF country office. EFANet seats in LEG meetings and participates in all its decision-making

processes. LEG is the United Nation's Local education stakeholder group which is mandated to preside over education matters in the country and hold the government accountable for its duties.

II. Child Protection Alliance (CPA) advocacy Committee

EFANet Seats in Child Protection Alliance (CPA) advocacy committee. CPA advocacy committee comprises of stakeholders on child rights and child welfare issues in the country. It was formed by CPA to mobilise the advocacy efforts of its members and partners in the promotion of child rights and child welfare in the country.

III. Steering Committee for Preparation Towards the Commemoration of World Largest Lessons 2019

EFANet seats in the steering committee for the preparation towards the commemoration of the world largest lesson, 2019 which was head by MoBSE special need education unit. It was aimed at raising awareness of the SDGs through the participation of young people in the lively and engaging way with the theme ***"Writing the Future of Childhood, For Every Child Every Right".*** The function of the steering committee was to identify activities, mobilise the participation of stakeholders and coordinate the commemoration**.**

IV. Courtesy call by Prof. Dr. Ann Peeters

Prof. Dr. Ann Peeters – Programme Director of the Multilingual Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literary Studies at Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Head of International Relations of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy. She also teaches courses on Italian literature and culture, as well intertextuality, intermediality and multilingualism in literature.

She holds a Master of Arts in Romance Languages (French – Italian) from Vrije Universiteit Brussel (1999-2003) and a postgraduate degree in Italian Literature from the Università di Pisa (2003-2005). In 2011 she obtained a PhD in Italian Linguistics and Literature by both Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Università di Pisa with a dissertation on the intertextual relations between Alessandro Manzoni's *I Promessi sposi* (1827–1840) and the various opera adaptations of the novel that were created in the course of 19th century. Prof. Ann. Peters paid courtesy calls visit to EFANet Secretariat on the 22nd May 2018. The goal of the meeting was to familiarize her of our work and to seek partnership in joint education projects.

V. Courtesy Call by the Association of Retired Gambian Teachers (ARGT):

Association of Retired Gambian Teachers **(**ARGT) paid a courtesy call on the management of EFANet 6th June 2018 to foster a cordial working relationship between the two institutions and partner in promoting education for all in The Gambia. During the courtesy call, members of ARGT briefed the EFANet National Coordinator on the aims and objectives of the association and also on its mandate and responsibilities.

VI. Courtesy Call by Gambia Association of Teachers of English (GATE):

The Association of Teacher of English in 2018 paid a courtesy call on the National Coordinator of EFANet. The objective of the call was to strengthen the partnership between the two institutions for the promotion of EFA in The Gambia, more especially in the area of English language. Key amongst several issues discussed during the meeting was how to further advance and improve the quality of English language education in The Gambia.

VII. Education Students' Association (EDUSA) – University of The Gambia

In August 2019, EFANet received members of Education Students' Association (EDUSA) from The University of Gambia for a courtesy call. Key amongst the purpose of EDUSA's visit to the EFANet was to strengthen the relationship between the two organisations and also to identify areas of possible collaboration in the crusade to advocate for equitable quality, inclusive and relevant education for all Gambians.

VIII. Courtesy Call to Future In Our Hands The Gambia (FIOHTG)

EFANet paid a courtesy call to FIOH The Gambia on the 14th March 2019 for further collaboration and strengthening corporation for national development particularly in the area of education and the attainment of SDG4. The courtesy was also used to show appreciation for institutional support and strategic partnership by FIOHTG.

IX. EFANet paid a Courtesy call to UNICEF

EFANet paid a courtesy call to UNICEF on the 20th of March 2019 to strengthen the cordial relationship the two institutions built over the years.

X. Courtesy Call ChildFund The Gambia

EFANet paid a courtesy call to ChildFund The Gambia on the 14th March 2019 for further collaboration and strengthening corporation for national development particularly in the area of education and the attainment of SDG4. The courtesy was also used to show appreciation for institutional support and strategic partnership by ChildFund.

