

National Standardization Strategy of The Gambia – Our Journey

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Africa Regions*

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Reasons for Developing a National Standardization Strategy

- Buy-in by the Board of Directors
 - ❖ to define Strategy for Standardization of the Bureau
 - ❖ Useful for resource mobilization – BoD's role
- Action item in Bureau's Strategic Plan 2015 – 2019
- National Quality Policy of The Gambia
 - ❖ Policy option for effective standards development

ISO Support and Contribution

- Training of Staff on development of NSS
 - ❖ 2 trainings provided – fully funded
 - ❖ Materials and tools made available
- Expert support throughout the process
 - ❖ Guidance and coaching

Difficulties and how they were overcome

- Stakeholder feed back on questionnaire
 - ❖ Step down training of stakeholders
 - ❖ Site visits and meetings
 - ❖ Follow-up and follow-up...!!
- Pre-validation meeting of stakeholders
 - ❖ Review questionnaire submissions
 - ❖ Clarifications
 - ❖ Engagements to build confidence and buy-in

Difficulties and how they were overcome

- Prioritization and balancing interests – Bureau's leadership and expertise
 - ❖ Which standards for what year?
 - ❖ How many in a year?
 - ❖ Limitations e.g., resources, capacity
- Limited awareness on standardization
 - ❖ Sensitizations on value of the NSS
 - ❖ Leveraging on TCs

How Useful is the NSS

- Standardization program is easier to develop and more coordinated
- Decisions on setting priorities on standards are more efficient and realistic – National and Regional
- Better rationalisation of cost of Standardization
- Good tool for advocacy – Policy and others
- Better overview of Standardization needs, trends and focus
- Tool for resource mobilization

Implementation challenges

- Unplanned requests to develop key/urgent standards
 - ❖ Government
 - ❖ Projects
- Budgetary fluctuations
 - ❖ e.g., Government-funded NSBs
- Changes in commitment from stakeholders
- Impact of regional Standards harmonization

Conclusions

- Process is easy as it is well supported by ISO
- Should be the basis for Standardization
- Effective tool for resource allocation
- Useful to embed it in National Quality Policies
- Effective in linking and creating relevance of Standardization in national development

