



FMM West Africa

Support Free Movement of Persons & Migration in West Africa

Migration in The Gambia

A COUNTRY PROFILE 2017



EUROPEAN UNION

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This document was prepared by Florence Armitano (Altai Consulting), for the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

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International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency



ICMPD

International Centre for
Migration Policy Development



CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES.....	5
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS.....	7
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IOM	9
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR	11
FOREWORD BY ECOWAS ON THE NATIONAL MIGRATION PROFILES.....	13
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	15
INTRODUCTION	19
ABOUT THE STUDY.....	19
RESEARCH STRATEGY	20
A. MIGRATION TRENDS.....	23
A.1. FACTORS AFFECTING MIGRATION FLOWS	26
A.1.1. POLITICAL SITUATION	27
A.1.2. DEMOGRAPHY	32
A.1.3. ECONOMIC CONTEXT	34
A.1.4. ENVIRONMENT.....	40
A.1.5. SUMMARY AND FUTURE TRENDS.....	41
A.2. CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERNAL MIGRATION.....	42
A.2.1. ESTIMATED FLOWS	42
A.2.2. CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERNAL MIGRANTS.....	42
A.2.3. RURAL FLIGHTS AND URBANIZATION	46
A.2.4. FORCED MIGRATION.....	48
A.2.5. OTHER FORMS OF INTERNAL MIGRATION.....	48
A.3. EMIGRATION FLOWS.....	50
A.3.1. ESTIMATED FLOWS	51
A.3.2. WORKERS ABROAD.....	53
A.3.3. STUDENTS ABROAD	54
A.4. IMMIGRATION.....	56
A.4.1. ESTIMATED FLOWS	56
A.4.2. PROFILE.....	56
A.4.3. STUDENTS.....	59
A.5. VULNERABLE MIGRANTS.....	61
A.5.1. IRREGULAR MIGRANTS.....	61
A.5.2. RETURN FLOWS	68
A.5.3. REFUGEES	71
A.5.4. HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.....	73

B. IMPACT OF MIGRATION	77
B.1 MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.....	77
B.1.1. REMITTANCES AND INVESTMENTS FROM THE DIASPORA	77
B.1.2. EMIGRATION AND THE LABOUR MARKET: « BRAIN DRAIN »	80
B.2 MIGRATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	81
B.2.1. MIGRATION AND EDUCATION.....	81
B.2.2. MIGRATION AND HEALTH	81
B.2.3 MIGRATION AND GENDER	82
B.3 Migration and the Environment.....	84
C. MIGRATION GOVERNANCE	85
C.1. MIGRATION FRAMEWORK	85
C.1.1. INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK	85
C.1.2. REGIONAL FRAMEWORK	87
C.1.3. NATIONAL FRAMEWORK.....	91
C.2. STAKEHOLDER MAPPING INVOLVED IN MIGRATION	97
C.2.1. INSTITUTIONS AND ROLES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL	97
C.2.2. OTHER ACTORS INVOLVED IN MIGRATION	102
D. CONCLUSION	107
D.1. SUMMARY OF THE MAIN TRENDS IN MIGRATION	107
D.2. MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	108
D.3. RECOMMENDATIONS	109
APPENDIX.....	113

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1: Overview of The Gambia	23
Table 2: Political and security situations	27
Table 3: Summary of Gambian demographics	32
Table 4: Population breakdown per age category in 2015.....	33
Table 5: Summary of economic indicators	34
Table 6: Main occupation of employed persons (15+) by migrant status, per cent	46
Table 7: Gambian workers (ages 15-24) in OECD countries in 2000 & 2010..	54
Table 8: Intercepted individuals at the border.....	69
Table 9: African Union conventions relative to migration signed by The Gambia.....	87
Table 10: ECOWAS treaties relative to migration signed by the Gambia	88
Table 11: Migration stakeholder mapping	97

Figure 1: Population trends since independence.....	32
Figure 2: Trends in Gambia's HDI component indices 1980-2012 (Base 100)	35
Figure 3: Share of the three main sectors in terms of value-added.....	39
Figure 4: Level of educational attainment of internal migrants, non-migrants, and all Gambians disaggregated by gender (per cent), 2012	44
Figure 5: Destination countries for Gambians in 2015.....	51
Figure 6: Evolution of Gambian migrant profile (+15) in OECD countries 2000-2010.....	53
Figure 7: Gambian students abroad in OECD countries.....	55
Figure 8: Non-Gambians living in the Gambia	57
Figure 9: Location of main group of immigrants by LGA.....	57
Figure 10: Level of educational attainment of immigrants, non-migrants, and all Gambians disaggregated by gender (per cent), 2012.....	59
Figure 11: Gambian arrivals by sea in Italy	66
Figure 12: Number of Gambians ordered to leave and number of identified return.....	68
Figure 13: AVR to The Gambia	70
Figure 14: Gambian asylum seekers.....	73
Figure 15: Gambian refugees.....	73
Figure 16: Remittances as a percentage of GDP in CEDEAO countries	78
Figure 17: Remittances sent to the Gambia, in million US dollars.....	78

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AVR	assisted voluntary returns
AVRR	assisted voluntary return and reintegration
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ECOMIG	ECOWAS Mission in The Gambia
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LGA	local government areas
NAATIP	National Agency against Trafficking in Persons
NGO	non-governmental organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IOM

The Gambia is primarily a country of outmigration. Estimates show that there are currently 140,000 Gambians abroad which constitutes approximately 7per cent of the country's population of 2 million¹. Recent data shows that Gambians constituted 6per cent out of 48per cent of all arrivals by sea in Italy in the first seven months of 2017². The emigration of workers, especially the youth, is of major concern to the Gambia. The surge of young people taking the perilous journey across the harsh Saharan desert and into the rough Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe, has had serious implications on communities and national development. The correlation between high youth unemployment, irregular migration and re-migration rates towards Europe requires immediate action which involves well-targeted and coordinated interventions to address these challenges.

The Ministry of Interior considers migration management and governance a priority area for the Gambia. Developing and implementing a coherent migration policy around the Gambia's context and priorities will contribute to the country achieving better migration management and governance. The Government of the Gambia has taken action to establish the Interministerial Committee on Migration where a broad range of governmental and non-governmental actors convened on several occasions to review and validate the Migration Profile.

This Migration Profile presents a bird's eye view of the migration situation in the country, including stock, flows, trends and characteristics of migrants. It also provides information on the impact of migration on economic development and other key development themes in the Gambia, such as education, health, gender and governance. The profile gives an analysis of the challenges faced in migration management against the broader developmental context and serves as an important tool for effective migration policymaking.

The process of producing the Migration Profile was closely coordinated with the Ministry of Interior and the Interministerial Committee on Migration, as part of the activities conducted within the framework of the EU-funded "Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa (FMM-West Africa)," implemented by IOM, ILO and ICMPD. It is my hope that this publication will continue to serve as a reference tool for a range of purposes, including as a springboard for further research and evidence for sound policymaking.

1 Kebbeh, C. O. (2017) A Statistical Portrait of Gambians Living Abroad, Washington DC

2 IOM, (2017). 'Flow Monitoring Surveys July 2017' accessed 21 December 2017

I would like to thank all stakeholders who have generously and tirelessly contributed their time and effort into the development of this Migration Profile, including Altai Consulting, IOM Nigeria's FMM West Africa team, and the Labour

Mobility and Human Development Unit of the IOM Regional Office in Dakar for their technical expertise and guidance. I am also grateful to the European Union for its generous financial support to the FMM West Africa project, which financed this initiative. Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Gambia's Ministry of Interior, without whose active participation and valuable feedback this study would not have been possible.

Fumiko Nagano

Chief of Mission

International Organization for Migration

Banjul, The Gambia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE GAMBIA

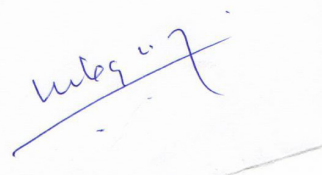
The Government of the Republic of the Gambia is pleased to release the country's first Migration Profile, prepared with the expertise of the Interministerial Committee on Migration, led by the Ministry of Interior. This document will be the first of its kind to present a snapshot of the migration situation in the Gambia. I hope that the Migration Profile of the Gambia will support the country to develop evidence based policies, and guide the Government of the Gambia with effective migration management.

This Migration Profile, as well as the corresponding initiative of the Ministry of Interior to develop the National Migration Policy for the country, is the first time the country has incorporated migration into its approach to national development. There has been a long tradition of migration in the Gambia and we continue to be a country of origin, transit and destination. As a result, it is imperative for the Gambia to be more proactive in developing programmes to harness the benefits of effective migration management and contribute to national development, in line with the transformational agenda of the Government of the Gambia.

The Migration Profile for the Gambia was produced through a collaborative approach, engaging all relevant ministries and agencies in the Government of the Gambia as well as civil society during the review and validation process. This document outlines migration trends, root causes and analyses data gaps to produce a tool that will provide a clearer understanding of migration dynamic in the country. Without active participation from all facets of Gambian society, we cannot manage migration and unleash the potential that effective migration has on national development.

On behalf of the Migration of Interior and the Interministerial Committee on Migration of the Gambia, I would like to thank the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for supporting the process of developing the Migration Profile. I would also like to thank the European Union for funding the "Free Movement of Persons and Migration West Africa (FMM)" project that made this initiative possible. Migration management and governance should be guided by reality from which tangible interventions can be designed and implemented.

Ebrima Mballow
Honourable Minister of Interior
The Gambia



FOREWORD BY ECOWAS ON THE NATIONAL MIGRATION PROFILES

Migration and West Africa are inextricably linked. We cannot speak of one without the other. The region's progress has always been connected to the mobility of its inhabitants through various means. It is therefore very important for policymakers to have a firm understanding of the nature of migration in the region. I believe in the axiom that if you can't count it, you cannot make policies to positively affect it. As such, conducting National Migration Profiles within the ECOWAS Member States is essential to make effective public policies. At ECOWAS, we recognize the importance of these profiles to the progress of our region. This is why we teamed up with IOM under the framework of the "Support to Free Movement and Migration in West Africa (FMM West Africa)" project to develop and/or update the migration profiles for 12 of our member states. Developing the profiles constitute an important step in building the evidence base for migration policies. This activity is important and timely considering the challenge of generating quality migration data in the region. Data is critical in the ECOWAS region which is characterized by a young and mobile population with significant intra-migration and movement patterns.

Another important goal of the updating of the migration profiles is to strengthening the links between migration data and policy, enhancing policy coherence, evidence based policy making as well as mainstreaming migration into development plans. The setting up of the technical working groups in the development of the migration profiles ensures that relevant government arms have been consulted in this process. They have provided an avenue for interaction and consultation among stakeholders in the migration field as well as capacity building for systematic analysis of migration-related data.

These processes fit into ECOWAS' strategies for assistance to member states in the field of migration data. They also feed into the plan for developing the regional migration profile which is scheduled for last quarter of 2018. The regional migration profile will draw from the national profiles to present an overall view of the migration situation in the region. It will help stakeholders in the migration field to analyze the migration dynamics in the region, gather information for monitoring and trend analysis, inform policies and form the basis for evaluating their impacts in the region.

Through the FMM West Africa project, ECOWAS has recently developed the ECOWAS Regional Guidelines on Migration Data collection and Management in order to harmonize the process of collecting and managing migration data

within the ECOWAS space. ECOWAS also coordinates the regional technical working group on migration data which has been set up for better coordination, capacity building, and advocacy on migration data related issues. ECOWAS is committed to the implementation of the two-year action plan which has been drawn by this Working Group.

ECOWAS recognizes the important work done by the member states and the International Organization for Migration which has led to the successful preparation of this document. ECOWAS would also like to thank the European Union for their generous contributions.

We continue to count on your cooperation in our efforts to improve migration data management in the region.

Mamadou Traore

Commissioner, Macro-Economic Policy and Economic Research
ECOWAS Commission

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mamadou Traore', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Country description

The population of the Gambia was close to 2 million people in 2015, and it has been multiplied by five since independence. Sixty-six per cent of the population is under the age of 25. This rapid growth represents a challenge for the country both in terms of resources and access to employment.

The country is one of the least developed in the world, with 48.4 per cent of the population living on less than USD 1.25 per day. The economy relies primarily on agriculture, tourism, and remittances and is prone to external shock. Climate variation can impact the traditional agricultural sector, which is mostly constituted by rain-fed agriculture. Industrialization is nascent and low productivity activities dominate the economy.

Informal employment accounts for 63 per cent of the economy and young people are deeply affected by unemployment.

Internal migration flows

Internal migration is common in the country and involves at least a quarter of the population. The vast majority of internal migrants head towards the urban areas and internal migration has profoundly shaped the population distribution. From a largely rural country before independence, the Gambia has become increasingly urbanized. In the past, the government has tried to slow down urbanization, in order to better plan urban development.

Despite security challenges in the region, the Gambia has been stable as there has been no displacement of population as a result of civil conflicts, except after the 2016 election. During the crisis, IDP estimates reached 150,000. However, the situation returned to normal shortly after.

Emigration

Officially, 90,000 Gambians are living outside of the country: half of them reside in the United States, Spain or the United Kingdom, a quarter are spread across West Africa and the remaining quarter in other European countries.

Immigration

The Gambia is also an immigration country, with 9.7 per cent of the population recorded as being international migrants. Senegalese and Guinean nationals are the most common nationalities amongst immigrants, followed by Malians and Sierra Leoneans.

Vulnerable migrants

Gambians represent an important contingent of irregular migrants found along the irregular routes. Many take the “back way”, as it is commonly referred, to pass through West Africa and reach Mali or Niger before heading North to Libya, where they attempt to cross the Mediterranean Sea.

In 2016, 181,436 people arrived by sea in Italy, including 11,929 Gambians (6.6 per cent). Most of them were men aged 15 to 40. Also, the number of Gambian minors arriving to Europe is rising. They account for the top three nationalities arriving on the Italian shores, along with Nigerians and Eritreans.

Return flows

Return migration to the Gambia can be voluntary or involuntary: an average number of 150 Gambians per year were deported mainly from OECD countries in the past three years. Gambians in difficult situations or who complete their migration successfully may choose to voluntarily return to the Gambia. Since the beginning of 2017, almost 500 individuals received assistance to voluntary return from Libya. From 2015 to April 2017, IOM supported the voluntary return of 930 migrants to the Gambia.

Refugees

In 2016, 10,070 Gambians were registered as refugees. The majority of them are in Italy (63 per cent). The Gambia itself is host to 7,854 refugees, mostly Senegalese who fled Casamance in 2002 and 2006. They settled along the border with Senegal.

Trafficking in persons

The Gambia suffers from both internal and external trafficking. Sexual tourism and child trafficking are common in the country. Besides being a destination country for trafficking, the Gambia is also a source country, as Gambian women and children depart from there and are trafficked into other countries.

Impact of migrations

Remittances account for almost 20 per cent of the GDP, which makes the Gambia one of the world economies most dependent on transfers from its diaspora. However, so far, the government involvement and acknowledgement of the diaspora’s role has been limited. On the other side, the Gambia appears to be severely affected by a “brain drain”.

Migrations also interact with several aspects of social development, including education and health, often allowing the improvement of an individual migrant's conditions but sometimes having negative impacts on the community as a whole. Finally, migrations impact gender dynamics, sometimes allowing women to access new roles from which they might have been previously excluded, as well as the environment.

Local and international actors

The Gambia does not have a comprehensive migration policy, but initial steps have been taken to develop a migration policy. The government has created an interministerial committee in charge of migration issues headed by the Ministry of the Interior. At the moment, migration management is mainly directed towards irregular migration. The government is funding awareness campaigns to discourage young people from leaving the country illegally. Similarly, the Ministry of Interior has a specific unit dedicated to manage irregular migration cases.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the interministerial committee in charge of migration engage in a dialogue with migration stakeholders to identify areas of collaboration and support project design. Another priority is the development of a national migration policy and ensuring its implementation.

Migration data management is also a field that would need improvement in the Gambia: data should be systematically recorded and adequate trainings and resources need to be provided to assist stakeholders to improve data management.

Other recommendations include engaging with the diaspora to foster investments in the country, supporting negotiations to create opportunities for legal migration, and enhancing anti-human trafficking efforts.

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THE STUDY

CONTEXT

The Gambia is one of Africa's smallest countries, with a population of 2 million. Yet, its citizens rank among the most common nationalities undertaking the Central Mediterranean route to Europe. Irregular migration from the Gambia is not a new phenomenon, but has been soaring during the last year of the former regime. Mobility is key in the Gambia also for the economy: remittances account for almost 20 per cent of the country's GDP.

The project funded by the European Union (EU) and ECOWAS, "Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa project (FMM West Africa)" aims to foster the development of evidence-based migration policies. FMM West Africa is supporting ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania in developing national Migration Profiles (MPs). The objective is to produce a comprehensive overview of national migration trends and dynamics using all available data, and thereby to serve as a valuable resource for policy design. Altai has been commissioned to write the Migration Profiles of six ECOWAS Member States, including the Gambia.

Migration Profiles were designed by the European Commission in 2005 as a tool to provide a snapshot of the migration situation in a country. Although the information they displayed was useful, it was not deemed dynamic enough and did not always contribute to the development of evidence-based migration policy as it lacked contextual analysis to migration patterns. In 2012, IOM developed a guide on how to initiate, implement and follow up on a Migration Profile process in each given country.

The Development of the Gambia Migration Profile is based on the above-mentioned guide, on the additional instruction for regional guidelines developed for ECOWAS and Mauritania under the FMM West Africa Project¹, and on the identification mission to support the development of migration profiles conducted by Altai in 2016. The Migration Profile summarizes the existing data on migration as part of past studies and additional information found throughout this research.

1 Regional Guidelines for ECOWAS and Mauritania, Migration Data Capacity-building, IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, 2016

OBJECTIVE

Migration designates “a process of moving, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, uprooted people, and economic migrants”².

The Migration Profile seeks to grasp the trends of mobility against the backdrop of the country, and the impact on the country and on its population. To cover all key aspects of migration, a review of the political and economic context is conducted, including demographics and other relevant indicators.