XI. Courtesy Call to UNESCO-NATCOM, The Gambia

EFANet paid a courtesy call to UNESCO-NATCOM on the 20th of March 2019 to strengthen the cordial relationship the two institutions built over the years.

XII. Courtesy Call to PS MoBSE

EFANet paid a courtesy call to MoBSE's PS on the 20th of March 2019 to strengthen the cordial relationship between the two institutions built over the years.

XIII. Courtesy Call to GTU by EFANet International Guest from ANCEFA and OXFAM

In January 2019 a team of International partners from ANCEFA and OXFAM paid a courtesy call to the Gambia Teachers Union Secretariat as one of the founding members of the Coalition to strengthen relation with member organization of the chapter. During this meeting, the Internationals urged the GTU to continue to support the Coalition in the drive to the attainment of the SDG 4 goals. Speaking on behalf of the General Secretary Mr. Essa Sowe and First Vice president Saffie Nyassi all show their appreciation and willingness to continue to support EFANet as the leading Education Coalition in The Gambia in the attainment of its vision and goal by making the realization of SDG 4 goals a reality.

XIV. Support from GTU and CPA

As member organization to EFANet, these institutions amongst others have partnered and supported the Coalition by facilitating us with mobility to implement some of our activities in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

3.6 EFANET REGIONAL CHAPTERS UPDATE

In this section of the report we provide you the brief updates of activities undertook by our regional chapters in their various regions. Such activities include, advocacy, networking & partnership buildings strengthening of the coalition at the chapter level amongst others. Although some of the activities reported here are EFANet sponsored, most of them were conducted without financial support from the secretariat. Below are the regional chapters' reports:

I. Region 1 Chapter

a. **Worked on Latrikunda Sabiji Senior Secondary School which is almost complete:** The chapter participated and contributed to the construction of Latrikunda Sabiji Senior Secondary School.
b. **Placement of grade nine students into various schools:** The chapter supported several grade 9 students for placement to other schools.
c. **Provided sponsorship for many needy students:** The chapter during the past year for the period under review has successfully provided scholarships for several needy students within the region.
d. **Distribution of bicycles:** During the period under review, the region 1 chapter has distributed 2,000 bicycles amongst student across secondary schools.
e. **Donation to Armitage:** The chapter donated 22, 000 books to Armitage Senior Secondary School.
f. **Donation to Ministry of Justice:** The Chapter also donated Law books to Ministry of Justice.
g. Supported in providing hand washing facilities to combat COVID-19.
h. Sensitization on COVID- 19 at the border villages and public places.

II. Region 2 Kombo chapter

a. The chapter holds quarterly board meetings to design advocacy activities,
b. The Chapter commemorated the 2018 GAWE
c. The chapter held sensitization meetings, school visits (Basori LBS, Kabafita UBS/SSS, Kartong BSC, Daras) and radio programmes at the Brikama radio station especially during the school reopening,
d. The chapter visited Brikama Police Station Child Welfare Unit and The Gambia Transport Union to discuss issues regarding children and their wellbeing
e. The drives were also engaged to support students by giving them lift to and from school or to reduce their fares.
f. The Chapter executive paid a courtesy call to the following:
    - Office of the Governor WCR
    - Office of the Regional Education Directorate 2
    - Officer Commanding The Gambia Police Force WCR
    - Office of CEO Brikama Area Council
g. The Chapter purchase sanitary items and face masks worth D3000 and supplied it to Kabafita UBS for protection of the COVID-19

