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NACCUG THE GAMBIA

Tekki Fii Mini Grant Success-Stories

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Young Tailor Commends NACCUG for Mini Grant Support



Habib Njie, a young tailor from Jagel Village in Central River Region North (CRR/N) and a beneficiary of the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) Mini Grant Scheme, has expressed profound delight and appreciation to the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) and the National Association of Cooperative Credit Unions of The Gambia (NACCUG), for awarding him Forty-Seven Thousand Dalasis (D47, 000.00) to enhance his business.

After being successfully selected for the grant support, Njie received five (5) machines to enlarge his tailoring shop.

According to him, NACCUG did not only stop at equipping his tailoring workshop, but has also enhanced his capacity in managing his business efficiently and maintaining good customer relationship through literacy training.

Narrating his story in the tailoring industry to Mansa Banko Online at his tailoring workshop in Kaur Janneh Kunda, in the Central River Region North (CRR/N), the young tailor recalled that he started his own tailoring workshop, situated in Kaur, CRR /N, early this year. Prior to owning a shop, Njie worked as an apprentice and at the same learning tailoring at one Tailoring Workshop in Abuko for eight years.

Upon his graduation from an apprenticeship to a fulltime tailor, he got employed by a professional tailor in Serrekunda. He was able to raise some money which availed him the opportunity to return back to his native village to venture into farming.

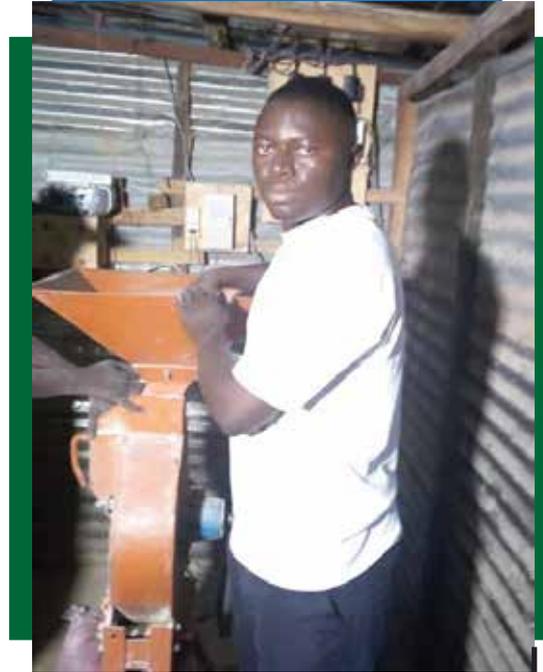
He further explained that he used the proceeds of his farm harvest to buy two machines (one electrical and one manual) which he left at home village for others to use, as part of expanding his business.

"When I applied for the mini grant, I was successfully selected and I received 5 machines," the YEP beneficiary acknowledged. With that support, Njie has currently, employed four youths to work at his tailoring shop.

With an enthusiastic tone, Njie said he's "very much appreciative" of being a YEP mini grant beneficiary, through NACCUG.

YEP Mini Grant enables me to construct my Family house” says Burama Dampha

Mr. Burama Dampha, a 31-year-old youth from Basse Kaba Kama, who is a recipient of the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) Mini Grant Scheme, has disclosed that the Grant which is disbursed by the National Association of Cooperative Credit Unions of the Gambia (NACCUG) accorded him the opportunity to start constructing a house for his family.



The Kaba Kama native was awarded with the YEP grant in the sum of D47, 000.00. Engaging in the business of milling and processing of groundnuts and coos, Dampha is using the proceeds from his business to build his own house.

Hear him: “This is the first time, in my life, that I am able to start constructing a house on my own and it is through the help of the mini grant.”

As part of his business, he has a groundnut cracking machine which he uses to separate groundnut from the shells for his customers. He also has a machine that processes groundnut into peanut butter.

In furtherance of his business, Dampha has employed three young people as permanent shop attendants, and he has two other youths whom he contracts to mobile in the neighboring villages during the groundnut season.

“My business is going fine, but it solely depends on processing rain-fed farm produce,” he noted. Dampha could not conclude without re-echoing his profound gratitude to YEP and the National Association of Cooperative Credit Unions on the Gambia (NACCUG) for their timely intervention.



Young Sabi Poultry Farmer 'Is Content with' Business in URR

A 26-year-old Poultry farmer from Sabi village in the Upper River Region (URR), **Sulayman Camara**, has 'wholeheartedly' expressed satisfactions with the high demands for his poultry products, by the customers in his community, and beyond.

As a Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) mini grant beneficiary, Camara attributed his success to the timely grant support that he received from the National Association of Cooperative Credit Unions of the Gambia (NACCUG). He disclosed that the grant has enabled him attract a lot of customers within his community and even those at the border between The Gambia and Senegal.

"In Sabi, we have a good market as the demand for chicken is very high," the poultry farmer acknowledged. However, he admitted that they couldn't even meet their community's demands for chicken, much more those within the border areas.

It could be refreshed that, Camara was supported by YEP in 2019 with 250 broiler birds, 20 bags of feed, 5 feeders, 6 drinkers and medication.