RESEARCH STRATEGY

APPROACH

The methodology proposed by Altai for this research is a mixed approach of both secondary data and primary research through qualitative interviews. The secondary research consisted of a desk review of the main studies previously conducted on the topic in the Gambia, including academic literature, IOM reports and other international organizations’ studies (the World Bank, UNDP, UNHCR, the African Development Bank and other similar organizations), as well as reports conducted by local actors (governmental institutions and local associations). A list of key literature reviewed appears in the annex.

The primary field research comprised interviews with key informants in the Gambia and in-depth interviews with migrants. In total, 25 interviews were conducted:

- 16 Key Informant Interviews (KII) with stakeholders, based on the list compiled during the identification mission completed in 2016 and completed with the IOM support (see list of interviews);
- 9 In-Depth Interviews (IDI) with key resource persons, including vulnerable migrants, returnees, diaspora members and urban migrant.

In August 2017, the draft migration report was presented to the interministerial committee on migration for review and validation upon which the final report was finalized.

² Glossary on Migration, IOM, 2004

The appendix details the full literature review, as well as the list of persons interviewed for the purpose of this research.

LIMITATION

The migration profile aims to gather all the existing data on migration in the Gambia. This study did not include quantitative research and therefore only relied on existing and available information. In the Gambia, data on migration is not systematically collected and many data gaps are discernable. The data contained in this report only refers to the sources cited.

A. MIGRATION TRENDS

KEY FINDINGS

Due to its proximity to the Gambia river, the country has a long-standing tradition of trade and movement in and out of the country. Over the course of four centuries, from the 15th to the end of the 20th, the Senegambia region was one of the main transit points for all types of trades including the transatlantic slave trade. Since the beginning of the 21st century, flows have not ceased and the Gambia is host to both in-flows and outflows of a significant scale.

Despite the presence of nearly 90,000 Gambians abroad, no official census of the diaspora exists; UN data however suggest that the three top countries hosting Gambians are the United States, Spain and the United Kingdom. Around 10 per cent of the population is composed of non-Gambians, who tend to hail from neighbouring countries.

Within the country, 23 per cent of the population is affected by internal migration and urbanization heavily contributes to this phenomenon. Political uncertainty in the beginning of the year 2017 caused large displacement, which was resolved after the end of the political crisis.

Irregular migration from the Gambia seems to be on the rise as many young Gambians are choosing to follow this path. Men are most likely to embark on the irregular journey, and an increasing number of minors are following the same path. Sex tourism, domestic servitude and forced labor are other migration-related pressing issues in the Gambia.

Table 1: Overview of The Gambia

Number of inhabitants	1,990,924 (2015) ³
Surface area	11,300 km ²
National currency	Gambian Dalasi
National languages	Mandingo, Fula, Wolof, Jola, and English for educational purposes
Regional integration	Member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

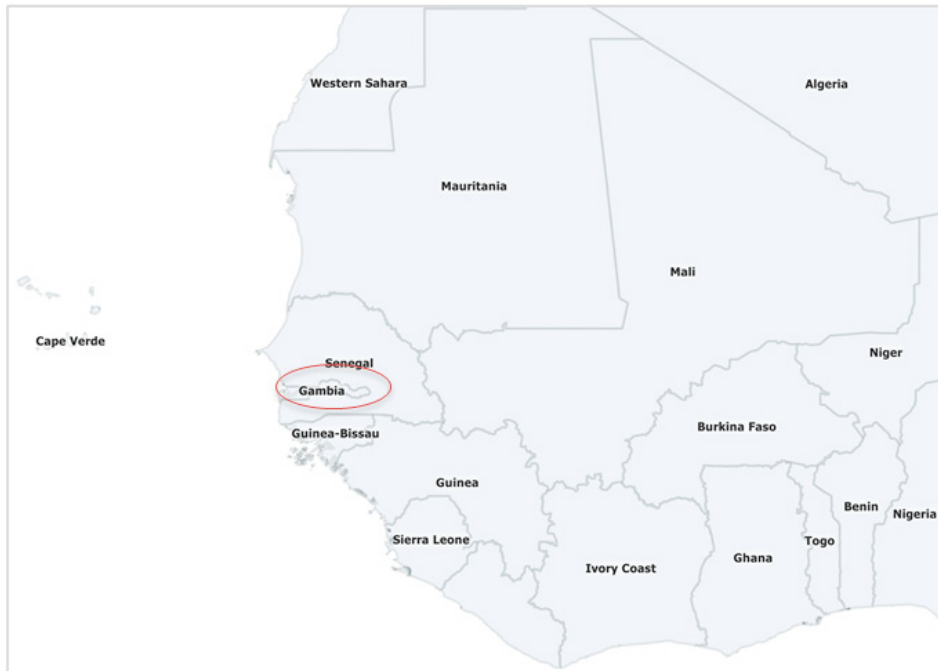
³see below

³ World Development Indicator, World Bank, last updated: April 2017.

The Gambia is located in West Africa and its capital city is Banjul. The Gambia is the smallest country in mainland Africa with a surface area of 11,300 km². The territory is comprised of a narrow strip of land surrounded by Senegal and is situated along the Gambia river. The river divides the country into two distinct parts: the North and South banks.

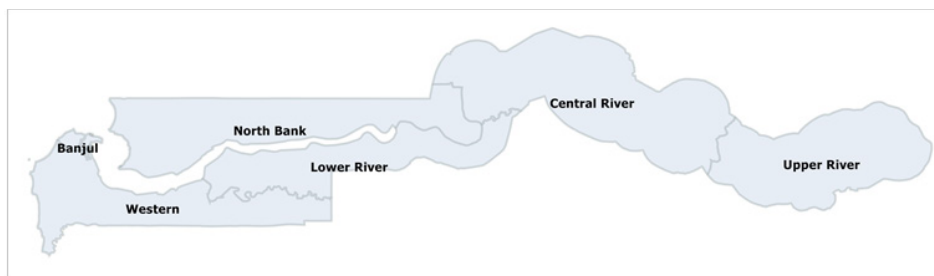
The country extends eastward from the sea for some 480 kilometres along both banks of the river and it is up to 48 kilometres wide at the mouth. Serekunda is located 13 kilometres to the southwest of Banjul and is the biggest urban centre. It is comprised of nine villages. Brikama is the second largest city and is located south of Banjul. Bakau, very close to Banjul, is the third city in terms of population before Banjul, located on St Mary's Island. Several bridges connect the capital to the mainland territories.

Map 1: Map of West Africa



The Gambia is divided into five administrative regions plus the capital, Banjul, which is classified as a city. The regions are: Central River, Lower River, North Bank, Upper River and Western. Additionally, the Gambia is divided into eight local government areas (LGA): Banjul, Basse, Brikama, Janjanbureh, Kanifing, Kerewan, Kuntaur and Mansakonko.

Map 2: Map of The Gambian regions



CLIMATE

The Gambia is part of the Sahel region, which is defined as a transition zone (shore in Arabic) between the Sahara Desert to the North and the savannah plains to the South. The weather is tropical, with a dry season from November to May, and a rainy season from June to November.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The geography of the country makes connecting the two banks of the Gambia river necessary. As a result, the Gambia relies on a national transport system for the integration of the country.

The transport system is characterized by a combination of three types of transportation networks. The primary transportation network is via road: there are 818 kilometres of inter-urban trunk roads, including 80 per cent of paved roads, 303 kilometres of secondary roads, mainly gravel surfaced, 37 kilometres of urban roads confined mainly to the Greater Banjul area, and 2,556 kilometres of rural feeder roads.

In terms of coverage, connectivity and accessibility, the Gambia is above average compared to sub-Saharan countries. However, 82.5 per cent of the network is in poor conditions. The country is connected by air with one airport, located in a small town near Banjul. Maritime transport is another important means of transportation in the country, with the Banjul port and the Gambia river representing important waterways. The Banjul port account for over 80 per cent of the country's international trade⁴.

⁴ The Gambia Transport Sector Diagnostic Study, African Development Bank Group, 2016.

A DIVERSE COUNTRY

The country is composed of eight main ethnic groups, of which the Mandinka is the largest: (1) the Mandinka/Jahanka (33.8 per cent of the population), (2) the Fulani/Tukulur/Lorobo (22.1 per cent), (3) the Wollof (12.2 per cent), (4) the Jola/Karoninka (10.9 per cent), (5) the Serahuleh (7 per cent), (6) the Serere (3.2 per cent), (7) the Manjago (2.1 per cent) and (8) the Bambara (1 per cent)⁵.

The main languages are Mandingo, Fula, Wolof and Jola. English is the language used for official purposes and education.

A.1. FACTORS AFFECTING MIGRATION FLOWS

The Gambia faces significant demographic and economic pressures that will continue to shape migration flows in the future. On the demographic front, a high population growth rate is likely to increase the dependency ratio and the population density in the Gambia. Already, over 60 per cent of the population is below the age of 25 and the population is expected to double by 2050. Heightened demographic pressures are likely to increase the incentive to migrate.

Economic pressures will also continue to affect migration flows for the foreseeable future. The Gambia ranks as one of the world's least developed countries in the world and experiences high poverty rates, with 48.4 per cent of the population living below the poverty line. The national unemployment rate hovers at 30 per cent, with rates of over 40 per cent affecting youths between the ages of 15 and 24. The pillars of the economy are agriculture, tourism and remittances, which makes the Gambia vulnerable to external shocks, including climate change.

His Excellency Adama Barrow's presidency aims to tackle the economy, working to ease the economic pressures pushing many Gambians to migrate. Despite the country's small size, the Gambia has been the source of more migrants to Europe per capita than any other African nation. In part, this high volume of migrant arrivals has been due to the political and economic pressures. Perhaps, as the new administration designs its development program, young

⁵ The World Factbook, CIA, January 2017, see www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ga.html.

Gambians might find taking “the back way” to Europe less attractive.

A.I.I. POLITICAL SITUATION

Table 2: Political and security situations

Key indicators	Data	Rating
Political stability	<p>1965: Independence from the United Kingdom</p> <p>1965 - 1994: Dada Jawara is the head of state</p> <p>1981: Failed coup attempt</p> <p>1994: Yahya Jammeh stages a successful coup against Jawara’s government</p> <p>1994 - 2016: Yahya Jammeh is elected in 1996, he is to be elected for three more terms</p> <p>December 2016: Adama Barrow is elected President</p> <p>January 2017: Adama Barrow returns to The Gambia after his inauguration in Senega</p>	High
Key political programme	<p>Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE): 2012–2015</p> <p>National Development Plan under review: 2017-2020</p> <p>Vision 2020</p>	
Security risk		Very limited

Historical overview of the Gambia

The Senegambian stone circle structures indicate that the Gambia was home to an early population in 500 BC. From 5th to 11th century, the territory that now constitutes the Gambia was under the influence of the Empire of Ghana. From 13th to 15th, it fell under the influence of the Empire of Mali. The Portuguese reached the country in the mid-15th century and monopolised trade along the coast of West Africa.

From the 15th to the 19th century, European countries fought for the control of the trade routes in the region and the British Empire gained control over the Gambian territory. At the Berlin Conference (also known as the West Africa Conference) of 1884-5, whereby European imperial powers convened to carve West Africa among themselves, the Gambia was assigned to the British whilst the French controlled the area surrounding the Gambia river, known as Senegal.

The contemporary period

The independence

In 1965, the Gambia gained independence, under the leadership of Dada Jawara, as a constitutional monarchy within the Commonwealth. In 1970, the country became a republic within the Commonwealth. Dawda Jawara was re-elected five times despite an attempted coup in 1981. In 1994, a bloodless coup resulted in the seizure of power by Yahya Jammeh, a young military officer. He was then elected in 1996, and re-elected every five years until the 2016 election.

The 2016 election

In December 2016, Adama Barrow, a property developer, took the world by surprise with his electoral victory. Despite the development, the political transition ushered in a period of uncertainty as the former president resisted the transfer of power. ECOWAS backed the president-elect, as did the international community. Adama Barrow was inaugurated as president in January 2017 in The Gambian Embassy in Dakar.

Shortly thereafter, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 2337, backed by the Senegalese government, which endorsed earlier decisions by the ECOWAS and the African Union to recognize “Adama Barrow as President-elect of the Gambia and representative of the freely expressed voice of The

Gambian people as proclaimed by the Independent Electoral Commission”⁶.

The ECOWAS Mission in the Gambia (ECOMIG) was created and a military operation named ‘Operation Restore Democracy’ was mobilized to restore order. Approximately 7,000 troops from Ghana, Senegal, Mali, Togo and Nigeria entered the Gambia. The former president subsequently resigned and on 26 January, the newly elected president returned to the Gambia and took office. ECOMIG is still present in the country, with a few hundred troops.

As underlined in an end-of-mission press release following an IMF staff visit: “with the transition to a new, democratically-elected government, the Gambia is at a historical turning point”⁷.

The present constitution dates from 1997 and the new government has announced its revision.

Gambia and its alliances

The Gambia has joined several international organizations or alliances since receiving independence in 1965. Some of these are presented in the following subsections.

The Commonwealth

When it gained independence in 1965, the Gambia joined the Commonwealth. This intergovernmental organization is comprised of 52 Member States that are mostly territories of the former British Empire. Its mission is to “improve the well-being of all Commonwealth citizens and to advance their shared interests globally”⁸.

In October 2013, the Gambian government announced its withdrawal from the organization stating that “The Gambia will never be a member of any neo-colonial institution and will never be a party to any institution that represents an extension of colonialism”. With the new regime, the Gambia has begun the process towards returning to its status as a Commonwealth republic.

The Senegambia

In 1981, a failed attempt to overthrow President Jawara resulted in the deployment of Senegalese troops in the country at the request of the

6 <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/2337>.

7 www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2017/04/13/pr18131-the-gambia-imf-staff-concludes-visit.

8 <http://thecommonwealth.org>.

government. In the aftermath of this coup, the two countries signed a treaty to create the Senegambia Confederation to promote cooperation. It was dissolved in 1989, when the Gambia withdrew from the union.

The relations between the Gambia and Senegal have been fraught with tensions: the conflict in Casamance, the fare to cross the Gambia river, and linkages between the opposition parties in the Gambia and Senegal prior to the 2016 election are examples of these two countries' fraught relations.

The ECOWAS

The Gambia has been a member of ECOWAS since its creation in 1975. In 1990, a meeting in Banjul with ECOWAS heads of States resulted in the creation of the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) by five Member States including the Gambia. The Gambia has played an active role in the efforts of this organization to resolve the civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The Africa Union

Created in 2001, the union gathers 55 African countries across the continent. Its vision is "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena."⁹ The Gambia joined it at its creation and the Africa Union played a key role in the 2016 political crisis when it backed ECOWAS.

Conflict in the region

Several conflicts have racked the region in the post-independent period. Civil wars broke out in Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Guinea-Bissau. The region has also been fraught with tensions between neighbours, for example the tensions between Mauritania and Senegal in the late 1980s.

Casamance

The Casamance conflict is another conflict that has afflicted the West African region. Casamance is a region of Senegal, located south of the Gambia and therefore separated from the rest of the country. Some date the origin of the Casamance conflict to when Senegal gained independence, and President Leopold Sedar Senghor allegedly claimed that the Casamance region would be granted independence within 20 years.

In 1980, some peaceful demonstrations asking for independence were

9 <https://au.int/web/en/about/vision>.

organized and repressed. In 1982, the Movement of the Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFCD) was created and an armed rebellion began in the region. The intensity of the conflict increased between 1988 and 1990. In the 1990s, several attempts were made to settle the conflict, but non-conclusive peace processes resulted in a permanent state of neither war nor peace¹⁰.

This conflict has tainted the relations between the Gambia, Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. Being at the centre of Senegambia, the Gambia is critical for any process in the region and due to its peculiar position, the Casamance conflict has had a spill over effect on the Gambia¹¹.

¹⁰ Civil Society and Conflict Prevention in Senegambia, Jibrin Ibrahim and Ebrima Sall, Centre for Democracy and Development, 2010.

¹¹ Ibid.

A.1.2. DEMOGRAPHY

Table 3: Summary of Gambian demographics

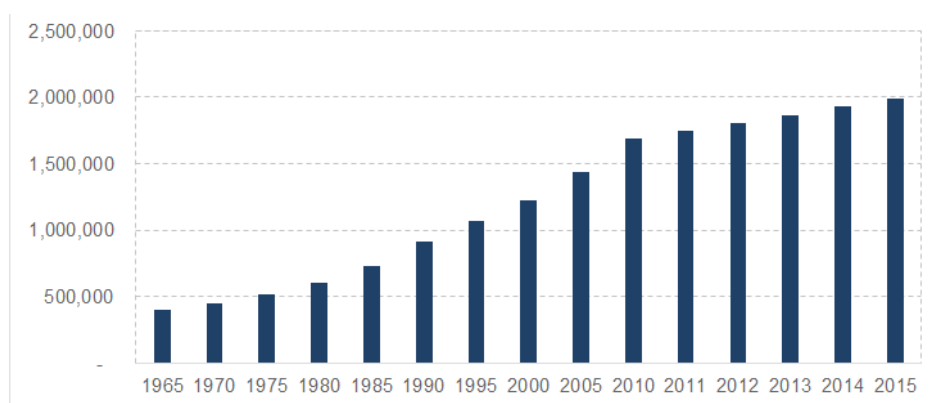
Key indicators	Data	Rating
Demographics		
Population	1,990,924 (2015)	
Life expectancy	60.5 (2015)	
Demographic pressure		
Population growth	3.2 per cent (2015)	High
Number of children per woman	5.7 children per woman	High

Demographic trend

Since independence, the population has multiplied five-fold: in 1965, 400,865 people were living in the Gambia. This number reached 1,990,924 inhabitants in 2015. Women represent 50.5 per cent of the total population. With 196 people per square kilometre, the Gambia is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa. In 1990, the growth rate of the population was 4 per cent but dropped to 2.8 per cent in 1998, before increasing slightly again. Since 2000, the average growth rate has been 3.2 per cent. If the population growth continues at this pace, in 20 years the population will have doubled.¹² In the medium scenario, the population could reach five million by 2050.