III. Region 2 Foni chapter

a. The Chapter successfully held 13 quarterly meetings to discuss issues with financial support from the secretariat.
b. The Chapter facilitated the movement of the Chapter Chairperson and Secretary to mobilize new members and 50% target was achieved.
c. The Chapter partnered with Foni Ding Ding Federation to sensitize 200 young people on the dangers of drugs and teenage pregnancy and how it can hinder their education.
d. The Chapter partnered with Foni Ding Ding Federation to expose school children to a five day camp in Bwiam where they were introduced to child rights and protection, career development and life skills. Over 100 schools attended the camp.
e. The Chapter lobbied from Foni Ding Ding Federation to provide hand washing stations and detergents to public places. This yield positive dividend as the Quaranic memorization school in Bwiam, Market, Police Station and the hospital were provided these materials.
f. The Chapter Chairperson and members attended a meeting with the Security Chiefs at the Chief's resident to enlighten them of the non-involvement of children in politics and also the importance of supporting children to follow lessons while at home during the pandemic.

IV. Region 3 Chapter

a. **Curtesy calls:** The Regional Chapter Executive embarked on a courtesy call to the Office of the Governor NBR, Kerewan Area Council, Association for the Development of Women and Children (ADWAC), Community Development Office, Regional Education Directorate, Region Three among other institutions to sensitise them on the mandates of the chapter in the region and further strengthen the partnership amongst them.

b. **Conduct of Regular Quarterly Meetings:** During the period under review the Chapter Executive conducted regular chapter meetings. All the meetings were well attended and successfully conducted. Members discussed about programmes and activities as well as issues affecting education within the region. The meetings are also used to take decisions on matters and outlining of action points and follow up activities were recommended. The minutes of the meeting are under the custody of the regional secretary.

c. **Sensitisation and Awareness raising:** The Chapter embarked on series of sensitisation activities ranging from enrolment to awareness campaign and other education related programmes. Some member organisations also embarked on sensitisation and training programmes at their institutional levels involving youths in areas affecting their livelihood. Such organisations include the Regional Youth Committee, RED CROSS, ACTIVISTA, TAFCE, GTU, ALBASH and Youth Parliament. These activities were reported by the respective organisations during our quarterly meetings.

d. Support to partner institutions: The Regional Chapter with support from the national secretariat provided fifteen thousand dalasi **(GMD 15.000)** to the President's Award Scheme Training Centre in Kerewan. The money was used to support them to improve on their enrolment. A working group was established involving people from catchment villages who embarked on series of enrolment campaign at the Kerewan Community Radio and community outreach programmes. These activities boasted enrolment in that particular year, though enrolment for new students is still a problem in the centre.

e. **Recruitment of new member organizations:** The Executive of the Regional Chapter identified potential member institutions and embarked on vigorous recruitment exercise to register the identified institutions. Among the identified institutions include the following:

f. **Partnership with relevant institutions:** The Regional Chapter created partnership with other institutions such as Regional Education Directorate, Office of the Governor, Kerewan Area Council, Community Development Office,

President Awards Scheme Kerewan, Young People without Borders among other institutions.

g. Participate in partner activities: The Regional Chapter participated in series of partner activities within and outside the region. The Treasurer was delegated to attend the GAWE 2018 in Brikama on behalf of the Chapter. The Secretary also attended the National Congress of the NaSMaC at Mansa Konko. The Chairman also attended the multicultural event held in Siffoe with their partners from Senegal. In the same vein the Regional Chapter has been represented in all the bi-annual general membership meetings of EFANet. We have also attended activities within the region.

h. Hosting of the 2019 GAWE: The Regional Chapter hosted the 2019 Global Action Week of Education (GAWE) in Kerewan at the Regional Education Directorate. The event was attended by The Regional Governor NBR, Chairman Kerewan Area council, Representative of the Regional Education Director, The head Chief of Lower Baddibou our partners from GAMRUPA as guest of honor and many important personalities. The event attracted hundred delegates from different parts of the country. It was a very successful event.

i. Activity of member organization: All the member organizations are actively involved in organizing series of activities at their institutional levels. All the members participated in the COVID-19 sensitization activities as well as providing precautionary and sanitary items to the needy within the society.