Before he received any support, he started with 50 birds in 2016, which he then increased to 100 birds. Presently, he has about 500 birds in his poultry farm.

The young Sabi Poultry farmer called on young people to venture into poultry as it creates many employment opportunities, especially in URR.

He encouraged: "I am not one of those poultry producers who face difficulties in marketing my poultry products. The edge I have over other producers is my business location, where the demand for poultry meat is very high. I cannot even meet my customers' demands." He extended sincere gratitude to YEP for enabling him to expand his business.



YEP Grant Recipient Breaking Records in his Region

Ebrima Sanyang,

a Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) mini grant beneficiary from Fatoto, Upper River Region (URR) has called on his fellow tailors within the Greater Banjul Area to

go back to their respective regions to serve as role models, thus inspiring others to venture into tailoring.

It could be noted that, upon receiving six different machines from the mini grant, through the National Cooperative Credit Unions of the Gambia (NACCUG), the young Fatoto tailor became an employer as he brought onboard other young people within his community to assist him in his business.

The 25 -year-old sews different types of women and men attires for his customers within his locality and from neighboring villages.

Sanyang, who started as an apprentice for six years, has since qualified to be his own boss and serving his community as a mentor, for the two years now.

As he pointed out, his current expansion plan is to lobby for contracts from the Senior Schools around his area, to be sewing their students' uniforms.

Sanyang called on young people to take up tailoring as a profession taking into consideration the grant opportunities available in the country.

The YEP grant beneficiary acknowledged: "Receiving the YEP support has boosted my business a lot. It has also enabled me to serve as role a model in my community."

Bansang Native on how YEP Grant Has Enhanced her Business

A Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) Mini Grant beneficiary from Bansang, Central River Region (CRR)

Ms. Jainaba Jallow, has explained how the Forty-Seven Thousand Dalasis (D47,000.00) grant support from YEP through the National Association of Cooperative Credit Unions of the Gambia (NACCUG), empowered her to relocate from her previously small shop in Bansang, to a bigger shop in Janjanbureh, Central River Region (CRR).



Before her receipt of the mini grant, Ms. Jallow had been operating a small shop in Bansang, which she started in 2017, selling Ladies items such as cosmetics, body cream, costumes, shoes, and children's wears, among other products.

Ms. Jallow was supported by YEP in 2018 with lots of cosmetics and other items to expand her business.

"I was motivated to venture into this business after I attended a business training. I want to encourage other youths to go into viable businesses that can earn them a better livelihood and create employment opportunities for them," the YEP beneficiary enjoined.

Commenting on the impacts of the mini grant, Jallow challenged the youth of this country to make best use of the grant, reasoning that it's geared towards augmenting the employability of the Gambian youth folk.

She reiterated the point that, the grant has enabled her to expand her business by providing the shop with lots of items, and securing her a bigger shop space.

'YEP Mini Grant Boosts My Business

Bubacarr Jallow



Bubacarr Jallow,

a sheep fattener, aged 29, has said that the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) mini grant, which is disbursed by the National Association of Cooperative Credit Unions of the Gambia (NACCUG), has enhanced his business after receiving a support, to wit; provision of 13 sheep and 2 goats.

The Sare Pirrasu, Upper River Region native started his business in 2018, but received the mini grant in early this year.

As he revealed, the mini grant has helped him a lot in terms of enlarging his business venture which was on the verge of collapsing.

Jallow expressed 'gratitude and appreciation' to be one of the YEP mini grant beneficiaries, noting that the grant has enormously improved his business from one step to another.

Exhorting the young people of this country to engage themselves in livelihood initiatives to become self-reliant, the animal breeder was pleased to note that with the support from YEP, he is now taking care of his needs and supporting his family as well.

'YEP Mini Grant Changes My Life'

The Proprietress of Dundugee Poultry Farm, **Ms. Agie Isatou Gaye**, has saluted the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) through the National Association of Cooperative Credit Unions of the Gambia (NACCUG) for the mini grant support which enabled her to expand her poultry business.



In 2018, she received 250 broiler birds from YEP which she sold, and added a new consignment of 200 layer birds. According to the 24-year-old Proprietress, she sold their eggs, and subsequently, bought more birds to maintain her steady flow in the eggs supplying business.

Ms. Gaye, a resident of Sukuta, West Coast Region, indicated that she was inspired to engaged in the poultry business by a pool of young poultry farmers she met during an entrepreneurship training. She decided to start her poultry business with 150 broiler birds in 2016.

Since the intervention of YEP in the country, the Dundugee Poultry Farm owner has benefitted from other YEP supported initiatives such as GYIN Gambia's Rural Youth Award as the winner of 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year' Award 2019; Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Information and Technology (ELIT 2018) National Youth Summer Camp; and also GYIN Gambia's Youth Mentorship Programme on Enterprise Management. She concluded by saluting YEP for changing her life in the field entrepreneurship.