Figure 1: Population trends since independence

A young and growing population



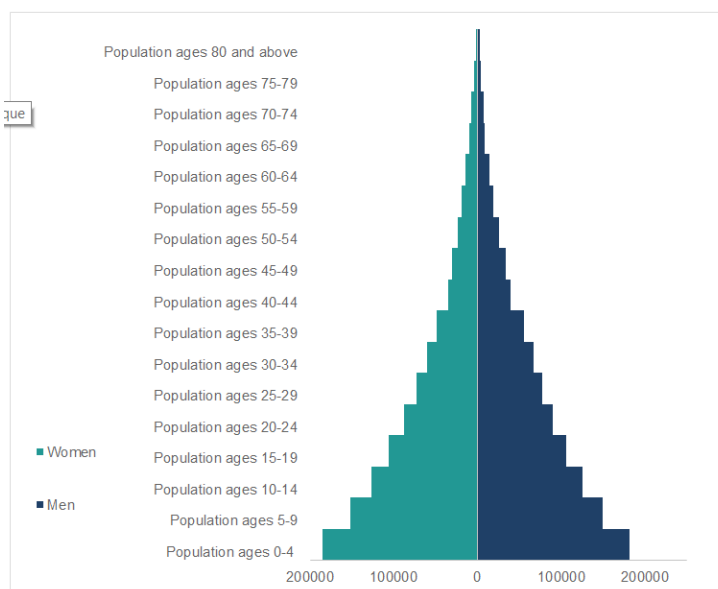
12 <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Graphs/Probabilistic/POP/TOT/>.

The Gambian population’s defining characteristic is its youth and rapid growth rate. Sixty-six per cent of the population is under the age of 25. The fertility rate is so high that the total number of young people is expected to double by 2050. This development will see the working population between the ages of 20 and 64 support 50 per cent of the population.

As of 2015, the dependency rate is high. Currently, for every 100 working age persons (aged 20–64) there are 140–150 dependants (individuals falling below the age of 20 and above the age of 64). The dependency ratio has not fluctuated since the 1990s and will drop below 100 after 2050, according to the medium scenario.¹³ This constitutes a challenge for the economy that needs to educate its youth and to create jobs in the modern sector beyond the informal economy, which has so far absorbed the influx of young people. The challenge is even more pressing for the Gambia whose territory and resources are constrained.

Contrastingly, should the fertility rate be reduced, the dependency ratio might decline and lead to the creation of a demographic dividend. Yet, to achieve this, a proactive economic development policy needs to be developed, as well as a facilitating a conducive macroeconomic environment.

Table 4: Population breakdown per age category in 2015



13 <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Graphs/Probabilistic/TDR/0-19and65plus/20-64/>.

A.1.3. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Economic development indicators

The chart below summarizes the main economic indicators.

Table 5: Summary of economic indicators

Key indicators	Data	Rating
Economic indicators¹⁴		
HDI (Human Development Index)	173/188 (2015) 171/188 (2010)	Slowly improving
GDP (Current USD, 2010)	939 million (2015) 952 million (2010)	Deteriorating situation
GDP per capita (Current USD, 2010)	472 USD/habitant (2015) 563 USD/habitant (2010)	
GDP growth	4.7 per cent (2015) 6.5 per cent (2010)	
Population vulnerability		
Poverty rate (percentage of the population living below the poverty line) ²	48.4 per cent (2010)	High

¹⁴see below

¹⁵see below

Poverty in the Gambia

A country amongst the least developed countries

The least developed countries report is reviewed every three years by a group of independent experts reporting to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).¹⁶ Three criteria are used to determine least developed country status: (i) per capita income, (ii) a human assets criterion and (iii) an economic vulnerability criterion. In order to be categorized as a least developed country, each country's performance is measured against a threshold established for each of the three criteria. The per capita income criterion is a three-year average estimate of the country's gross national income (GNI) per capita.

¹⁴ Unless specified, source: World Development Indicator, World Bank, last updated: April 2017.

¹⁵ The Least Developed Countries Report 2013, UNCTAD, 2013.

¹⁶ Last review in March 2015.

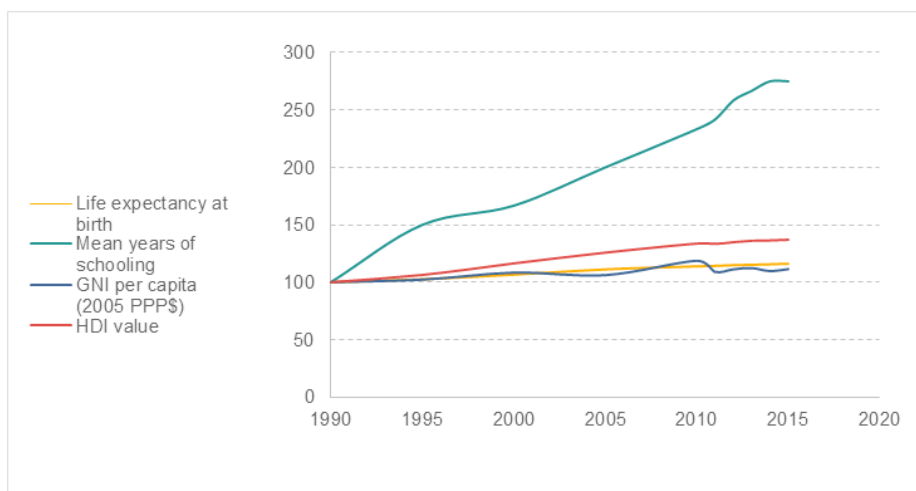
LDCs generally have a per capita income that falls between USD992 and USD1,189. The human assets index, on the other hand, is a composite index taking into consideration the percentage of the population that is undernourished, the child mortality rate, school enrolment, and the adult literacy rate. Finally, the economic vulnerability criterion is a composite index that considers a country's vulnerability to various internal and external economic, physical, or natural shocks. The Gambia is included in the 2013 list amongst 47 other countries.

Picture 1: View in the street of Serekunda



The Human Development Indicator

Figure 2: Trends in The Gambia's HDI component indices 1980–2012 (Base 100)



A significant proportion of the Gambia's population is living below the poverty line: 48.4 per cent of the population lives with less than USD1.25 per day, the majority of them living in rural areas (73 per cent).¹⁷ Between 1990 and 2015, the human development index (HDI) has increased from 0.330 to 0.452. The HDI measures three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living.

Figure 2 shows the evolution of the three indicators over time. Whilst the GNI per capita¹⁸ remained steady over the years, the life expectancy increased by 8.4 years, from 52.1 in 1980 to 60.5 years in 2015. The mean years of schooling also soared from a very low index of 1.2 to 3.3 years. Nevertheless, the Gambia remains below the average score of sub-Saharan countries for both the GNI per capita, (3,383 USD on average versus 1,541 USD for the Gambia) and for mean years of schooling (5.4 mean years of schooling on average versus 3.3 for the Gambia).¹⁹

Governance in the Gambia

Governance has also deteriorated over time in the Gambia under President Jammeh. The Ibrahim Index, published in 2007, monitors governance performance in African countries based on four categories: (i) safety and rule of law, (ii) participation and human rights, (iii) sustainable economic opportunity and (iv) human development. From 2006 to 2015, the Gambia experienced the sixth largest decline in Overall Governance (-3.9) on the African continent. However, this rating does not consider the change in regime that occurred in 2016.

Economic prospects

Over the past decade, the gross domestic product (GDP) has increased, albeit erratically: the GDP has grown at an average rate of 3.1 per cent, with GDP growth declining in 2005 and 2011, with the latter being attributed to crop failure. In 2015, the GDP was 939 million USD current and 472 USD current per capita.

In the last decade, the GDP per capita steadily declined by 14 per cent, suggesting a simultaneous increase in poverty. In 2008, the GDP per capita was USD 609, which is well below the USD 1,593 average for sub-Saharan countries (excluding high-income countries).

17 Study on Multidimensional Poverty and Inclusive Growth in The Gambia, UNDP, April 2015

18 Gross National Income (GNI) per capita based on purchasing power parity (PPP).

19 Human Development Report 2015, Explanatory note on 2015 HDR composite indices, Gambia, UNDP, 2015.

Structure of the economy

The three pillars of the economy are agriculture, tourism, and remittances. On average, the agriculture sector accounts for 22 per cent of the GDP and employs 31 per cent of the labour force in farming, husbandry and fisheries. The tourism sector is the key source of foreign exchange and the second biggest source of employment.²⁰ Remittances represent the third pillar of the economy. In 2015, the Gambia received USD181 million in remittances, which represented almost 20 per cent of GDP.²¹

The final greatest contributor to the Gambian economy is the industrial sector, which accounts for 15.9 per cent of GDP and is composed of small-scale industries. The country possesses few natural resources and rumours of off-shore oil have not been confirmed.

A prominent service sector

The service sector dominates the economy and contributes 62.7 per cent of the GDP in 2015. The service sector is bolstered by the tourism industry, which according to the Ministry of Tourism accounts for 16 per cent to 20 per cent of services.²² The tourist season is six-months long in the Gambia, and attracts over 100,000 tourists a year. The country has emerged as a top destination in West Africa mainly for British, German and Dutch nationals.

In 2014, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa severely impacted the services sector (even if no case of the disease was reported). The Ebola crisis is estimated to have cut tourism revenues by more than half for the 2014/15 season.²³ The political crisis in early 2017 also impacted the sector as all tourists were evacuated. Nevertheless, a bounce back is expected in the coming years and the government aims to support growth in the services/tourism sectors by (i) changing the six-month season to a year-round season, (ii) attracting tourists of other nationalities (Nigerian tourists represent a potential target population) and (iii) developing eco-tourism.²⁴

A traditional agricultural sector

Agriculture employs nearly a third of the population but contributes to only a fourth of the economy. This is largely rain-fed and therefore dependent on climate variation. For instance, in 2014, growth in the agricultural production

20 African economic outlook, Gambia, African Development Bank, OECD, UNDP 2016.

21 Migration and Remittances Data, World Bank, 2017, www.worldbank.org/en/topic/migrationremittancesdiasporaissues/brief/migration-remittances-data.

22 Meeting with the Ministry of Tourism, The Gambia, May 2017.

23 African economic outlook, Gambia, African Development Bank, OECD, UNDP 2016.

24 Meeting with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Employment, The Gambia, May 2017.

dropped by 7.2 per cent as a result of delayed summer rains. Gambian agriculture is characterized by subsistence production of food crops, comprising cereals (millet, maize, sorghum, rice) and semi intensive cash crop production (groundnut, cotton, sesame and horticulture).

Agricultural self-sufficiency stands at around 50 per cent and rice is imported in large quantities. Cash crops are exported but very little processing occurs in the Gambia, which leading to export value loss. The sector suffers from low productivity and food insecurity is a real threat. The Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Technical Manual classifies the severity of food insecurity in five phases: phase 1 refers to no food insecurity and phase 5 to catastrophe.²⁵

In December 2016, over 78,000 people in the Gambia were estimated to be living in crisis food insecurity (IPC phase 3)²⁶ and over 336,000 people are in stressed food insecurity (IPC phase 2)²⁷. Food insecurity in the Gambia is due to crop failure and rising food prices. The North Bank, Upper River, and West Coast regions are particularly affected.²⁸ Yet, the agriculture sector has untapped potential, with less than half of the Gambia's arable land currently cultivated.

The slow structural transformation of the economy

The Gambian economy is changing slowly. As detailed in the figure below, the share of agriculture is slowly diminishing along with industry, whilst the share of services is an increasingly important source of the value-added to the GDP. Yet, instead of being dominated by high productivity activities, the economy is dominated by low productivity activities, mainly in the informal sector.²⁹ Employment is concentrated in low value distributive trade, with low skilled workers and low paying jobs.³⁰

25 IPC Global Partners, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Technical Manual, Version 1.1, FAO, 2008.

26 See definition in IPC Global Partners, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Technical Manual, Version 1.1, FAO, 2008. Phase 3 is "Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have the following or worse: Food consumption gaps with high or above usual acute malnutrition OR Are marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps.

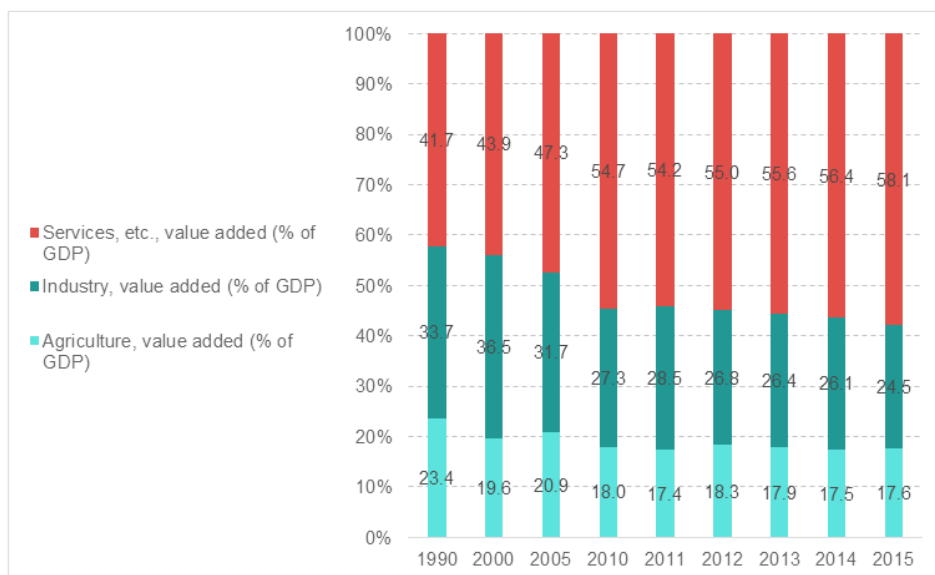
27 See definition in IPC Global Partners, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Technical Manual, Version 1.1, FAO, 2008. Phase 2 is: "Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have the following or worse: Minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential nonfood expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies".

28 The Gambia, overview, ACAPS, May 2017, see: www.acaps.org/country/gambia.

29 Youth employment, The Gambia National Human Development Report, UNDP, 2014.

30 Ibid

Figure 3: Share of the three main sectors in terms of value-added



Employment and labour market

The Labour Force Survey

The Gambia's first Labour Force Survey was conducted in 1992. This was a localized study covering areas just around the capital Banjul. Other related issues were covered as modules in some surveys and the country's Population and Housing Censuses. The Gambia Labour Force Survey 2012 (GLFS 2012) is the first nationally representative Labour Force Survey. It is relatively more comprehensive in coverage and also follows the International Labour Organization (ILO) guidelines. The following section is based on the results presented in this study.

Structure of employment

According to the 2012 Labour Force Survey, at time of enumeration almost two-thirds of workers were employed in (i) wholesale and retail trade, and (ii) agriculture and fisheries sectors.

Sectors including admin and support service (3.6 per cent), activities of employer households (5.2 per cent) and accommodation and food (1.5 per cent) are likely affected by the ebbs and flows of the tourist season.

The estimated informal employment rate is 62.8 per cent, with a higher

portion occurring in urban areas (52.4 per cent versus 32.4 per cent) and women being disproportionately more likely to be employed in the informal sector (73.8 per cent of workers in the informal sector are women). Most of the jobs in wholesale and retail trade are informal.³¹

Youth employment

The distribution of the economically active population shows that the 25-29 age category is the most dynamic group, prior to the 20-24 age group. This is true in all the regions of the Gambia except for Kuntaur, where the 10-19 age group is ranked as being the most economically active portion of the population.³² Kuntaur is a rural area of the Gambia, where many children are employed to work in the fields.

The national unemployment rate is 29.8 per cent; however, women experience a higher unemployment rate than men (38.3 per cent for women versus 20.9 per cent for men). The unemployment rate is also higher in rural areas (31.1 per cent) than in urban areas (28.4 per cent). Individuals between the ages of 15 and 24 are the most likely to experience unemployment, as 42.2 per cent of the population in this age cohort are unemployed.

This differs significantly from the 30.6 per cent unemployment rate of 25-34 year olds and the 20 per cent–30 per cent unemployment rates experienced by all other age categories. Contrary to the general employment rate, the youth are more prone to be unemployed in urban areas than in rural areas (39.2 per cent as compared to 36.9 per cent). Under-employment could explain this phenomenon seeing as in rural areas, young people tend to work in the agriculture sector, which only employs individuals for a few months per year.

A.1.4. ENVIRONMENT

Climate change

The country is facing significant environmental pressure due to a fast-growing population on limited territory and an agricultural system relying heavily on the weather conditions. Since the 1960s, the Gambia has suffered from declining precipitation trends and frequent droughts punctuated by catastrophic floods.

The coastal areas are very exposed to climate change, and rising sea levels

31 Youth employment, The Gambia National Human Development Report, UNDP, 2014.

32 Population and housing census, economic characteristics, Gambian Bureau of Statistics, 2013.

are a main area of concern. A one-meter rise in sea level could overwhelm about 8.7 per cent of the Gambia's total land area.³³ According to UNDP,³⁴ it is critical that the Gambia takes step to decrease its vulnerability to climate change. Investment in water resource management should be one of the countries' top priorities.

A.1.5. SUMMARY AND FUTURE TRENDS

Factors	Rating	Trend in the coming years ^ : increased > : constant v : decreased
Demography	Major impact	^
Economic prospects	Constant impact	>
Climate change	Constant impact	>
Conflict	Limited impact	v

33 Climate Change and Development in The Gambia, Challenges to Ecosystem Goods and Services, Malanding Jaiteh, Columbia University, 2011.

34 Youth employment, The Gambia National Human Development Report, UNDP, 2014

A.2. CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERNAL MIGRATION

A.2.1. ESTIMATED FLOWS

The 2012 Labour Force Survey defines an internal migrant as a person whose place of usual residence (LGA at the time of the enumeration) differs from his LGA of birth.³⁵ The study estimates the number of internal migrants to be 236,084 out of an adult population of 1,022,839 (“adult” being defined as any individual above the age of 15), which amounts to about 23 per cent of the adult population.

This internal migrant population mainly resides in urban areas (84 per cent versus 16 per cent in rural areas). In urban areas, a large portion of internal migrants work in the informal sector. These individuals represent the highest portion of working poor (42 per cent) in the Gambia.³⁶ Workers employed in the informal sector are more likely to be female than male. More specifically, 59 per cent of workers in the informal sector are women.