V. Region 4 Chapter

a. Paid courtesy calls to partners and relevant institutions within the region (Governor's office, Mansakonko Area Council and Regional Education).
b. Conducted series of sensitization campaigns on the importance of Education in the Region
c. As part of covid-19 pandemic, the regional chapter embarked on sensitization programs with stakeholders, V13 GTU, conference of principals UB and SSS. These sensitization campaigns were conducted through the media specifically Soma FM community Radio on Regulation and Ministry of Health guidelines, MoBSE Media learning on Television and Radio for students across the country
d. Participated in the sensitization of the inclusion of special Needs persons in the schools and communities.
e. Conducted Chapter quarterly executive meetings

VI. Region 5 South Chapter

a. Restructuring of the chapter membership: In 2017 the chapter embarked on transforming the chapter membership from individual base to organizational based

membership. All members of the chapter organizations are either regional or district based CSOs/CBOs who have link to education.

b. Networking and strengthening visibility: chapter executive members, the authorities and education stakeholders in Region 5, that is**:** the Regional Governors office, Regional Education Directorate 5 office and Janjanbureh Area Council Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer met to discuss the possibility to strengthen the already existed cordial relationship between the two institutions and sensitized them on the mandate of the chapter in the region. The chapter applied for and secured a place in the Regional Advisory Committee (TAC) and seat in all their meetings

c. Advocacy and Sensitization: In 2018, the chapter engaged in enrollment campaign at Kalkajara in Niamina and Niamina Dan kiunku

d. Training and capacity building: the chapter participated in capacity building trainings for head teachers in region 5 on school management. Topics discussed during the training were school record preparation and financial management of school improvement grant.

e. Mediation and peace resolution: The chapter mediation programmes has resolved several conflicts in schools in the region. For example, in a particular community in Niamina there was a problem and the regional chapter representatives through ALBASH and GAM CoP-UBS mediated and brought peace in the community.

VII. Region 5 North chapter

a. Formation of EFANet Region 5 North Chapter
b. Embarked on a sensitization Campaign on education
c. Embarked on courtesy call visits to the key education Partners in the region
d. Conducted quarterly chapter executive meetings
e. Hosted the Education In Emergency Campaign held this year

VIII. Region 6 chapter

Region 6 chapter has also embarked on series of activities which are meant to impact positively on enrolment and retention rates as well as strengthen and support the management of schools within the region in enhancing the maximum utilization of the resources, involvement and participation of all stakeholders and effective and efficient management of schools.
These include amongst others:

a. Supported the training of the School Management Committee and Mother's Club Executive in developing their capacity so that they would continue to contribute immensely to the management and development of the school.
b. Identification of district chapter representatives using personnel of the organizations who are affiliated to the Basse Chapter such as GTU members, Red Cross Volunteers, Conference of Principals, ALBASH, to mention few.

These committees would serve as liaison or link between the Basse chapter and the communities,

c. Participated and served as resource person in a management meeting geared towards developing and refreshing the capacity of school managers. This will facilitate the effective development and effective implementation of the School Improvement Plan and furthermore enhance proper management practices,
d. Series of meetings were convened and attended ranging from quarterly executive, emergency and Board at both chapter and regional level during which activities undertaken by coalition members are reported, matters of importance, decisions taken and the proceedings of the regional chapter board meetings are shared,
e. Supported the establishment of a Mother's Club and School Management Committees in newly established schools within the region so as to enhance community participation in school development.
f. EFANet Chapter members graced occasions of Annual Speech and Prize Giving Ceremonies organized and conducted by various schools across the region at the end of the academic year which was equally meant to sensitize parents on the importance of monitoring their children's education and to encourage performance and increase in enrolment,
g. Sensitization of parents and other stakeholders on enrolment, retention, regularity, attendance and monitoring pupils learning and performance was conducted in various communities including the significance of education and the eradication of school levies due to the intervention of the SIG,
h. Basse Chapter in collaboration with the regional chapter embarked on a mapping and recruitment drive and it yielded dividend due to the increased membership of coalition members,
i. Recently with the emergence of Corona virus pandemic alias COVID-19, which is declared in the Gambia in March 2020 precisely, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE) in consultation with Ministry of Health (MoH) and the President's Office deemed it worthwhile to close down all institutions of learning. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) declared precautionary measures and recommendations that would help in minimizing its prevalence or eradicating the pandemic completely. As such MoBSE provided the necessary materials for the prevention of the virus. EFANet Basse Chapter embarked on the monitoring of the utilization of these materials for compliance. Atleast there was 98% compliance in all the schools visited,
j. Representatives of Basse EFANET Chapter made a courtesy call on the former Governor of Upper River Region in July 2020 to enlighten her about

