**To fight poverty**

**Introduction**

When you started to discuss this cooperation project, you all agreed that POVERTY,

 was the biggest problem for you.

And lack of knowledge in society was the second.

To fight these problems, we agreed on working with study circles to get the knowledge we need:

1. to reduce our own poverty
2. but also, to engage more people for change
3. and make strategies and plans to effect changes according to our goals.

We have produced a special study circle on **How to start business,** of different kinds.

We will organize education for those who are willing to be study circle leaders for these study circles to help each group to adopt this study circle material according to their own special needs and demands. Hopefully a lot of different businesses will be the result of these study circles.

This study circle is about learning more about how to make changes when it comes to fighting poverty in society.

**Chapter 1.**

Start by defining: 1. **What is poverty?**

**2. And how does it affect us, as individuals**

1. **and how does it affect the society?**

Be sure to take notes, and summarise your discussions on each point.

End by making a list all problems, due to poverty, that you have talked about!

**Chapter 2.**

**Who owns the problem-solving tools? Who and what level can effect changes?**

Discuss each problem on your list and agree on who can decide or create necessary changes and make notes for each one of the problems on your list;

Is it the government, UN; AU or Ecowas, is it landowners or banks, is it your local area council, your VDC, the Gambian parliament, your family, or is it some others?

If you do not know the answer for some of the problems. Ask yourselves: who can you ask?

Can you invite someone to your study circle to help you find the answers or is it better if some of you visit someone or some institution to ask? Do not” leave any stone unturned” someone has got to have been thinking of this and can help you with inputs?

As there will be a presidential election in the end of this year and there are 15 different political parties to choose from, it is important to find out how the different parties want to act to eradicate poverty, as that is your biggest problem.

Can you find answers from their homepages? Can you ask their representatives? Or can you use email or WhatsApp or any newspaper to send a question to all the candidates and compare their answers? If you do, I am sure some journalists would be very interested!

**Chapter 3.**

**What can you do?**

Strat by remembering everyone with the documentation from last meeting

 and report if someone has new answers to your questions.

 Then Discuss what you believe are answers to your problems on your list and how you can influence each one of them.

Which problems can you tackle:

As an individual

Or family

 or small informal group as this study circle

Or As a local organisation

Or as a political party

And how can you do it?

**Chapter 4.**

**Make a strategi to reach your goals**

Select the problems, of most importance for you, and make a plan together for how you wat to , act as group and help each other to be able to take further steps!

Report this to your organisation, to involve more people!

Or is there something more you want to learn to be able to ac?

No problem, Do it! R.S. 31/1-21