A.2.2. CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERNAL MIGRANTS

The Migration and Urbanization Survey Report conducted in 2009³⁷ was the second migration survey to be conducted in the Gambia.³⁸ The survey provides information and analysis on households, population movements, immigrants, Gambians abroad, internal migration and the main characteristics of non- migrants.

Over 45 per cent of internal migrants fall between the ages of 15 and 29, while 31.3 per cent fall between the ages of 30 and 44. The vast majority of internal migrants identified by the Migration and Urbanization Survey Report tended to move towards Kanifing and Brikama (78.7 per cent), and only 1.1 per cent to Banjul. However, the number of internal migrants moving to Banjul has likely increased significantly since the period of enumeration of the labour force survey.⁵ Internal migrants hailed from Kanifing (27.2 per cent), Brikama (19.9 per cent) and Kerewan (13.2 per cent). Only 5.3 per cent of the total migrants originated from Kuntaur. According to this 2009 survey, three ethnic groups

35 Labour Force Survey 2012 Report, Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS), Gamjobs, and Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE), 2013.

36 The working poor were categorized as employed persons living below the poverty line, with a monthly income of less than D1,158 which was equivalent to USD38 per month and USD1.25 per day using an exchange rate of D30.48 per USD1 as at March 2012.

37 The Migration and Urbanization Survey Report, Gambian Bureau of Statistics, 2009.

38 The first survey was conducted in 1978.

account for three quarters of the migrants: Mandinka (39 per cent), Fula (19 per cent), and Wollof (17 per cent). However, it is likely that the Soninke or Sarakone ethnicities should feature more prominently in the internal migrant population seeing as they are traditionally pastoralist groups. The Jola people are also likely underrepresented in the 2009 survey.³⁹

The key drivers of movement are (i) change in family status, (ii) employment, and (iii) education. Women account for 57 per cent of internal migrants. After marriage, female internal migrants' second main reason for moving is education, rather than work. The flow of women from villages to cities could be explained by improvements in the school enrolment rate.

Most of the internal migrants stated that their situation had improved following their departure. Yet, 42.3 per cent of migrants reported not being able to meet their basic needs. About the same portion of internal migrants expressed the intention of migrating again. Most internal migrants intending to migrate again signalled their preferred destination as being outside of the Gambia: 58 per cent preferred to migrate to a non-African country and only 3 per cent intended to migrate to an African country. Only 28 per cent of internal migrants who said they intended to migrate again wanted to do so within the Gambia.

Educational attainment of internal migrants

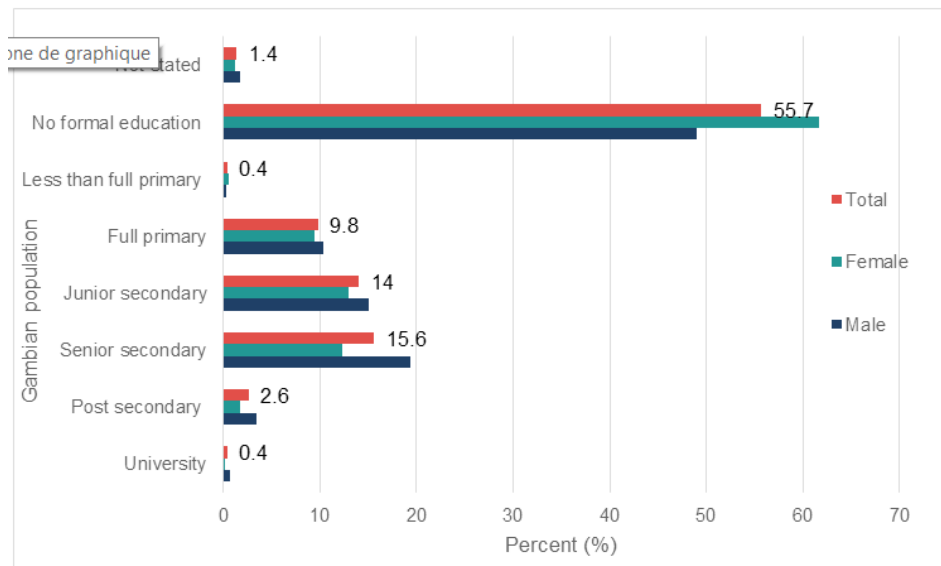
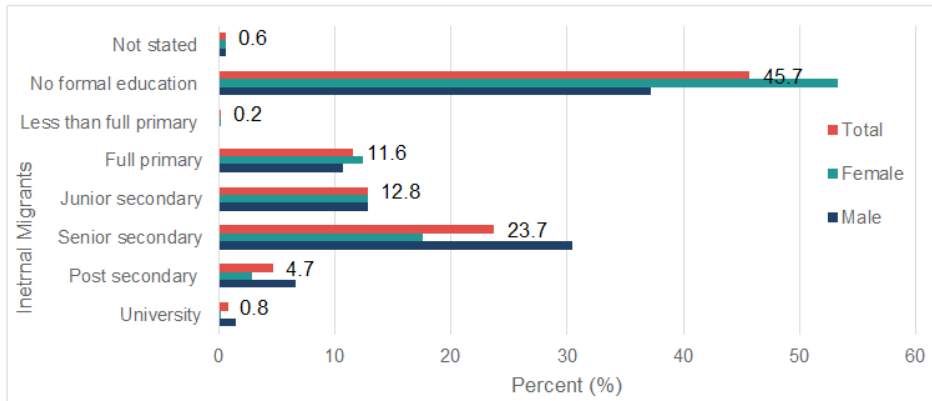
Much like the rest of the Gambian population, most internal migrants in the Gambia have no formal education. The figure below compares the rates of educational attainment of internal migrants with those of non-migrants and those of the overall Gambian population. As can be observed below, male internal migrants are characterized by above average rates of completion or partial completion of senior secondary education. 30.4 per cent of male migrants had completed junior secondary education as opposed to 19.2 per cent of men in the Gambian population and 17.2 per cent of non-migrant men. Female internal migrants also exhibited higher secondary education completion rates, although the difference with their non-migrant peers was not as drastic. 17.6 per cent of female internal migrants had completed secondary education as opposed to 14.4 per cent of non-migrant women and 12.3 per cent of women in the general Gambian population.

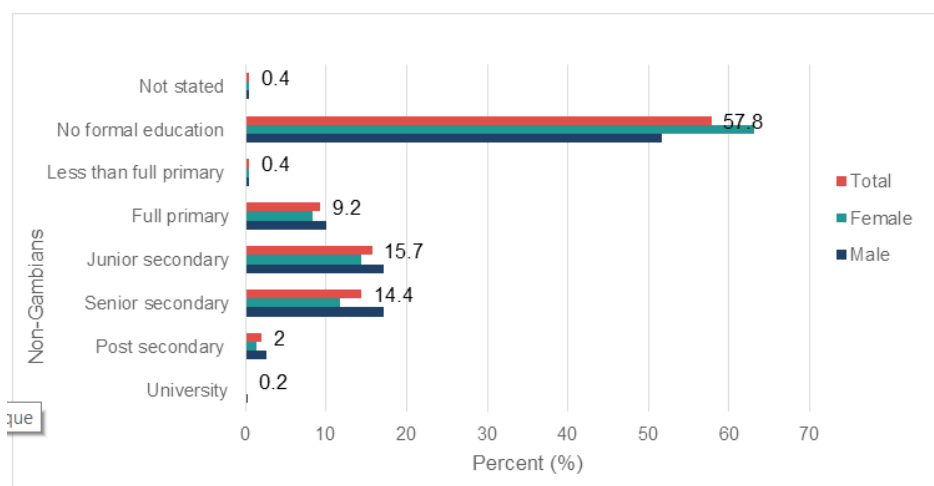
The higher level of education attainment that distinguishes internal migrants may partially be explained by the motivation for migration cited in the Labour Force Survey. Male migrants had cited employment and education

39 Draft Migration Profile for The Gambia Validation Workshop, participant comment, Banjul, August 1, 2017.

as determining factors in their migration. Individuals with high skill sets or higher than average education levels may be more likely to encounter attractive employment opportunities for which to migrate, or they may be more likely to migrate in the order to render themselves more competitive through training and educational opportunities.

Figure 4: Level of educational attainment of internal migrants, non-migrants, and all Gambians disaggregated by gender (per cent), 2012





Employment patterns of internal migrants

Figure 6 below draws on data from the 2012 Labour Force Survey. Much like the rest of the population, internal migrants tend to be most heavily employed in the service and sales sector, which as discussed above, is fuelled by the tourism industry. According to table 6, internal migrants are represented more heavily in the following categories: chief executives, senior officials and legislators; professionals; technicians and associate professionals; clerical and support workers; service and sales workers; craft and related trade workers; and the armed forces. Given the importance of employment as a determinant of migration, a higher representation of internal migrants in the more highly skilled occupations makes sense. A higher incidence of internal migrants in the armed forces and craft trades also makes sense, seeing as employment in the army generally involves relocation –as does the selling of wares and other crafts.

Table 6: Main occupation of employed persons (15+) by migrant status, (per cent)1

	Internal Migrant	Immigrant	Non-migrant	Not stated	Total
Chief executives, Senior officials and legislators	1.0	0.3	0.3	-	0.5
Professionals	7.2	2.1	4.2	6.6	4.7
Technicians and associate professionals	4.6	1.0	1.8	-	2.4
Clerical and support workers	3.5	0.4	1.1	-	1.6
Service and Sales workers	46.1	59.5	28.1	34.7	36.5
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	8.5	11.1	42.1	19.4	29.9
Craft and related trade workers	16.9	15.9	11.6	11.9	13.4
Plant / machine operators	2.9	5.8	0.6	-	2.9
Elementary occupations	5.3	9.0	7.8	27.4	7.5
Armed forces	1.1	-	0.6	0.0	0.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100

A.2.3. RURAL FLIGHTS AND URBANIZATION

Spatial dynamics

In 2015, most of the population (59.6 per cent or 803,696 people) was concentrated around urban and peri-urban centres.⁴⁰ Between the 1960s and the 1990s, the average rate of urbanization was 7 per cent –however, the rate has fallen to 4.5 per cent since. This means that the urban environment has undergone tremendous changes since independence, when 88 per cent of the population was living in rural areas. Today, the majority of the population lives in urban areas.

Urbanization is driven by rural flight and the growth rate of the population. In the Gambia, urbanization is perceived as a risk according to the Gambia National Development Plan currently under review. More specifically, “rapid, uncontrolled and unplanned urban expansion has resulted in settlements in erosion and flood prone areas with no urbanization policy and strategy in place”.⁴¹

An ongoing process

Since the country’s independence, the urban population has soared from 342,607 in 1965 to 803,696 in 2015. The proportion of people living in urban areas now exceeds the number of people living in rural centres. Urbanization is driven by population growth combined with the attraction of rural dwellers and international migrants (see A.4) to the urban areas for purposes relating to employment opportunities, access to finance, access to infrastructure and access to technology.

As detailed below, the unemployment rate primarily impacts young people from rural areas. Consequently, rural flight is fuelled by young Gambians who leave the countryside in search of work. They first attempt to find jobs in the urban economy and if their project fails, they then consider emigration.

Government strategy

Internal migration flows are not regularly monitored but they are integrated in development strategies. Over the last decade, the government has

⁴⁰ World Development Indicator, World Bank, last updated: April 2017.

⁴¹ The Gambia Development Plan, PAGE II, 2017–2020.

attempted to slow down urbanization and sometimes, presents these flows as a threat to development. In this same vein, the Vision 2020 document⁴² developed under the previous government emphasizes that urbanization threatens “the sustainability of the current food production strategy” and proposes efforts in “increased industrialization” to help curb rural-urban migration. In the last years, the authorities have invested in rural areas to increase access to education, electricity and health, to make these regions more attractive.

A.2.4. FORCED MIGRATION

Internally displaced persons

IDPs can be defined as “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border”.⁴³

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) have not represented a major concern in the Gambia. Only during the short-lived political uncertainty in the aftermath of the 2016 election were Gambians internally displaced. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the tensions created by the poll internally displaced 150,000 and drove an estimated 3,500 Gambians into Guinea-Bissau and 76,000 Gambians into Senegal. The IDPs were mainly women, children and the elderly who were sent to their relatives outside of Banjul and Serekunda.⁴⁴ On 21 January, the political crisis in the Gambia came to an end as former President Yahya Jammeh left the country. Appeasement led to the return of the displaced people.

A.2.5. OTHER FORMS OF INTERNAL MIGRATION

There are likely several other forms of internal migration not captured by high-level national surveys occurring in the Gambia. These may include seasonal migration, migration due to climactic events and migrations occurring within rural areas. According to key informants interviewed for the validation of this report, there are population movements away from urban centres and towards rural areas during the wet season. These movements may be due to increased

42 Vision 2020 is the socioeconomic development strategy for the period 1996-2020 adopted by the Gambian government at the time.

43 Glossary on Migration, IOM, 2004.

44 The Gambia, politically induced displacement, briefing note, ACAPS, 26 January 2017.

rains and fertility of farmland, which make agricultural employment more profitable during the rainy season. The rainy season is also low tourism season, which makes employment in the services and sales sectors that are concentrated in the urban areas less profitable. In a similar vein, no data is readily available on migrations associated with pastoralism and the pursuit of fertile farmland, especially due to low rainfall. Access to finance and land for women is also a determinant of internal migration which is not captured by the data.

Another form of internal migration that is not captured by readily available data are displacements associated with floods, droughts, and coastal erosion, and other climactic phenomena that affect the Gambia throughout the year. Lastly, little data exists on migrations relating to employment opportunities that characterize specific regions of the country. For example, according to certain key informants, women from the Casamance region are known to work as domestic workers in urban centres throughout the country during school's summer session.

A.3. EMIGRATION FLOWS

This subsection and the next discuss legal emigration and immigration flows in and out of the Gambia. They rely on data from existing documents collected during the fieldwork and online sources. Generally, migration data is not collected systematically in the Gambia. The analysis in this section relies on the existent and available information, which due to its dearth cannot be considered thorough.

According to the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the net international migrant stock was 102,901 at mid-year in 2015. According to the Population Division, this net stock included 192,540 migrants (including refugees) living in the Gambia and 89,639 Gambians living abroad.⁴⁵ Net migration⁴⁶ over the five-year period ending in June 2015 was -13,476.⁴⁷ This number is not significant, therefore it could be inferred that there is a close balance between the people leaving and the people coming in.

Nevertheless, while taking into consideration the following data, it is important to consider that: (i) only regular flows can be recorded, (ii) numerous individuals are not registered in their host countries and, (iii) ECOWAS is a free movement zone and ECOWAS member movements are frequently not registered.

Emigration is defined as “the act of departing or exiting from one State with a view to settle in another. International human rights norms provide that all persons should be free to leave any country, including their own, and that only in very limited circumstances may States impose restrictions on the individual’s right to leave its territory”.⁴⁸

No official census of the number of Gambians abroad has been conducted and therefore, little data exists on the subject.

45 Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 revision (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2015), United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2015.

46 Net migration is the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants, including citizens and noncitizens.

47 World Development Indicator, World Bank, last updated: April 2017, source: United Nations World Population Prospects.

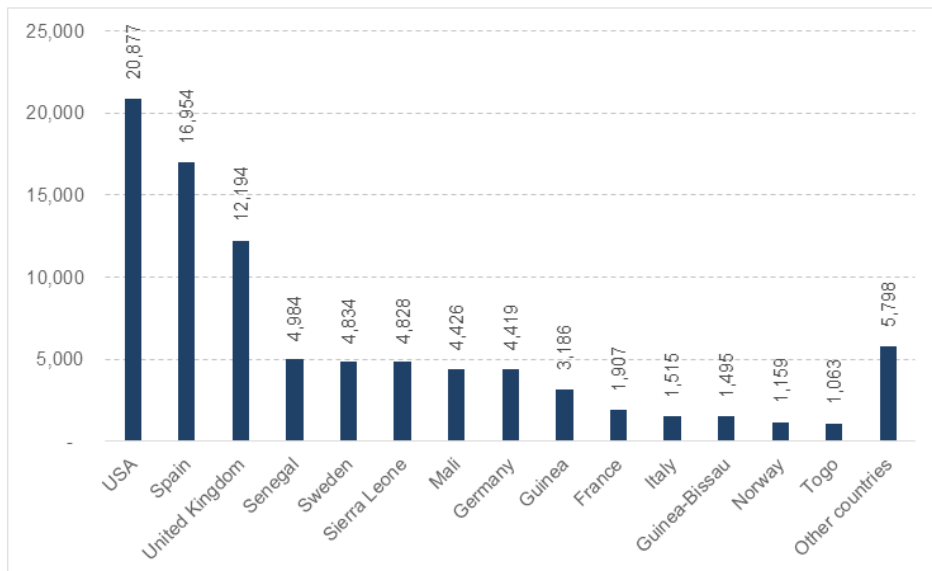
48 Glossary on Migration, IOM, 2004.

A.3.1. ESTIMATED FLOWS

Number of Gambians abroad

According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, there are almost 90,000 Gambians living abroad. This figure, if accurate, represents 5 per cent of the Gambian population. Half of the Gambians abroad are located in three countries: the first destination country is the United States (23 per cent of the Gambians abroad), followed by Spain (19 per cent), and then the United Kingdom (14 per cent), as detailed in Figure 5 below. Twenty-three per cent of the remaining Gambians are scattered throughout West African countries, with Senegal, Sierra Leone and Mali being the three most frequent destinations in Africa. As Figure 5 indicates, the remaining Gambians are almost exclusively living in Europe.⁴⁹

Figure 5: Destination countries for Gambians in 2015²



49 Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 revision (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2015), United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2015.

Characteristics of Gambians abroad

The Migration and Urbanization Survey Report conducted in 2009 collected data by asking households if any members had left the country to stay abroad in the preceding five years. Since the survey relied only on the answers provided by relatives (and not migrants), the data cannot be considered as entirely reliable. However, the survey does provide some interesting findings.