the organization's activities, the need for collaboration and inclusion in the Technical Advisory Committee of URR which she honored and highly appreciated.

4. EFANET'S PARTICIPATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

I. GCE organized a three days CSEF Online MEL System refreshers training for African Coalitions. The main purpose of the training was to generate a deeper understanding of the CSEF MEL system reporting standards and enhance the capacity of Africa-region national partner users who have the primary responsibility to deliver CSEF MEL data on the online MEL system. The objectives of the training were also; to demonstrate the customization and implemented changes on the CSEF MEL system for Africa-region national coalition users, and how to make the best use of user guidelines to navigate around proposal and reporting data sections on the online MEL System; to review limitations from the 2017 bi annual reporting and monitoring data that have been common amongst Africa region national coalition users in order to gain understanding of what reduces the quality of reports and delays in reporting processes.

II. EFANet participated in the domestic finance pledge tracking: capacity building for African Coalitions workshop held from the 11th to the 13th October, 2018 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The capacity building forum was organised by GCE in collaboration with ANCEFA, the regional secretariat for CSEF in Africa and OXFAM, the regional financial management agent for CSEF in Africa with financial support from GIZ and it was hosted by the Education Coalition fork Zimbabwe (ECOZ). The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen the capacities of African Coalitions to be able to monitor the various commitments made by their governments in terms of financing for education especially the pledges made in February 2018 in Dakar, Senegal during the GPE replenishment conference. Support will be given to coalitions involved in the CSEF programme to use tools for analysing how "credibly the pledge is redeemed".

EFANET'S PARTICIPATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

I. **Freedom of Information Coalition inception Meeting:** EFANet participated in Freedom of Information Coalition inception Meeting for members on the 6th February, 2017 at the TANGO Conference Hall. The meeting was organized by The Gambia Press Union (GPU) and it was meant to come up with strategies in order to engage the government and other relevant stakeholders on the formation of a Freedom of Information Policy to be able to have laws that will guarantee the freedom of information in The Gambia. The meeting was also meant to bring together CSOs and local groups within the country to form a Coalition that will campaign towards the enactment of a Freedom of Information Legislation in The Gambia. In addition, the meeting was also used to review the Strategy for the CSO Coalition on

Freedom of Information, develop the Coalition's Organizational Standard as well as launch it at the end of the meeting.

II. **Validation of budget analysis –** EFANet participated in a validation workshop of budget analysis organised by CPA. CPA hired a consultant to conduct -budget analysis of child protection in the Gambia, focusing on the national budget as well as those of three local government authorities (kanifing Municipal council, Brikama Area Council and Basse Area Council). The purpose of the budget analysis was meant to find out the level of child friendly budgeting by the Gambia government with specific reference to the 3 local government authorities mentioned above. It was also meant to identify gaps and engage the duty bearers on them.

III. **National CSO and government policy fora:** In 2017 and 2018 EFANet through its Programme Officer and Programme Assistant participated in the National CSOs and government policy fora held by AAITG. AAITG and partners organised the fora to bring key policy makers including government and CSOs to discuss key children policies and design strategies to work together in ensuring that a conducive environment is created for the proper growth and development of our children.

