**HPV CLARIFICATIONS**

**2. INTERCOUNTRY GOVERNANCE MECHANISM (ICC/HSCC)**

There is no NITAG in The Gambia; the ICC is the technical decision making body for the EPI programme and can equally function like NITAG in the HPV demonstration project. In addition there is a technical advisory group for the HPV demo project.

 In the Gambia, a number of CSOs are part of the ICC namely, Action –Aid The Gambia, The Gambia Red Cross Society, Child Fund The Gambia, Riders For Health. These organizations work very closely with community groups especially women and youths.

 **FOR HPV DEMO: TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP**

The provost and Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences is a member of the TAG and will be involved in the HPV demo project, the health schools are not therefore left out .

**5. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES, BUDGETS, FINANCIAL PLANNING AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY.**

A detail budget breakdown is done and attached to the proposal. The cash grant application in year 2 has been revised and summed to $50,000.00 in the proposal. The cost for personnel including salary supplements and or per diems have been reduced by $2000.00.

**6. GENDER AND EQUITY**

The Gambia immunization data is segregated by sex; however there is no coverage difference in terms of sex. Socio-economic factors are not barriers to immunization in The Gambia . Coverage for both rural and urban regions is equally high. Immunization services in the Gambia are free and geographic access to immunization services is about 95% nation- wide. There are no hard to reach areas in the Gambia and as such the communities and schools would be easily reached.

In the Gambia, the free education strategy for girls has increased their enrolment in both urban and rural areas.

Advocacy and communication play a key role in involving and sensitizing the public. The mothers of out-of-school girls will be sensitized through the following:

* Community outreach programs using traditional communicators, village support groups, drama groups, religious groups. The above structures would be trained and they would go to the communities to conduct step down sensitization with mothers of out-of –school girls and other relevant stakeholders.
* Radio and television would also be used to sensitize the public. This will be in the form of panel discussions, live phone-in programmes and radio/ TV spots.

In the above community awareness strategy, it is envisaged that possible misconceptions, religious and cultural barriers would be addressed.

**7. SPECIFIC COMMENT RELATED TO REQUESTED SUPPORT**

This is the fastest growing local Government Area (LGA) in the country which presents an urban, semi-urban and rural characteristic. It presents a unique feature of the diverse ethnicity and culture across the country. The LGA has a good network of health facilities that provide reproductive and child health and adequate immunization outreach service delivery points. In addition, proximity of Brikama LGA to the central level would ease supportive supervision and monitoring. This is aimed at ensuring that standards are maintained and corrective actions are instituted during the implementation of the project. The proportion of girls within the area constitutes more than 35% of the total population of the targeted age group for the project. The LGA has an advantage over all other local government areas for maintaining a high girl enrolment and retention rates. However, girl retention rate in other regions has an average of 80%.

Registers will be provided for all the girls enrolled in the project. The names, address, age, parent’s name, date of vaccination will be entered in the registers. A community health worker would be used to trace defaulters and upgrade their vaccination status as used in the routine immunization strategy.

ASSESMENT OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH INTERVENTIONS AND THE DEVEOPMENT OF CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL STRATEGY:

The ToRs have been developed and attached.

COLD CHAIN

There are plans every year to expand and replace cold chain equipment and these funds from UNICEF are to be used for this purpose.