Focus box 1: Characteristics of Gambians abroad

Gambians tend to emigrate before the age of 50. The biggest share of Gambians abroad (29.7 per cent), are between the ages of 20 and 24. The distribution of emigrants across urban and rural areas corresponds to the urbanization rate at that time: 47 per cent of emigrants hailed from rural areas and 53 per cent came from urban ones.

The most important LGAs of origin are Kanifing, Basse and Brikama. Banjul represents only 3.3 per cent in absolute numbers. Fifty-seven per cent indicated that the main reason of emigration was the prospect of finding a job. The second main motivation was education (21.5 per cent). Other reasons commonly given were visiting (9.9 per cent), joining a spouse (4.1 per cent) and medical reasons (1.7 per cent). To reach their country of destination, medical migrations tend to occur via air travel (50 per cent), by road (42 per cent) and only 8 per cent by sea.

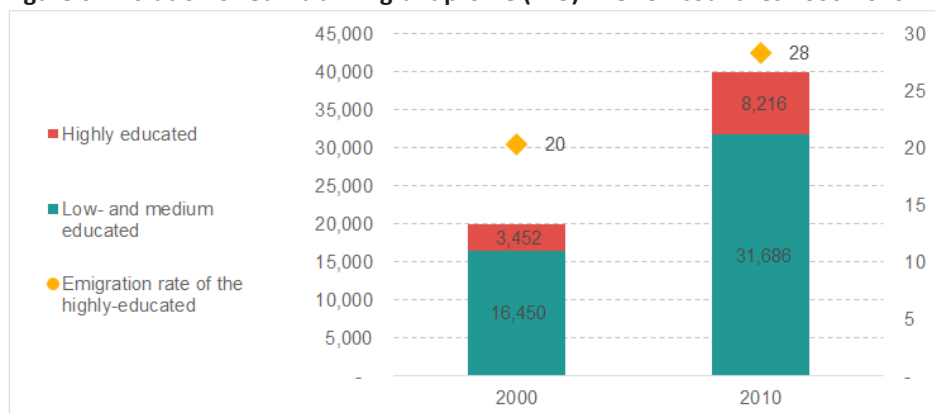
The predominance of air transport is an indicator of the economic background of migrants who have higher income levels than the Gambians who undertake the irregular route (see A.5.1.).

Trends over the last decade

As shown below, OECD data ⁵⁰ from 2000 to 2010 indicates that the emigration rate of highly-educated individuals increased by almost 40 per cent.

50 Connecting with Emigrants, A Global Profile of Diasporas, OECD, 2015.

Figure 6: Evolution of Gambian migrant profile (+15) in OECD countries 2000-2010⁵¹



At the same time, the share of highly-educated individuals in OECD countries rose by 138 per cent and by 93 per cent for the low and medium educated. These figures suggest that the country is severely impacted by brain drain. The Gambia ranks as having the 5th (out of 21) highest emigration rate of highly-educated individuals in the region and 15th (out of 144) highest in the world.⁵² Although the data available on skilled emigrant workers is not recent, the trends in Gambian brain drain are unlikely to have changed. However, given that emigrating regularly to Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States has become increasingly complicated, it may be possible that the number of highly skilled Gambians residing and working in OECD countries regularly are diminishing.

A.3.2. WORKERS ABROAD

Emigrant workers in OECD countries

Regarding the labour situation of Gambians living in OECD countries, 50 per cent of them are employed and most of them are men (69 per cent).⁵³ Gambian emigrants mainly occupy medium-skilled jobs (62.1 per cent). There is an equal distribution between low-skilled (19.5 per cent) and high-skilled occupations (18.5 per cent). A significant portion of emigrants are employed in jobs below their educational background: 57 per cent of highly educated Gambians occupy low- and medium-skilled level jobs abroad.⁵⁴

⁵¹ Ibid

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Data from 2010/11, Connecting with Emigrants, A Global Profile of Diasporas, OECD, 2015.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

Table 7: Gambian workers (ages 15-24) in OECD countries in 2000 and 2010

	2000	2010
Employment rate		
Employed	58.2 per cent	50 per cent
Unemployed	15 per cent	33.4 per cent
Distribution of employment by skill level		
Low	23.8 per cent	19.5 per cent
Medium	60.6 per cent	62.1 per cent
High	15.6 per cent	18.5 per cent

A.3.3. STUDENTS ABROAD

Countries of destination

Prior to and following independence in 1965, the United Kingdom was a major country of emigration for Gambians to study and work. The flow decreased following the policies enacted in the 1960s and 1970s by the British Parliament to curb immigration.⁵⁵

Nevertheless, the United Kingdom is still the second major destination after the United States of America for Gambian students in OECD countries. As Figure 7 indicates, the United Kingdom is followed by Canada, Turkey and Australia as most common destinations for Gambian students.⁵⁶ However, the absolute number of Gambian students abroad is very low: 814 students in total for the year 2012.

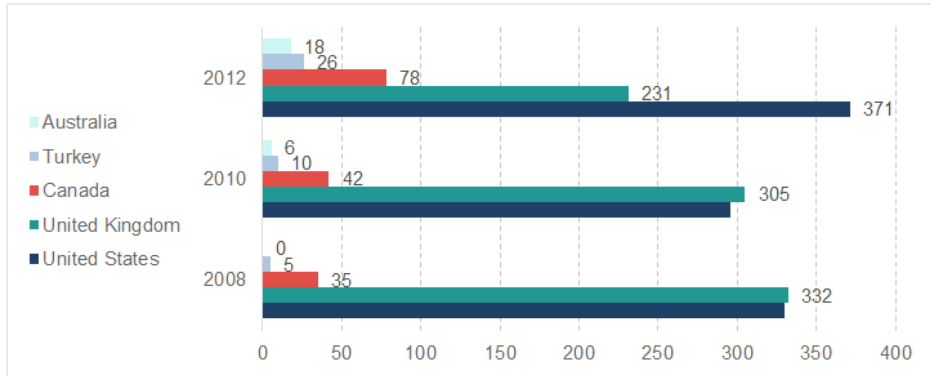
According to the Ministry of Higher Education, among non-OECD countries⁵⁷ Morocco hosted the largest number of Gambian students in the year 2016–2017 (111), followed by Sudan (100), India (43) and Tunisia (14). Other countries that may have Gambian students include Taiwan Province of the People’s Republic of China Province of the People’s Republic of China, with which the Gambia had an agreement that allowed Gambians to study in Taiwan Province of the People’s Republic of China Province of the People’s Republic of China.

55 The Gambia: Migration in Africa’s “Smiling Coast”, C. Omar Kebbeh, August 2013.

56 Connecting with Emigrants, A Global Profile of Diasporas, OECD, 2015.

57 Data provided by the Ministry of Higher Education, The Gambia, May 2017.

Figure 7: Gambian students abroad in OECD countries



A.4. IMMIGRATION

Immigration is “a process by which non-nationals move into a country for the purpose of settlement”.⁵⁸

A.4.1. ESTIMATED FLOWS

According to the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the international migrant stock in the Gambia at mid-year in 2015 was 192,540 migrants. This number included refugees, whose stock stood at 11,608 in the same period. In 2015, the average international migrant stock as a percentage of the population was 12.5 per cent, which represents a decrease from 1990. In 2015, 9.7 per cent of the Gambian population was composed of international migrants.⁵⁹

A.4.2. PROFILE

Nationalities

The Youth Employment survey released in 2014⁶⁰ indicates that 8.5 per cent of the working age population (15 years and above) is comprised of non-Gambians.⁶¹ Amongst them, 47.8 per cent are men and 53.2 per cent women. Senegalese and Guinean nationals account for 80 per cent of this population, and for almost 6 per cent of the total population. The other most common nationalities are Malians and Sierra Leoneans (7 per cent and 6 per cent respectively), followed by Bissau-Guineans (2 per cent) and Mauritanians (1 per cent) (see Figure 8). Others include people from Nigeria, Côte d’Ivoire, Lebanon, India, Sudan, Togo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

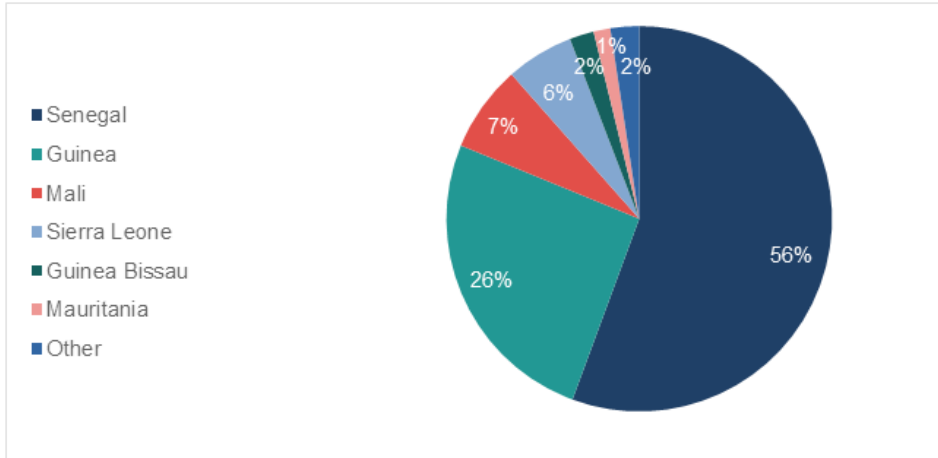
58 Glossary on Migration, IOM, 2004.

59 Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 revision (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2015), United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2015.

60 Youth employment, The Gambia National Human Development Report, UNDP, 2014.

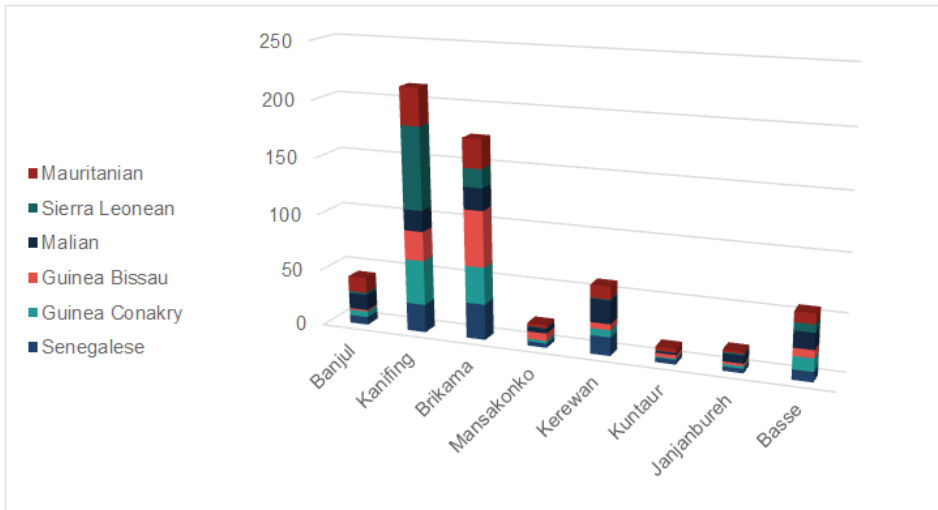
61 The survey distinguishes non-Gambians from immigrants: Non-Gambians born in The Gambia are not considered as immigrants.

Figure 8: Non-Gambians living in The Gambia



Locations

Figure 9: Location of main group of immigrants by LGA



Immigrants are mainly located in urban areas, where 68 per cent of them reside. As shown in Figure 9, the two-major host LGAs for non-Gambians age 7 and above are Kanifing and Brikama, which host two-thirds of the population.⁶² The least attractive LGAs are Kuntaur, Janjanbureh and Mansakonko, which are

⁶² Population and housing census, economic characteristics, Gambian Bureau of Statistics, 2013.

predominantly rural

State of employment

The labour force participation rate is higher for immigrants than non-immigrants (80.2 per cent versus 72.1 per cent).⁶³ Most immigrants work as services and sales workers (59.5 per cent). Other occupations include crafts and related trade workers (15.9 per cent), followed by skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers (11.1 per cent). Only 3.4 per cent are employed in skilled jobs. Besides, 17.3 per cent of immigrants are working in the informal sector for the most part in urban areas.

Immigrants tend to have low qualifications, which could partially explain the nature of their occupations. Most of the immigrants of over 15 years have low to medium education background: 63.6 per cent of immigrants have no formal education, 14.9 per cent attended primary school (13.7 per cent completed primary school) and only 3.9 per cent attended some post-secondary schooling or university. Yet, the share of immigrants who went to university, 1.4 per cent, is higher than the share of Gambians who have attended university (0.5 per cent).⁶⁴

Focus box 2: The Lebanese community in The Gambia

The Lebanese community is mainly seen as a successful minority business community. Lebanese immigrants can be found in all West African countries. The first Lebanese to arrive in West Africa landed in Senegal and the Gambia at the beginning of the 20th century and their numbers increased throughout the century. In 1951, 201 individuals were registered in Bathurst (former name of Banjul) and Kombo St. Mary. Their success in business could be traced back to the colonial period when Lebanese business people were favoured over African competitors by European firms. Furthermore, they acquired large portions of land in the Banjul area. Nowadays, the Lebanese dominate the mid-level merchant sector and can also be found operating in the transport and service sectors.⁶⁵

⁶⁵see below

63 OECD defines this concept as such “the labour force participation rates is calculated as the labour force divided by the total working-age population. The working age population refers to people aged 15 to 64. This indicator is broken down by age group and it is measured as a per centage of each age group”.

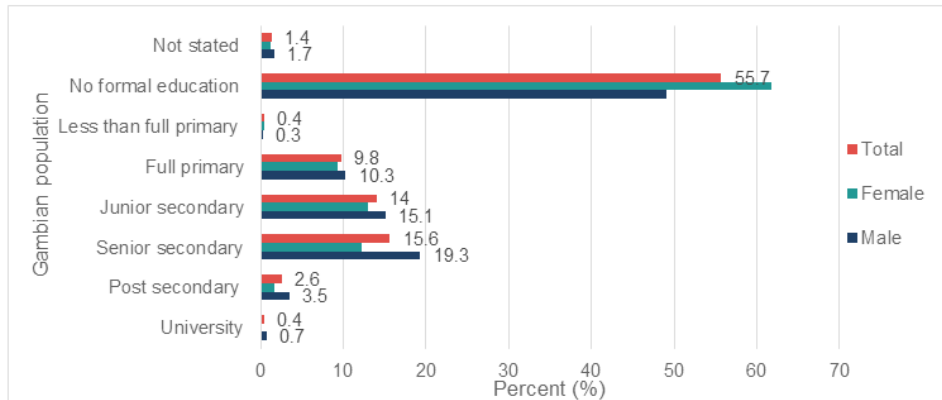
64 Youth employment, The Gambia National Human Development Report, UNDP, 2014.

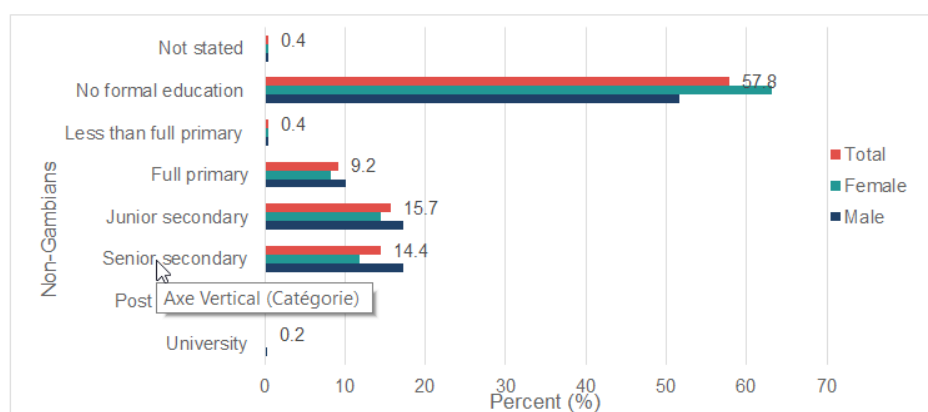
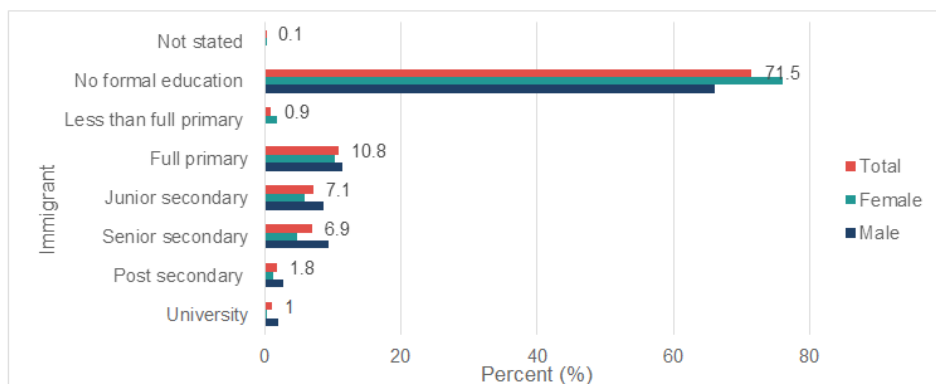
65 Historical dictionary of The Gambia, Arnold Hughes and David Perfect, 2008.

A.4.3. STUDENTS

According to the 2012 Labour Force Survey, immigrants in the Gambia exhibit lower levels of educational attainment at both primary and secondary levels of education. Much like the rest of the population, most immigrants in the Gambia possess a low level of education, with 71 per cent of immigrants in 2012 recorded as having no formal education. However, the likelihood of immigrants in the Gambia not having any formal education was almost 20 per cent greater than for Gambians or for non-migrants more generally (55.7 per cent of the total Gambian population has no formal education, while 57.8 per cent of non-migrants also have no formal education). As indicated in the figure below, immigrant rates of primary school completion did not differ greatly among immigrants, Gambians, and non-migrants. Immigrants differ slightly from non-migrants and the total Gambian population with regards to university degrees. One per cent of immigrants in 2012 had some university education as opposed to 0.2 per cent of non-Gambians and 0.4 per cent of the total Gambian population. As displayed in figure 10, across migration status, women in the Gambia always exhibit lower levels of educational attainment.