IV. **Education "Bantaba on the Re-opening of Schools for Grade 9 students and the planned opening for the Grade 12 students:** On the 3rd July 2020, EFANet was represented by the National Coordinator at the MoBSE's Education "Bantaba" on the Re-opening of Schools for Grade 9 students and the planned opening for the Grade 12 students held the MoBSE's conference hall in Banjul. EFANet as the education coalition in the country is committed to support the Education Sector in the implementation of the education policy and strategic plan 2016 – 2030 and in promoting the achievement of SDG4 that seek to "Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education For All and Promote Life-long Learning Opportunities For All."

V. The National Coordinator on the 7th October 2020 participated in **MoBSE Education** "**Bantaba**"**.** This was meant to discuss the reopening of schools and to sound the opinions of Education stakeholders on how to live with Covid-19 and school opening for all the schools.

VI. **CPA communication strategy validation meeting**: EFANet's on Friday 13th December, 2019 participated in CPA communication strategy validation meeting with its members. The purpose of the validation meeting was to authenticate a draft communication strategy and have partners input into the text after a wide consultation with their members during the development process. CPA communication strategy plan is meant to guide and help Alliance to effectively and efficiently share information with members and partners and to accomplish its organizational goals and objectives.

VII. **Validation workshop of the CPA's draft strategic plan:** EFANet participated in the validation workshop of the CPA's draft strategic plan held on the 10th & 11th October, 2020. The purpose of the validation was for CPA members and partners to review the draft SP and have their inputs into the document. CPA's draft strategic plan if adopted will guide the strategic operations of the Alliance.

VIII. **Virtual Advocacy training workshop on government accountability (13 may 2020) organised by International Republic Institute (IRI):** EFANet participated in a 7-day virtual Advocacy training workshop on government accountability from 13th - 20th May 2020 which was organized by IRI. The training was meant to expose the Gambian CSOs and the media to the tools use for advocacy as well as holding the government accountable in making sure that they lives to their expectations as sole duty bearer.

IX. **Training for regional school management committees:** NaSMaCs invited EFANet through the National Coordinator to facilitate training for the Regional School Management Committees (RSMCs). The training was held in region 5 CRR on the 23rd of June 2020.

X. **Consultative and information sharing forum on family and intergenerational literacy and learning in The Gambia organised by UNESCO-NATCOM Gambia office:** EFANet participated in the consultative and information sharing forum on family and intergenerational literacy and learning in The Gambia organized by UNESCO-NATCOM The Gambia office on the 21st of December, 2019. The consultative and information sharing forum was an initiative that aimed at promoting and developing literacy, numeracy and functional skills for both children and adults. The objective of the forum was to bring together adults and their children to learn how to read and write together.

XI. **Transitional justice working group- consultative workshop on Effective CSO Mobilisation in T.J processes:** EFANet participated in Transitional Justice (TJ) working group- consultative workshop on Effective CSO Mobilisation in T.J processes held at the YMCA conference hall from the 30th to 31st July 2019. The workshop was organized by TJWG in partnership with UN transitional justice project management unit and its intent is to facilitate CSOs intervention in the TJ process by proving necessary support and act as a liaison between CSOs, government and development partners.

XII. **Development of The Gambia ECD Manual of Programme, Hygiene, Safety and Protection for Early Learning Spaces Workshop:** EFANet participated in the development of The Gambia ECD manual of programme, hygiene, safety and

protection for early learning spaces workshop organized by SQAD from the 3rd to the 12th September, 2018.

XIII. **Maiden Annual General Meeting of Majalis operators in the Gambia:** EFANet participated in the maiden Annual General Meeting of Majalis operators in The Gambia from the 29th -30th June, 2019. The annual general meeting was organized by ISRA.

XIV. **Capacity Building Training for CSOs on Security Sector Reform Processes:** EFANet participated in several capacity building trainings for CSOs on security sector reform processes organised by DCAF in partnership with WANEP between 2018 to 2020. The capacity building trainings seeks to foster the development of knowledge and understanding of SRR process, best practice, and methodologies to enhance democratic civilian control over forces.