YEP Poultry Beneficiary Recounts Successes



YEP Poultry Beneficiary Recounts Successes

The founder of Peace Poultry,

Mr. Yusupha Manneh,

a 28-year-old Poultry farmer from Jinack Kajata, in the North Bank Region (NBR) has explained his successes in the poultry farming saying that after spending barely a year in poultry business, he now considers himself a successful poultry farmer thanks to the YEP Mini Grant, which is

disbursed by the National Association of Cooperative Credit Unions of the Gambia (NACCUG).

A Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) Mini Grant Scheme beneficiary, Manneh was inspired by Modou Lamin Fatty alias ML Fatty, founder and manager of ML's Poultry in Brikama, West Coast Region (WCR), to go into poultry business.

In 2018, the Mini Grant Committee awarded Manneh D47,000.00, and as part of the disbursements of the said amount, he was supplied with 250 broiler birds, 18 bags of feeds and 10 drinkers to kick-start his business.

According to him, after that supply ran out, he ordered for another 350 broiler birds as his second batch. Manneh further narrated that his third batch coincided with the tourism season which eventually made the demands for his market to be higher.

"I decided to go for 500 broiler birds now to meet my market demand," he said, adding that the past Ramadan was also a booming period for him.

"I used some part of my profit to plough it back to the business and deposit the rest of the money in my savings account," he asserted.

Manneh's advise to the youth folk is to believe in themselves and engage in meaningful income generating activities.

"It is only we the youths who can take the lead in the development agenda of this country and make a difference," he charged.

YEP Project Mini Grant Recipient Conquering Farafenni ICT Market

Alieu Mbowe

YEP Project Mini Grant Recipient Conquering Farafenni ICT Market Alieu Mbowe, the Proprietor of Mbowe Ngala Printing & Stationery in Farafenni, North Bank Region (NBR), who is a beneficiary of the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) disbursed through the National Association of Cooperative Credit Unions of the Gambia



(NACCUG), has enthusiastically boosted that the large number of printing contracts that he gets from Farafenni and beyond, has accorded him the opportunity to conquer the local printing industry.

Mbowe, who do T-shirt & Badge Printing, Binding, Lamination and online registration, attracted lots of customers from Farafenni and its surrounding villages as well as from Jarra Soma and the Central River Region.

He said he open his business after realizing that there was no printing shop in Farafenni and its surrounding.

"I started my business with only one computer which I was using before getting a contract from the Farafenni Sports Committee to print their players license," he said, noting that he used that payment to buy another small printer and a desktop computer.

Mbowe was also opportune to benefit from the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) Mini Grant Scheme two months back, in which he received an A3 Laminating Machine, Canopy HP and a Binding Machine.

The mini grant scheme is about Forty-Seven Thousand Dalasis (D47,000.00) awarded to young people to facilitate the acquisition of equipment, materials, registration and other business inputs.

He asserted that his business is benefitting him as he is able to sponsor his family's daily feeding and employ 4 young people whom he pays D2000 per month plus shop rent and electricity bills.

Speaking on his good reputation in his community, Mbowe enthused that he was elected as the 'Most Influential Youth' in Farafenni where many contested in the elections. He once worked at Gaye Njorro Skills Academy in Farafenni as an IT Lecturer.

Young Female Tailor Appreciates YEP Mini Grant Support

Kura Samba

Kura Samba, a 23-year-old female tailor from Kerr Ali, North Bank Region (NBR) has expressed gratitude and appreciation to the European Union (EU) funded Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) Mini Grant Scheme for enabling her to realize her dreams in owning a Tailoring Shop.



Securing the Mini Grant through the National Association of Cooperative Credit Unions of the Gambia (NACCUG), according to her, has paved the way for her to become an employer of two youth in her Tailoring shop and at the same time enable her to financially support her family.

The YEP Mini Grant, which amounts to Forty-Seventy thousand dalasis (D47,000.00), is geared towards enhancing the employment and employability of Gambia's youth folk by providing trainings such as Entrepreneurship, Vocational and Access to finance.

"I thank God and YEP for coming to my aid because things were not easy for me. It is through the mini grant that I am able to employ two people and expand my business," says Ms Samba, while speaking to GYIN Gambia Media Team in an exclusive interview.

She disclosed that getting the mini grant has made her to fulfill her family responsibilities as well as settle her personal needs.

"I was assisted by my father who bought different machines for me to kick-start my own tailoring workshop," she explained.

Ms Samba received her disbursement from (NACCUG) in January, 2019 to expand her business. Buttressing on Ms Samba's successes, her husband, Mr Katim Njie said he is currently managing the finance of the business.

Before winning the mini grant, he disclosed that he was taking care of the operational costs of the business such as paying electricity bill, rent etc but thanks to the intervention of the mini grant scheme.

"Now with the mini grant, she is able to buy all the necessary materials for her business and also supporting the family," he said.

Total Grant Disbursed

D10,586,436.80

Number of Beneficiaries

234 Youths

REGIONS

Greater Banjul Area 83

North Bank Region 16

Central River Region 18

Lower River Region 6

West Coast Region 95

Upper River Region 16

Total: 234

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