Figure 10 : Level of educational attainment of immigrants, non-migrants, and all Gambians disaggregated by gender (per cent), 2012¹





The government possesses some information about students in the country. The Ministry of Higher Education collects the data from the seven universities in the country (six private and one public) and various certificate programs. According to the Ministry, the figures are not representative because some universities are reluctant to share their data.

According to the data collected by the Ministry, most of the foreign students are enrolled in non-tertiary education programs, such as Grace Institute of Professional Accounting or the Gambia Tourism and Hospitality Institute. The number of foreign students in university is very low, less than 5 per cent, except in 2014 when 99 out of 813 registered students were foreigners registered. In 2013, Nigerians accounted for 78 per cent of foreign students.

A.5. VULNERABLE MIGRANTS

A.5.1. IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

An irregular migrant is defined by the IOM as “someone who, owing to illegal entry or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country”. The term applies to migrants who infringe a country’s admission rules and any other person not authorized to remain in the host country (also called clandestine / illegal / undocumented migrant or migrant in an irregular situation)⁶⁶”.

Migration has always been part of life in The Gambia. However, since the 1980s, the phenomenon took on a new dimension. Economic deterioration, high level of unemployment and droughts have fuelled the departure of Gambians abroad both regularly and irregularly. The flows of migrants embarking on the irregular journey are hard to quantify due to the nature of this form of migration.

Despite the increased establishment of checkpoints and focus on border security, the vastness of the Sahara lends itself to the development of new irregular routes. There is a general agreement that the number of Gambians taking the “back way”, as the irregular route is commonly called, has soared, particularly in the last decade.

Routes

The vast majority of West African migrants arrive in Italy and travel along the Central Mediterranean route from North Africa to Italy, rather than along the Eastern Mediterranean route.⁶⁷ The Western Mediterranean route is also seen as an option for migrants, but fewer choose this itinerary. The itineraries are detailed in Map 3. .

The Central Mediterranean route

The Central Mediterranean route is the primary entry point to Europe, including for migrants from the Gambia. From January to June 2016 60,546 migrants arrived to Italy by sea. From January to June 2017 83,752 mixed migrants arrived to Italy by sea, using the central Mediterranean route. This constitutes a 38 per cent increase in the first half 2017 compared to the number

66 Glossary on Migration, IOM, 2004.

67 <http://regionalmms.org/index.php/component/spsimpleportfolio/item/60-the-italian-connection-getting-the-analysis-right-using>

of migrants that had arrived in Italy during the first half of 2016.⁶⁸

It needs to be factored in that, while this study takes the first half of 2017 as a reference, when analysing total figures for 2017 (and 2016) it can be observed that in fact the trend changes as there was a drop (and not an increase) of arrivals of migrants in Italy by sea.

Of the 181,436 refugees and migrants that reached Italy in 2016, 90 per cent departed from Libya, which indicates they had taken the central Mediterranean route (see Focus box 3). There are also rare instances of boats leaving from Tunisia or Algeria. Others arrive by boat in Greece, but this number is not significant for Gambians: only 44 arrived in 2016.⁶⁹ Between January and June 2017 only 17 Gambians had arrived to Greece by boat.⁷⁰

Gambians using this route start their journey by bus heading to the city of Agadez in Niger or, less commonly, to Gao in Mali. Agadez is the main smuggling hub and over 70,000 people are recorded as passing through the city.⁷¹ Then, migrants cross the Sahara either through Libya or Algeria.

Focus box 3: Route through Libya

Migration to Europe through Libya is not a new phenomenon. Prior to the fall of the Ghaddafi regime, Libya's economy offered opportunities for many migrant workers from African countries. Libya was both a destination and a transit country. By some accounts the flow of arrivals to Europe was partially obstructed by the signature of agreements between Libya and European countries. In the immediate aftermath of the fall of the regime, the flows stopped as smugglers reorganized themselves.

The collapse of the country has allowed smugglers and criminals to work with impunity, turning Libya into a hub for migrants trying to reach Europe. By 2013, the numbers of boats departing from the Libyan coasts began to soar: in 2013 55,298 arrivals were recorded, 170,110 in 2014 and, 181,436 in 2016. Over the past years, the composition of refugee and migrant nationalities using Libya as a launching pad to Europe has undergone significant changes.

68 Source: figures published by IOM originating from national authorities.

69 Flow to Europe overview dataset, IOM, 2016.

70 Key informant interview, IOM, Banjul, August 2017

71 DTM, IOM, see: <https://mali.iom.int/reports/displacement-tracking-matrix>

The Western Mediterranean route

This route is less significant in terms of number of migrants than the Central Mediterranean route, yet the Western Mediterranean route is still worth discussing. According to the most recent Mediterranean arrivals data, between January and June 2017 6,464 people arrived to Spain either via land or boat. None, however, were registered as Gambians. In 2016, 14,094 individuals crossed into Europe using the Western Mediterranean route, which represents an increase of 43 per cent when compared to the previous year.⁷² In 2016 Gambians accounted for 7.1 per cent of the total individual arrivals and represented the sixth most common nationality in terms of arrivals, after Guinea, Algeria, Syrian Arab Republic, Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon.

Three entry points to Europe exist: sea arrival to the Canary Islands (frequently referred to as the Western African route), sea arrival to mainland Spain and land arrival by the enclave of Ceuta or Melilla. Increased control since 2006 decreased movements along this route, especially to the Canary Islands. At the peak of this route's popularity in 2006,⁷³ over 30,000 persons were recorded, as compared to only 672 persons in 2016.

Transit through the Gambia

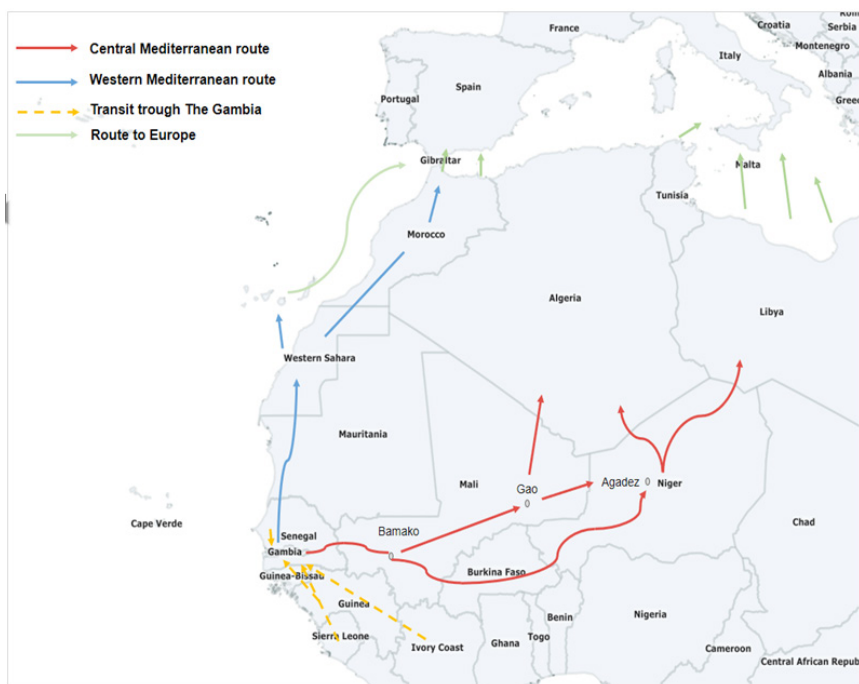
The Gambia is also a country of transit for some sub-Saharan Africans en route to Europe,⁷⁴ who come to work in the country before embarking on their journey.

72 Spain arrivals dashboard, UNHCR, December 2016.

73 The European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (FRONTEX) was set up in 2004 to reinforce and streamline cooperation between national border authorities of the EU.

74 The Gambia: Migration in Africa's "Smiling Coast", C. Omar Kebbeh, August 2013.

Map 3: Irregular routes to Europe



Conditions of journey

Transportation

Three means of transportation are used by migrants throughout their journey: they first board on public bus until they reach the city of Agadez or Gao. Then, they continue their journey on pickup trucks where they cross the Sahara and enter Libya or Algeria. From there, they go to the coastal areas and are approached by smugglers who offer their services to embark on a boat. The boats are generally rubber dinghies or wooden boats packed with other migrants. The average number of persons per wooden boat is 324, an increase compared to the 2015 figure (298). The year 2016 has been the deadliest year with 5,098 recorded deaths in the Mediterranean.⁷⁵

Migrants often do not complete the journey in one step, instead they stop along the way to make money to finance the next leg

⁷⁵ Missing migrants tracking deaths along migratory routes, Missing Migrants Project, 2017, see: <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/mediterranean>

« I took a bus in Banjul which took me to Agadez in Niger. Then, I paid to cross the desert on a pick-up and arrived in Libya. I had to work there, to earn enough money to cross the sea. I worked on daily-basis in the construction sector.

I went twice on a boat: the first time, the boat sunk and the Libyan coast-guard saved us but many people died. After rescuing us, they put us in jail. The second time, we were caught by the Libyan coastguard and I ended up in jail again, for seven months this time until my family sent me enough money so I could leave. »

21 year-old Gambian migrant, who left his village in the North Bank region and returned to the country after two unsuccessful attempts to reach Italy.

He is currently working in order to make the journey again. He does not recommend anyone take the “back way.” Yet he says he has to try again, there is nothing for him here.

The dangers of the journey

The conditions of the journey endured by migrants are extremely harsh, especially the portion through the Sahara and the sea crossing.

During the first portion of the journey, through West Africa, migrants are subject to extortion. Even though ECOWAS citizens enjoy free passage through 15 Member States, many report having to pay bribes at checkpoints and border points—even when they have the necessary documents to cross (see C.1.2.).

Border control police make use of various coercion methods. For example, a migrant explained that before arriving in Burkina Faso, the Gambian passengers were asked to step off the bus, under the pretence that the police would deport them. To continue their journey, the Gambians were asked to pay for a minibus to cross the border. Other methods include the confiscation of all ID cards and only returning them upon receipt of payment.

During the journey through the desert, smugglers often transport migrants in dark freight trucks with other goods to deceive the authorities. Migrants have very little access to food, water and medicine during the journey.

Detainment is also common, especially in Libya where migrants are held

captive and smugglers ask the migrants' families for ransoms.⁷⁶ Migrants are also vulnerable to xenophobia, violence, verbal and sexual abuse.

Estimated flows

By definition, irregular migration is a difficult phenomenon to capture and monitor. Some migrants succeed in completing their journey, while some are deported, and others perish during the journey. Only at some specific points of the journey can flows be estimated and can help approach this phenomenon. Yet, most of the flows remain uncaptured.

Migration flows by arrival in the Mediterranean shores

According to IOM and the UNHCR, migrants from various West African countries, including The Gambia accounted for the strongest relative increase of Mediterranean arrivals in 2016 as compared to 2015. Arrivals are concentrated in four countries: Spain, Italy, Greece and Cyprus..

In 2016, Italy experienced the arrival of 181,436 people including 11,929 Gambians. Gambians represent 6.6 per cent per cent of the nationalities landing on the Italian shores, and rank amongst the top nationalities, along with Nigerians, Eritreans, Guineans and Ivoirians.⁷⁷

Between January and June 2017, 4,920 Gambians arrived to Italy via boat, while those arrived in the whole year were 5,808 (4,249 male, 122 female and 1,437 children of which 1,417 unaccompanied)⁷⁸. This represents a drop by 51% in comparison with the total 2016 (annual) or a drop by 15% on the first half of 2016..

Taking into consideration the size of the Gambian population compared to the other top Mediterranean arrival nationalities (even Eritrea where the population was 4.7 million in 2011), the number of recorded Gambian arrivals becomes even more significant. In 2016, the number of Gambians reaching the Italian coasts reached 8,454 – representing an increase of 41 per cent per cent compared to 2015.

In Spain, Gambians also rank amongst the top nationalities of arrivals (8 per cent) with a total of 5,499.

76 The back way to Europe: Gambia's forgotten refugees, Alexandra Embirocos, 2016.

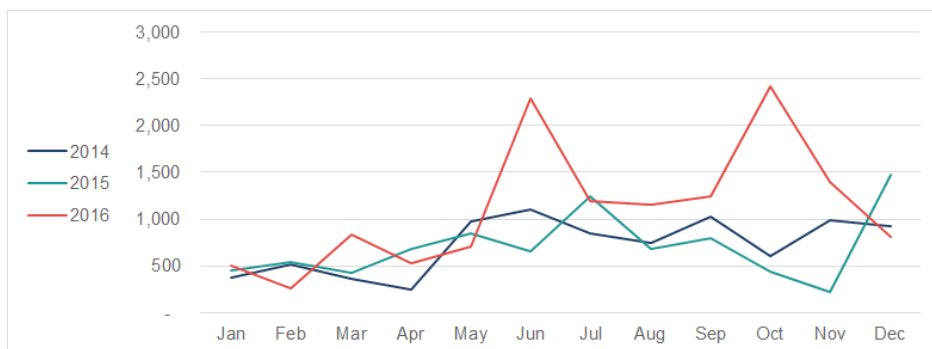
77 Source: IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix Overview Dataset for 2015, 2016 and 2017 with arrivals by sea to Italy by nationality and month, publicly available online at www.migration.iom.int/europe

78 Source: IOM, official statistics from the Italian Ministry of Interior.

« I decided to go to Europe so I could help my family and send some money home. I made it all the way to Libya. Unfortunately, I was caught there and they asked my family for a ransom. I was beaten and given food only once a day. One detainee died in his cell. I was lucky that my uncle sold his car and paid for me. I will never venture out again in Libya. »

17 year-old Gambian

Figure 11: Gambian arrivals by sea in Italy



Inland flows

During the journey along the Central Mediterranean route, most migrants, Gambians included, cross the Sahara. They either pass through Niger or through Mali.

Between July 2016 and March 2017, IOM data collected in the regions of Gao and Segou in Mali show that over 25,000 migrants were recorded at three flow monitoring points (FMP). 90 per cent of the identified migrants are citizens of five countries, and the Gambia is one of them. Gambians accounted for 7 per cent of the main nationalities identified.⁷⁹

In Niger, a similar system allowed for the collection of data at two FMPs. For the month of February 2017, 27,239 persons were recorded, of whom 13 per cent were Gambians.⁸⁰

⁷⁹ Flow monitoring point, Mali, report # 14, DTM, 1 to 31 March 2017.

⁸⁰ Rapport sur les points de suivi des flux de population, Niger, Rapport # 2017-2, DTM, 2017.

Profile

Despite the distance and the dangers, numerous Gambians risk their lives crossing the Sahara and the Mediterranean in search of work in Europe.

A missing generation

Young males account for the vast majority of migrants: amongst the sea arrivals in Italy throughout 2016, only 2 per cent were women. The estimated flows show that for the Gambia, male migrants are the most numerous. The Gambia is one of the top nationalities detected in the different stops along the road (Mali, Niger, Italy or Spain). Some areas are particularly suffering from this exodus. The village of Saba is a case in point: located in the North Bank, the village has witnessed 15 per cent of its population (600 out of 4,000 residents) leave for Europe.⁸¹

Minors

Gambian minors are among the most common three nationalities of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) who arrive by sea in Italy, along with Nigeria and Eritrea. Between January and June 2017, 24.6 per cent (3,883)



of total Gambian arrivals (15,616) were unaccompanied minors.³ For the year 2016, 27 per cent of the Gambians who arrived in Italy were UASC (3,119) and 1 per cent were accompanied children (62). The numbers of Gambian UASC rose by 150 per cent as compared to 2015.⁸² The proportion of boys compared to girls is higher: 93 per cent of boys in Italy versus 7 per cent girls. Most of the children (92 per cent) are between 15 and 17 and, 8 per cent are between the ages of 5 and 14.

81 www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/gambia/11979547/Inside-the-west-African-village-where-every-young-man-is-trying-to-migrate-to-Europe.html

82 Italy UASC Dashboard, UNHCR, December 2016.

A.5.2. RETURN FLOWS

Forced return

Forced return is defined as “the compulsory return of an individual to the country of origin, transit or third country, on the basis of an administrative or judicial act”.⁸³

Deported migrants from the European Union

In 2016, 2,645 Gambians were ordered to leave the European Union. On average, 26 per cent of them leave the territory every year. The deportation rate for Gambians rate is almost double that of Malians leaving the territory after the same order.⁸⁴

Figure 12: Number of Gambians ordered to leave and number of identified return *Deportation*

Deportation is “the act of a State in the exercise of its sovereignty in removing an alien from its territory to a certain place after refusal of admission or termination of permission to remain”.⁸⁵

According to data given by the Irregular Migration Unit of the Ministry of Interior, an average of 150 Gambians were deported in 2014, 2015 and 2016. Most of them were men, but an increase in the number of women was detected in 2016, when 22 out of 166 women were deported (13 per cent). In 2016, the main countries deporting migrants were Switzerland (42 deportees), the United Kingdom (25 deportees), Sweden (17 deportees), Germany and Finland (7 deportees each) and Norway (10). Most of the deportations happened in OECD countries, and very few individuals were deported from Africa (5 from Angola and 2 from Morocco). The age breakdown is between 19 and 45, with a majority of persons aged between 20 and 30.

83 Glossary on Migration, IOM, 2004

84 Eurostat, www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/asylum-and-managed-migration/data/database

85 Glossary on Migration, IOM, 2004

Interception

Table 8: Intercepted individuals at the border

Year	2015		2016	
Border post	Amdallai		Amdallai and Farafenni	
Age brackets	16-32		16-32	
Gender	M	F	M	F
Sex	15	0	87	0
Reason for deportation	Suspected irregular migrant		Suspected irregular migrant	
Total	15		87	

The Ministry of Interior also participates in the identification and interception of unaccompanied minors at border posts. The Unit set up a protocol to identify unaccompanied minors at the border and ensure that they do not leave the territory without a relative. Customs officers are responsible for identifying young people travelling on their own and refer them to members of the Unit. The team asks them a few questions and puts them in contact with their family. Relatives usually visit the station to pick up the minor and the Unit systematically records these cases.