XV. **Launching of a reporting portal by CPA:** EFANet participated in CPA's Launching of a reporting portal. The portal was meant to enable citizens reporting on child sexual abuse imagery online and enhance a save and enormous environment for them. The launching was held on the 14th May, 2019.

5. REOCCURING EVENTS/ ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

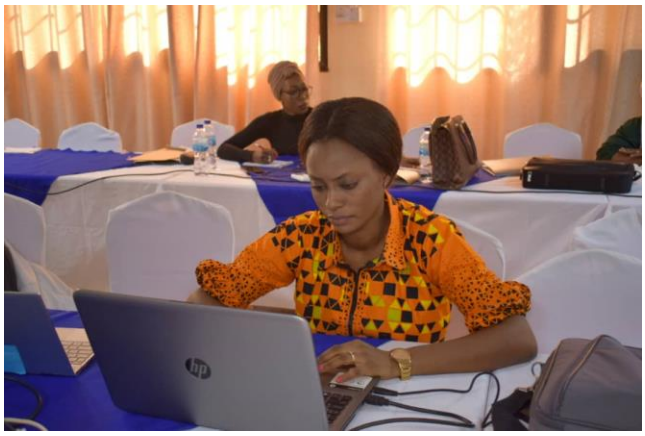
- Every year, EFANet holds bi-annual membership meeting and capacity building training for its members
- Quarterly newsletters are published and distributed
- Quarterly Board of Directors meeting
- Quarterly Regional Chapter Executive meeting.

6. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The responsibility for the administration, management and coordination of operational activities are vested in the secretary, which provides the needed technical backstopping and advice to the board and related committees as part of its programmes implementation role. The secretariat is headed by National Coordinator who is supported by relevant staff.

Mr. Kebba Omar Jarjusey is the National Coordinator of EFANET. He is the head of the Secretariat whose responsible for the overall coordination of the Secretariat. In addition, his functions also include coordinating the communication and networking with partners, the media and other stakeholders.

Mrs. Fatou Ceesay Dampha is the Finance and Administrative Officer (FAO). As FAO, Fatou is responsible for the preparation and control of annual budgets, quarterly and annual financial statements, as well as reporting on material variances. Fatou is also responsible for the administrative issues of the Secretariat.

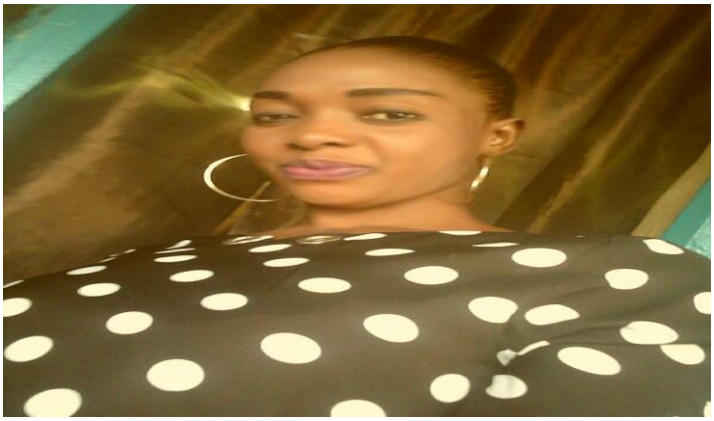


Mrs. Margaret Adama Jallow is the Programme Officer (PO). As part of her responsibilities at EFANet, Margaret is responsible for project management and other verity of tasks in all phases of projects from development to evaluation. She is also responsible for advocating on the Education For All Goals (EFA) and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4. Margaret is also responsible for writing and editing short articles, press releases and other materials as well as representing EFANet in meetings and other platforms.

Mrs. Mariama Colley is the Finance and Administrative Assistant (FAA). Mariama is responsible for assisting the FAO in the preparations and controls of annual budgets, quarterly and annual financial statements, as well as reporting on material variances. She is also responsible for assisting the FAO in all the administrative issues of the Secretariat.

