**PROGRESS REPORT**

**WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENT**

**Period:** July - September 2021

**Activities**

1. **Water supply network design and supervision** **Consultancy**.

The consultant submitted the draft network design in July and presented the three volumes to the project relevant stakeholders in a workshop held in August 2021.

Officials from NAWEC, DWR , the PCU and the ministry provided commnets during the presentation which the consultant should incorporate in thr final report.

Key recommendations made during the review workshop includes:

* Substitute the proposed concrete tanks with Alminium tanks . However, 10 concrete tanks can be piloted to assess their robustness and suitability to be used in the Gambia.
* Limit the pressure of the systems and amend the pipe sizes accordingly
* Exclude household connections in the peri-urban sites, this will be done by NAWEC
* Conduct detailed surveys and assessment of the rehabilitation sites
* Exclude the drilling of boreholes in the estimates.

Considering the recommendations made, the consultant requested to be given more time to submit the final report in October 2021.

1. **Borehole drilling contract**

The Borehole Drilling has been very progressive despite the heavy rains experienced in August and September making the sites difficult to access by the heavy drilling rigs. As of September 2021, over 70 out of the 103 boreholes have been successfully drilled.

Additional boreholes are to be drilled by the contractor after a trip was conducted by the project engineer and the head of DWR to assess the existing boreholes in some project sites that are fitted with handpumps and some were found inadequate to meet the required water demand for those communities. However, this new additions will not exceed the number of boreholes costed including the contingency in the two contracts combined.

Furthemore, the contract has been extended to February 2022 given the contractor enough time to complete drilling of boreholes.

1. **WASH mapping consultancy**

The lead consulting firm visited the Gambia in August to meet the PCU and key stakeholders. Meetings were held with The Permanent secretary MoF&WR , the director of DWR and the senior staff of GBoS. In these meetings requested data from Gbos regarding the census data and GIS shapefiles of villages, divisions and regions. Similarly, the ministry was required to provide names of staff to be trained on the IT database and the WASH mapping software.

A comprehensive workplan was provided and it shows field training for data collections will commence in October 2021 and the survey equipment has already been procured and the GIS surveying app pre-installed to be used in the field activities.