Other types of return

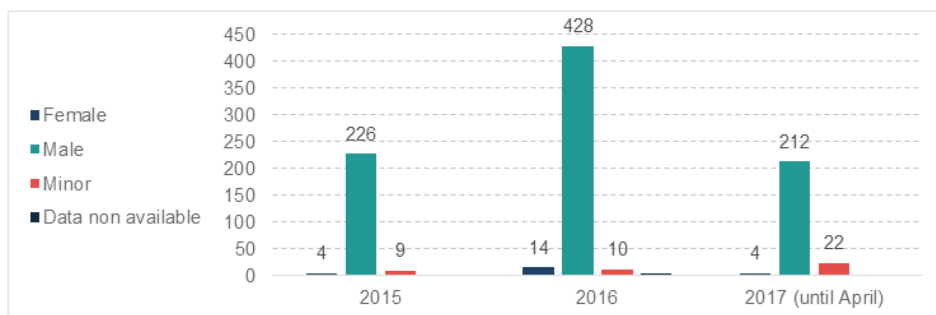
Although some migrants return to their countries of origin following deportation or expulsion, migrants also opt to return of their own accord, either using their own means or with the support of organizations that facilitate returns. The IOM assists the voluntary return of migrants who are stranded abroad.

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration

The IOM in the Gambia implements a number of projects, currently focused primarily on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) of Gambian migrants, and technical assistance on mixed migration and migration management. AVRR is a mechanism developed by the IOM to help migrants to voluntary return and reintegrate to their home countries. In the Gambia, IOM has also previously supported community projects through the Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM).

According to data provided by the IOM, between 2015 and April 2017, the IOM assisted 930 migrants to return to the Gambia.

Figure 13: AVR to The Gambia



83 per cent of these migrants were returning from Niger, which means they had undertaken the Central Mediterranean route. Map 4 shows the countries from which returnees were referred in 2016. Men account for the majority of returnees (93 per cent), 4 per cent are minors and less than 3 per cent are women.

Focus box 4: MRRM community projects in The Gambia

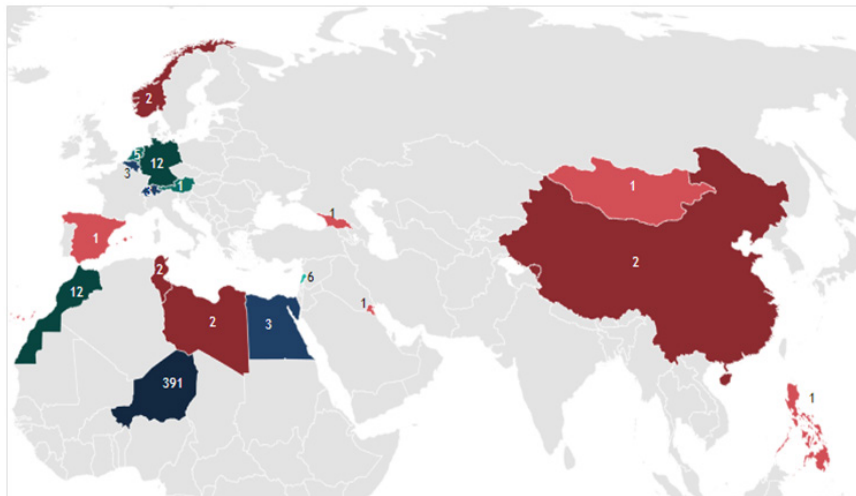
Under the MRRM, three community projects were initiated in Serekunda and Brikama, providing returnees and community members with: i) a fishing boat; ii) a truck to store and ship fish to other regions; iii) tailoring equipment.

Each initiative initially gathered 10 people, mainly returnees and 1-2 community members. The beneficiaries followed entrepreneurship training at the National Enterprise Development Initiative (NEDI), to learn about the basics of business creation and management. NEDI has experience in business management and is well versed in supporting young entrepreneurs.

It also assisted the groups with a mentor, a young man or woman who succeeded in creating and developing his or her own company. The National Youth Council (NYC), a public body responsible for youth policy and implementation, oversaw the monitoring (for three months).

Donors such as the European Commission and European cooperation agencies fund these projects.

Map 4: Countries from which Gambians return in 2016 with the IOM assistance



Voluntary humanitarian returns from Libya

Since the beginning of the year 2017, the IOM has provided emergency assistance to stranded Gambian migrants in Libya. Three charter flights were boarded with a total of 480 individuals, mostly men.

A.5.3. REFUGEES

A refugee, according to the 1951 convention relating to the Status of Refugees, Art. 1A(2), as modified by the 1967 Protocol, is defined as a person, who “owing to well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country”.⁸⁶

Refugees in the country

According to key informants at the Refugee Commission, the government agency responsible for asylum seekers and refugees, and at the UNHCR in the Gambia, as of May 2017 the country hosts 7,854 refugees. Children account for 60 per cent of the total refugee population. The vast majority of them come from Senegal. The remaining refugees are from Côte d’Ivoire, Togo, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Congo and a few from Sierra Leone and Liberia.

⁸⁶ Glossary on Migration, IOM, 2004

The number of refugees was revised in 2015 when a nation-wide survey was conducted to determine the numbers of refugees. It resulted in a decrease of 4,000.

Senegalese refugees

The geographical position of the Gambia has made it a place of refuge for asylum seekers fleeing the conflict in Casamance (see A.1.1.). The first influx dates from 2002 and refugees mainly consisted of women (30 per cent) and children (6 per cent) who came in the Gambia and stayed with their extended families. Shortly after, the tensions decreased. Moreover, the Gambian authorities disclosed a plan of relocation and most refugees decided to return to Senegal thereafter.⁸⁷

In 2006, a new wave of violence broke out and about 7,400 Senegalese fled and settled along the Senegal-Gambia border. Most of them were Jola speakers and had relatives in the Gambia. They stayed with host families of similar cultural and linguistic background. The settlements pattern changed and, in contrast with 2002, refugees began to settle on a permanent basis. Nevertheless, it is a challenge since refugees mainly settle in poor rural areas where resources are already constrained.⁸⁸

Location

Prior to 2006, there were refugee camps in the Gambia at Kwinella, Bambali, Sifoe, Kitti and Basse. These camps have been closed since 2006. In terms of location, 76 per cent of refugees live in rural areas in 86 villages (settlements) along the Casamance border, and the rest in urban areas such as Banjul, Serekunda and other cities.

Life conditions

All refugees in the Gambia are entitled to refugee identity cards which allow them freedom to live, work and move within the country. According to the Refugee Commission, they benefit from fair treatment.

87 Politics and Policies in Upper Guinea Coast Societies: Change and Continuity, Højbjerg, Christian K. et al., 2017.

88 Civil Society and Conflict Prevention in Senegambia, Jibrin Ibrahim and Ebrima Sall, Centre for Democracy and Development, 2010.

Gambian refugees

Figure 14: Gambian refugees

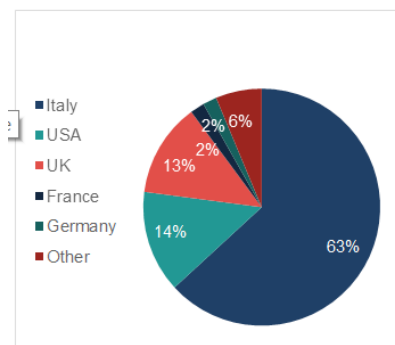
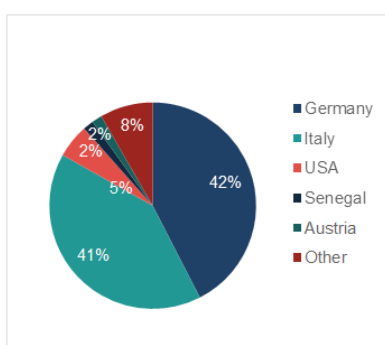


Figure 15: Gambian asylum- seekers



According to the UNHCR, there are 10,070 Gambian refugees at mid-year 2016, and 16,500 asylum seekers.⁸⁹ Italy hosts 63 per cent of the refugees, and 27 per cent are equally-distributed in the United States and the United Kingdom. France and Germany host 4 per cent of Gambian refugees, and others are disseminated in the EU.

Asylum seekers are mainly found in two countries: Germany and Italy. The two countries concentrate 83 per cent of the total applicants. During the first half of 2016, 64 per cent of the applications filed by Gambians were rejected.

A.5.4. HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Trafficking in persons designates “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation”.⁹⁰

The Gambia is a source and destination country for women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.⁹¹

Internal trafficking

Sexual exploitation

At the internal level, sex tourism is a major issue in the Gambia where

⁸⁹ <http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/overview>

⁹⁰ Glossary on Migration, IOM, 2004.

⁹¹ Trafficking in persons report, Department of State, United States of America, June 2016.

women, girls and boys from West African countries are trafficked for commercial purposes. Most of them are from Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Benin. Child trafficking is believed to go through both local and European travel agencies. The main destinations are touristic areas.

Talibes

To a lesser extent, trafficking also exist in certain types of Koranic schools where boys can be forced into begging or street vending. This practice is less common than in neighbouring Senegal, yet children can be found forced into begging in the street, or suffering from starvation or mistreatment by their Koranic teachers. There are two types of Koranic school in the Gambia: madrasa and majlis The madrasa is a school that teaches a secular curriculum complete with math and sciences during the day, and Islamic studies in the evening. These madrasas fall within the formal schooling system and are regulated by the Gambian government. The majlis on the other hand, is the unregulated koranic school that is headed by Islamic teachers—marabouts—that tutor children only in Islamic studies. Notwithstanding the degree abuse of children pursuing Islamic studies may be suffering, the unregulated majlis are the Koranic schools in which the abuse is more likely to occur.

External trafficking

Women trafficking

For the years 2014 and 2015, the government, with IOM's support, repatriated 25 victims of trafficking: 10 were trafficked in Lebanon, 1 in Sierra Leone, 3 in Egypt and 11 in Kuwait. They were subjected to domestic servitude and sexual exploitation.

Children trafficking

Some Gambian children also have been identified in other West African countries where they are forced into labour. The Department of Social Welfare within the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare works to assist unaccompanied minors and victims of trafficking with shelter, counselling, reintegration and financial support. They have a shelter where child victims of trafficking stay and receive medical assistance.

They work in close cooperation with the International Social Service, an international NGO who provides assistance in resolving international child protection cases. Between 2014 and 2016, they supported and hosted 270 children. Twenty per cent of the children were Gambians while the others were from Senegal. The majority of them were on the move fleeing from Koranic schools.

B. IMPACT OF MIGRATION

If irregular migration, forced displacements or trafficking in persons can endanger the life of migrants, most voluntary and legal migration present a high development potential for the individual by offering him or her new professional, educational and personal opportunities. Beyond the potentially positive impact that migration can have on the individual choosing to migrate, the impact of migration on communities of origin and host communities is complex as well. The most prominent impacts of emigration are remittances and the “brain drain”, each supposedly having opposite effects on the economic growth of the country of origin. The effects of these phenomena are however not clear-cut: remittances are not fully channeled to promote inclusive growth, and the emigration of highly educated Gambians can have positive effects. Migration also interface with several aspects of social development, notably in terms of education and health. They finally impact the environment and gender dynamics.

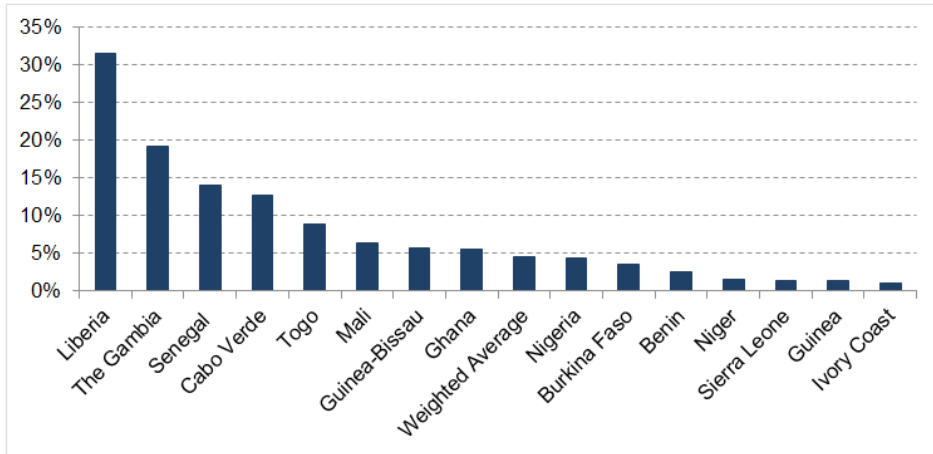
B.I MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

B.I.I. REMITTANCES AND INVESTMENTS FROM THE DIASPORA

The Gambia’s economy is highly dependent on remittances. According to World Bank estimates based on the number of international migrants and their income, the migrant remittance inflows in 2015 amounted to USD181 million, which represented 19.5 per cent of the GDP.⁹² Among ECOWAS countries, only Liberia was more dependent on remittances, as can be shown on the graph below, and the region’s weighted average was only 4.6 per cent of GDP. Remittances inflows were USD48 million in 2012 (last available data) according to the same estimates.

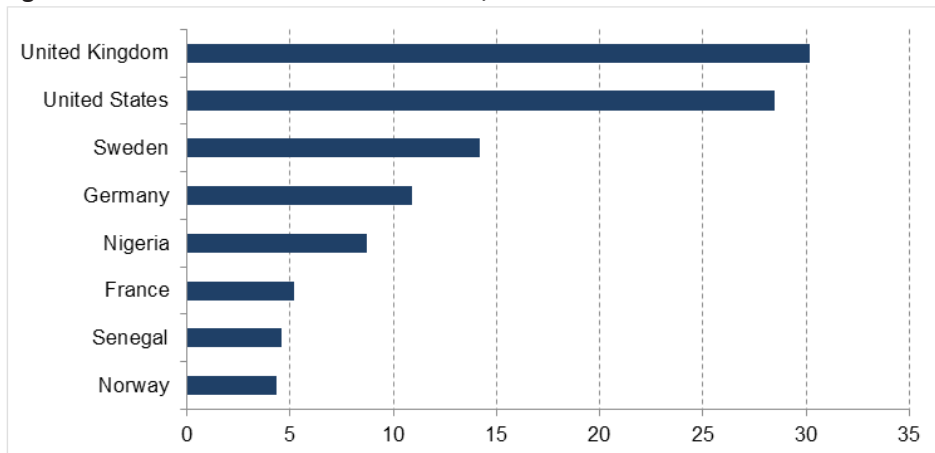
92 World Bank Data; <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/migrationremittancesdiasporaissues/brief/migration-remittances-data>

Figure 16 : Remittances as a per centage of GDP in ECOWAS countries



Still according to the World Bank estimates, the countries sending the most remittances to the Gambia are the United Kingdom and the United States, followed by Sweden:

Figure 17 : Remittances sent to The Gambia, in million US dollars



The OCDE provides slightly different estimates, estimating 2015 remittances at USD193 million.⁹³

Despite their importance for the Gambia's economy, very few studies exist

93 OECD, "Connecting with Emigrants A Global Profile of Diasporas 2015.

on the topic of remittances. The 2009 urbanization survey dedicated a section to remittances, showing that male Gambians were more prone to send remittance than women (67 per cent versus 33 per cent) and that monetary remittances accounted for most of the flows. However, the data does not reflect the recent sociological or technological evolutions that may have affected the remittances flows since 2009.

Until now, there seems to be limited interest from government to address this lack of data on remittances. Directing this funding towards productive investments is a significant area of interest in other countries with large diasporas. In the Gambia, the government is yet to recognize the contributions of its diaspora and only recently started to reach out to its citizens abroad.⁹⁴

If remittances are sometimes presented as a great asset for development, literature on the topic notes they have several limitations. First, previous studies suggest that remittances are most often used for daily household expenditures, making some researchers doubt that they can generate significant economic growth.⁹⁵ They nevertheless provide many Gambian households with the means to afford food, clothes and education, all which are necessary to build human capital, which is a precondition to economic growth.

Second, remittances tend to reflect the migrants' regions of origin and that could reinforce spatial inequalities.⁹⁶ Moreover, the literature suggests that since the poorest people are not the ones who choose to emigrate, it is not necessarily the families the most in need who receive the most remittances.

However, even if the poorest families receive less remittances, they may still benefit from job creations if remittances support the creation of small businesses locally.⁹⁷

Beyond remittances strictly speaking, migrants abroad can also stimulate economic growth at home by investing and creating transnational trade.⁹⁸ They are usually well positioned to start a business, because they know about investment and trade opportunities at home and possess a network both in the Gambia and in their country of residence.

94 The Gambia: Migration in Africa's "Smiling Coast", C. Omar Kebbeh, August 2013.

95 Savina Ammassari, *Gestion des migrations et politiques de développement: optimiser les bénéfices de la migration internationale en Afrique de l'Ouest* (2004).

96 Ronald Skeldon, "Migration and Development" (2008)

97 Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah, "Migration and development" (2005)

98 Savina Ammassari, « Gestion des migrations et politiques de développement: optimiser les bénéfices de la migration internationale en Afrique de l'Ouest » (2004)

In any case, remittances and investments will probably only have a direct impact on economic development in the Gambia if they are structured and directed by an enabling legal framework that incentivize them and direct them towards the sectors most likely to generate economic growth.⁹⁹

B.1.2. EMIGRATION AND THE LABOUR MARKET: « BRAIN DRAIN »

Data from the World Bank in 2000 suggest that the emigration rate of tertiary educated individual was 68 per cent in the Gambia, the highest rate among ECOWAS countries after Cabo Verde. OECD estimates are very different, with an emigration rate of 28.3 per cent for the tertiary-educated individuals emigrating to OECD countries. However, this rate would have increased by 40 per cent since 2000.

It is to be noted that the Gambians with the highest educational attainment are also the ones who experience the largest unemployment rate, suggesting that the Gambian labor market might not be able to absorb its qualified labor supply. 2002/3 data suggest that the “non-employment” rate¹⁰⁰ rises with the educational level and peaks at 67.8 per cent for individuals with secondary levels of education or higher.¹⁰¹

Data from 2008/9 similarly suggests that individuals with higher education experience twice the national unemployment rate, and that only around 43 per cent find formal work.¹⁰² If most educated Gambians leave because they cannot find work in their country of origin, the impact on the country might not necessarily be negative, especially after taking into account the remittances and other capacity transfers that they will be able to send back to the Gambia (cf. B.1.1).