Mr. Musa Jobateh is the Programmes Assistant. As part of his responsibilities, Musa will support the PO in the implementation of the EOL Project and other programme activities and in the EFA goals and SDG 4 goal advocacy. He will also produce reports, review documents and will also represent EFANet in meetings and conferences.

Ms. Fatou Fatty is the Advocacy Officer of EFANet. As part of her responsibilities, Fatou will assist the PO in the implementation of the EOL Project and to advocate on the EFA goals and SDG 4 advocacy.



Ms. Fatou Mboge is the Office Assistant. She is responsible for assisting the office in any errand she may be assigned to do.

Mr. Alagie Lamin Njie is the office messenger and driver**.**

Ms. Fatoumatta Jamanka is the office cleaner

Ismaila Ceesay is the office security and night watchman

7. **CHALLENGES TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COALITION**
    - **Spread of COVID -19 pandemic and the lockdown imposed by the government:** The spread of COVID – 19 pandemic and the lockdown and social distancing protocol imposed by WHO and The Gambia government had brought along series of challenges to the operations of the coalition's secretariat. Thus, leading to the late implementation of activities.

    - **Lack of a plot of land:** The lack of land to construct a premise for the secretariat remains a challenge. As such the coalition depends on renting to house the Secretariat which is not sustainable.

    - **Late disbursement of the EOL funds:** The late disbursement of funds especially in the early stages of the project through the Regional Financial Management is a challenge. As a result, the Coalition encounters difficulties in implementing the EOL activities on time as planned in the proposal thus leading to a rush in the implementation of activities.

    - **Inadequate funding:** The mobilization of additional resources for running costs of the organisation remains a challenge due to very limited donor agencies to support. The coalition is currently having only one funding source which EOL.

    - **Limited clarity in the operational manuals.** The operational manuals of the coalition are not up to standard. They did not clearly define most of the key issues that are critical to the operations and functions of both the BoDs and secretariat staff. The organisation does not also have a human resource manual.

    - **Lack of website:** EFANet's only website was hacked which eventually led to its crash. Since the crash of the website, the coalition did not have any major online platform to update its members and partners on its activities except through the Coalition's social media pages (facebook and twitter) which is limiting our visibility and networking opportunities.

- **Lack of designed M&E tools:** The only online Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) tool of the coalition is also crashed and not working. Since the online M&E tool got crashed, the organisation did not have any guided M&E framework for its monitoring.

- **The office is operating on project base:** All the operations of the Coalition including programmes, admin and the overhead cost of the coalition depend only on project funds from donors which is restricting our operations and activities to donors' interest. As a result, our donors dictate how the secretariat should design the project activities.

- **Lack of a functional working committee to provide technical backups to the secretariat:** It was resolved from the last General Assembly that there should be committees and thematic working groups to provide technical backups to the secretariat. However, this is still yet be actualised hence there are no functional committee in place.

- **Lack of membership data base and directory:** The coalition since its inception does not have a comprehensive membership data base and directory that could be used to reference the membership status and history of our members and partners.

- Low commitment of members in the payment of membership fees.

- Low commitment of members in terms of joint programming.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Coalition needs a land to construct a premise of its own and desist from paying rent annually,
- The need for the EOL funds to be disbursed early is necessary to avoid the rush in the implementation of the coalition's activities,
- The coalition members should endeavor to lobby for more funds to complement the EOL project,
- The focus on monitoring, evaluation, and follow up also needs to be increased.
- The coalition needs to rebuild its M&E tool,
- The coalition needs to rebuild its website,
- The coalition members should endeavor to pay their membership dues to the secretariat on time,
- The coalition should transit its operations from project base to programme base,

- The coalition members should also endeavor to jointly collaborate and implement activities with members whose area of work and concentration concerns their activity objective.

We hope we have provided you with the relevant information of the activities of EFANet during the periods concerned.

THANK YOU!

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