Additionally, the possibility of emigrating for the most educated Gambians might increase the returns to education, pushing more youth to study and in fine increase the number of educated persons in the country (as long as the number of educated Gambians emigrating remains below the number of people motivated to study).

99 Ronald Skeldon, “Migration and Development” (2008)

100 Defined as when an individual is not working and defining her/his main occupation as being unemployed

101 Richard Johanson and Ryoko Tomita Wilcox, “Youth Employment and Skills Development in The Gambia” (2011)

102 “The Gambia : Education Country Status Report” (2011)

B.2 MIGRATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

B.2.1. MIGRATION AND EDUCATION

Education is one of the key drivers for internal migration in the Gambia. To a lesser extent, young Gambians migrate to the United Kingdom and the United States for their higher education. Migration for education contributes to the intellectual development of migrants, but also to the economic and social development of their environment through increased human capital. In the case of an international migration, the Gambia will notably gain at the return of the migrant. Additionally, as mentioned above, the emigration of educated Gambians might incentivize more youth to study, resulting in a more qualified workforce.

B.2.2. MIGRATION AND HEALTH

The impact of migrations on health is complex. On the economic migrant himself / herself, migrating to a more developed country should lead to improved health through an increased access to health care and better life conditions. On the other hand, migration, especially when it is irregular, can also endanger the migrant's health through increased sanitary risks (dangerous travel conditions, violence, prostitution, living irregularly).

At the community level, migration can have a positive impact when returnees spread good health practices, when the diaspora builds hospitals or clinics, when migrants send remittances to pay for health care or when they invite relatives to receive health care abroad.

Nonetheless, the loss of health-care professionals through migration can challenge the overall health-care system. 2010 data from the World Health Organization show that the Gambia has only 6 doctors, nurses and midwives per 10,000 population, against a "critical threshold" of 23 per 10,000.¹⁰³ Brain drain could contribute to this low ratio: data from 2000¹⁰⁴ suggest that 54 per cent of physicians and 66 per cent of nurses born in the Gambia may be working abroad. Of note, some academic papers¹⁰⁵ suggest that the lack of health professionals in developing countries is not mainly due to brain drain, but result from other factors such as a weak management of health staff and unequal geographical

103 World Health Organization, "Density of doctors, nurses and midwives in the 49 priority countries"

104 M.A. Clemens and G. Pettersson "Medical Leave: A New Database of Health Professional Emigration from Africa" (2006)

105 For example Clemens, « Do visas kill? Health effects of African health professional emigration » (2007)

distribution of health care in the country.

Migration can also be a key factor for infectious disease transmission, as demonstrated by the recent Ebola crisis. According to a World Health Organization study, population mobility in West Africa created two major obstacles to the fight against Ebola. First, populations were moving across borders, transmitting the disease, while the actors trying to prevent the spread of Ebola were generally less mobile. Second, when the sanitary situation in one country was improving, it attracted patients from neighbouring countries looking for treatment, thus potentially reactivating the transmission in this country. Furthermore, the fact that the families of many Ebola victims wanted them to be buried in their village of origin might have also facilitated the transmission of the disease across long distances.¹⁰⁶

B.2.3 MIGRATION AND GENDER

Traditionally migration in West Africa is considered as a largely male phenomenon, with women mostly following men.¹⁰⁷ However the region recently experienced an increase of women moving to fulfill their own economic needs¹⁰⁸, which can be partly explained by the increased demand in richer countries for home care services, nursing and other professions traditionally occupied by women.¹⁰⁹ Today 41 per cent of Gambian emigrants¹¹⁰, and 53 per cent of non-Gambians above 15 living in the Gambia¹¹¹, are women. Still, the first reason for the internal mobility of women in the Gambia remains marriage, not work.¹¹²

The out-migration of men of the household can also give women the opportunity to enter the domestic labor market out of economic necessity. As a result, women take on more responsibility as the new head of household, accessing roles from which they might have been previously excluded.¹¹³

It is to be noted that if migration can be a factor for personal fulfillment, it can also put women at risk (of trafficking in persons, prostitution), particularly in the case of irregular migrations. Amongst the sea arrivals in Italy throughout

106 World Health Organization, « Factors that contributed to undetected spread of the Ebola virus and impeded rapid containment » (2015)

107 Savina Ammassari, « Gestion des migrations et politiques de développement: optimiser les bénéfices de la migration internationale en Afrique de l'Ouest » (2004)

108 A. Adepoju, „Changing Configurations of Migration in Africa“ (2004)

109 DiopB. and J.D'Aloisio, „Special Report: Migration and Gender in the African Context“

110 United Nations Population Divisions, « International Migrant Stock, the 2015 Revision » (2015)

111 Youth employment, The Gambia National Human Development Report, UNDP, 2014

112 The Migration and Urbanization Survey Report, Gambian Bureau of Statistics, 2009

113 Aderanti Adepoju, „Changing Configurations of Migration in Africa“ (2004)

2016, only 2 per cent were women, and among the Gambian migrants assisted by IOM between 2015 and April 2017, less than 3 per cent were women. However, an increase in the number of women deported was detected in 2016, according to data given by the Irregular Migration Unit of the Ministry of Interior.

B.3 MIGRATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Migration is an essential strategy for populations trying to escape the negative impacts of climate change. Additionally, migration can have a positive impact on departure areas by easing the pressure on dwindling natural resources.¹¹⁴ However, migration, like any human activity, can have a negative impact on the environment.

Population movements have both direct effects (the settling of migrants in natural areas can cause deforestation, biodiversity losses, water pollution and soil erosion) and indirect ones (the extension of the community encroaching on natural spaces). Displaced populations can also have a tendency to manage natural resources unsustainably¹¹⁵, which can create risks for the migrants and their communities: unsustainable waste disposal polluting water, soil erosion, and forest fires causing air pollution. Finally, if remittances can allow investments in natural resources conservations, they can also create a rent economy neglecting the surrounding environment.¹¹⁶

114 Organization internationale pour les migrations, « Migration and the Environment » (2007)

115 Organization internationale pour les migrations, « Migration and the Environment » (2007)

116 Frédéric Sandrom, Impact des migrations sur l'environnement (2007)

C. MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

The Gambia has ratified most of the international and regional migration-related conventions. It is notably part of ECOWAS which establishes a community that guarantees citizens the freedom to enter, reside and establish themselves in any of the Member States. The Gambia does not have a migration policy but the preparatory work should be undertaken in 2017, with the Ministry of Interior being the main lead on migration.

C.I. MIGRATION FRAMEWORK

C.I.I. INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Gambia has ratified the following international conventions that relate to the protection of human, labor, refugee and migrant rights:

- *Human Rights*
 - o The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966);¹¹⁷
 - o The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966);
 - o The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979); and
 - o The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) including the optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Armed Conflict.
- *Migrant and refugee rights:*
 - o The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol;
 - o The Gambia acceded to the 1951 and 1964 Conventions of Statelessness in 2014;
 - o The Gambia did not sign the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990).

¹¹⁷ With a reservation expressed: "For financial reasons free legal assistance for accused persons is limited in our constitution to persons charged with capital offences only. The Government of the Gambia therefore wishes to enter a reservation in respect of article 14 (3) (d) of the Covenant in question."

- *Human Trafficking*
 - o The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) and its Protocols to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and
 - o The UN Protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (2000).

C.I.2. REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

In addition to the international conventions mentioned above, the Gambia is also a member of the African Union and consequently signed the following conventions:

Table 9: African Union conventions relative to migration signed by The Gambia

Legal framework	Description
<p>OUA convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa, 1969</p>	<p>This convention is the regional legal instrument governing refugee protection in Africa. For Africa, the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol and the OAU Convention of 1969 must be regarded as forming a whole.</p> <p>In the article 1, the convention expands the 1951 definition of refugee: “every person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country, or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it” and also it applied to “every person who, owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part or the whole of his country of origin or nationality, is compelled to leave his place of habitual residence in order to seek refuge in another place outside his country of origin or nationality.</p>
<p>African union convention for the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons in Africa (Kampala convention), 2009</p>	<p>The Kampala Convention is an instrument that legally binds governments to protect the rights and well-being of people forced to flee their homes by conflict, violence, disasters and human rights abuses.</p>

ECOWAS, a free circulation zone

At the sub-regional level, the Gambia has been a member State of ECOWAS since its creation in 1975. Therefore, the Gambia adheres to the following subregional conventions legislation:

Table 10: ECOWAS treaties relative to migration signed by The Gambia

Legal framework	Description
Protocol Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment along with four supplementary protocols	Four years after the establishment of the Community in 1979, the ECOWAS Member States signed the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and Establishment in Dakar to enable free movement of ECOWAS citizens within the region. The protocol stipulates the right of the citizens of the community to enter, reside, and establish businesses in Member States, to be granted over a transitional period of 15 years through three phases. Four supplementary protocols were subsequently adopted to implement all the transitional phases.
Revised ECOWAS treaty, 1993	Article 59 of the revised ECOWAS Treaty states that “citizens of the community shall have the right of entry, residence and establishment and Member States undertake to recognize these rights of Community citizens in their territories in accordance with the provisions of the Protocols relating hereto”.

<p>Protocol A/P.3/01/03 on Education and Training and a Convention on the Recognition and the equivalence of Degrees, Diplomas and other qualifications</p>	<p>The protocol sets out priority objectives in education, and the means to achieve them within the framework of Member States cooperation. ECOWAS also adopted an Action plan that was annexed to the protocol on education relating to the priority programmes adopted by the conference of Ministers including the promotion of science and technology, technical and vocational education and training. The objectives were: to provide all Community citizens with greater access to quality education and training opportunities available in the region; to harmonize criteria for admission into institutions of higher learning, research institutions, and vocational training centres; harmonise certificates; and progressively harmonize the educational and training systems in the Member State.¹¹⁶</p>
<p>ECOWAS common approach on migration, 2008</p>	<p>The ECOWAS Member States reaffirmed their intent to « pursue the consultative process for the definition of a common approach to the management of intraregional migration and migration to Europe in all its dimensions ».</p> <p>Six principles are detailed: 1) Free movement of persons within the ECOWAS zone is one of the fundamental priorities of the integration policy of ECOWAS Member States; 2) Legal migration towards other regions of the world contributes to ECOWAS Member States' development; 3) Combating human trafficking is a moral and humanitarian imperative; 4) Harmonizing policies; 5) Protection of the rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees; and 6) Recognizing the gender dimension of migration.</p>

<p>ECOWAS General Convention on social security, 2013</p>	<p>It aims at strengthening the extension of the coverage of social security of migrants and their families and guarantees the portability of their social security rights within the ECOWAS region.</p>
<p>Most of the legal instruments relevant to human trafficking adopted by the ECOWAS</p>	<p>Declaration on the fight against Trafficking in Persons (2001) and plans of action 2002–2003 having since been followed by other action plans such as the Plan of action 2008–2011. In 2006 the member States of ECOWAS and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) adopted a joint bi-regional Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.</p> <p>The Gambia has not signed the multilateral agreement of cooperation on the prevention of human trafficking (signed by nine West African countries in 2005).</p>

¹¹⁸see below

118 ECOWAS: a promise of hope or success for sub-regional economic integration in West Africa, Silesian Journal of Legal Studies 6, 72–104, Michael C. Ogwezy, 2014.

C.1.3. NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Migration policy

The Vision 2020 document sets the long-term objectives in terms of migration policy: “The attainment of objective in the size of households, the continuity of efforts to increase life-expectancy and a consistent set of policies to control immigration should ensure a totally manageable population that will contribute fully to the development objectives of Vision 2020”.

Moreover, “Critical factors affecting population growth include a high fertility rate, a decreased rate of mortality and migration both within our borders and from neighbouring countries. (...) Efforts shall continue to control migration from outside our borders whilst creating sufficient conditions for a proper integration of foreigners who are legal residents of the Gambia. Increased industrialization and a spatial distribution of industry shall complement efforts to curb rural-urban migration”.

Nevertheless, the vision does not yet result in a policy. The Gambia lacks a formal Migration Policy. However, the InterMinisterial committee on Migration including several Ministries was created recently to address this shortcoming. It is comprised of: the Ministry of Interior (Department of Immigration, Police Department), the Ministry of Trade Regional Integration and Employment (Department of Labour employment Unit), the Ministry of Youth and Sports (National Youth Council), the Ministry of Justice (National Anti-Trafficking Committee), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (International Cooperation and Gambian Abroad Ministry of Land), the Central Bank of the Gambia and Regional Governance and, the Gambia Investments and Export promotion Agency (GIEPA), and some NGOS.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Interior, the elaboration of a migration policy should be undertaken in 2017, with the support of the FMM. The government contributes to a few initiatives in the field of migration – to spread awareness about the risks of irregular migration and help returnees to reintegrate – but these projects are usually driven by international donors and their partners.

Legal framework

Immigration

The Immigration Act regulates the immigration framework in the Gambia. Established in 1965, it is “an Act to consolidate and make better provision for the control of immigration into and residence in the Gambia, and for connected matters” as described in the Act itself. It also includes provision on residential permits.

The survey conducted on Migration Policies in West Africa by the ICMPD and the IOM in March 2015¹¹⁹ underlines the gaps in the legal framework: immigrant rights and the decision-making process for immigrants’ status are not clearly or comprehensively described.

Entry

Depending on their country of origin, non-ECOWAS nationals may require:¹²⁰

- “Entry clearance” by the Director of Immigration, which the individual applies for from the Director General of Immigration. The application is then vetted at the clearance office;
- Visa and entry clearance for some countries;
- Visa issued upon arrival for a select number of countries.

Residency

Different types of residential permits exist in the Gambia:¹²¹

- Type A: This permit is for resident purpose only and is issued to students and retired civil servants. The cost is GMD 1,100 (USD 23) for both ECOWAS and non-ECOWAS nationals;
- Type B: This permit is used for employment and is available to both ECOWAS and non-ECOWAS nationals to work and reside in the Gambia. It is applicable to skilled workers. The cost is GMD 1,300 (USD 28) for ECOWAS nationals and GMD 1,800 (USD 39) for non-ECOWAS citizens;
- Residence Permit B Gratis: This is for foreigners invited by the Government.

To be granted residency, applicants must stay in the country for a minimum of three months and must possess an alien’s card.

119 A Survey on Migration Policies in West Africa, ICMPD and IOM, March 2015.

120 Ibid.

121 Ibid.

Focus box 5: The alien's card in The Gambia

The Alien card was created in 1998 with the Aliens certificate for non-Gambian citizens. It is required for foreigners who live in The Gambia, and needs to be renewed every year. ECOWAS nationals can obtain the card for GMD 1,000 (USD 24) and non-ECOWAS citizens have to pay GMD 1,500 (USD 36). As for residence permits, immigrants have to specify whether the permit is for residence only, or for residence and employment. The names of the dependents need to be added to the permit.

Naturalization

Access to citizenship is regulated by the Gambian Citizenship Law. It states that, in agreement with section 12 of the Constitution, “any person who has been ordinarily resident in the Gambia for a continuous period of not less than fifteen years and who satisfies the conditions set out in subsection (2) may apply, in such manner as may be prescribed by or under an Act of the National Assembly, to be Naturalized as a citizen of the Gambia”.¹²²

Emigration

The 2007 Labour Act¹²³ regulates labour-only subcontracting, see part V. This law also applies to foreigners: “a person who commits an offence under subsection (1) is liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred Dalasis for each day of each defence or imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years, or to both the fine and imprisonment and to deportation from the Gambia if he or she is not a citizen of the Gambia”.

Refugee status

Legal framework

The Gambia has ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Refugee Protocol. The government also passed the Gambian Refugee Bill in 2008,¹²⁴ which guarantees rights and basic services to refugees. Refugees have access to a card that allows them to live in the Gambia, to

122 In case of marriage to a Gambian, section 12 of the Gambia Constitution stipulates that: “any person who is married to a citizen of the Gambia and, since the married has been residence in the Gambia for a period of not less than seven years; or has been married to another person who was, during the subsistence of the marriage a citizen of the Gambia and, since the end of the marriage (whether by annulment, divorce or death) has been ordinarily resident in the Gambia for a period not less than seven years, shall be entitled, upon making application in such manner as may be prescribed by or under an Act of the National Assembly, to be registered as a citizen of the Gambia.”

123 <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un-dpadm/unpan042537.pdf>

124 See <http://bit.ly/2dbakRv>

work and to access education and health services.

The Gambia Commission for Refugees

The 2008 Bill also established The Gambia Commission for Refugees, which ensures its enforcement. The Commission sits within the Gambian Immigration Department under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior and is in charge of policy coordination and management of refugee affairs in the country. More specifically, the Commission:

- Receives and assists asylum seekers to apply for refugee status;
- Sensitises refugees on their rights and other regulations that govern them;
- Issues refugee IDs;
- Registers newborns and updates refugee data on a monthly;
- Advocates for the rights of refugees;
- Addresses policy gaps.¹²⁵

The Commission is a department funded by public money but also receives funding from the UNHCR. The UNHCR office works closely with the Commission, and helps to generate data on refugees. The Commission also collaborates with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.

The Commission is composed of 21 staff, including a protection unit with seven people and people in the field who are responsible for monitoring the refugees in the 86 settlements on a monthly-basis. The monitoring team has received UNHCR training on protection issues and registration, but the Commission is not involved in data entry and analysis and does not keep its own database. The Commission also reports on language issues with asylum seekers from Senegal.

Data management

Registration of asylum seekers is conducted by a team of 10 people, composed of members of the UNHCR office, the Commission and a local partner organization called the Gambia Food and Nutrition Association (GAFNA), which is led by the UNHCR Senior Registration Assistant. Both entities have received UNHCR training on recording cases. Data collection mainly takes place in rural Gambia, notably in Fonis where nearly 90 per cent of the refugees reside. A main obstacle for data collection is access during the rainy season, as travelling to remote

¹²⁵ For instance, in 2014, the Commission worked with UNHCR and the Ministry of Health so that refugees do not have to pay medical fees at the rate for non-Gambians. In 2015, a MoU between these institutions.

villages is nearly impossible.

The UNHCR keeps track of refugee cases and uses the Profile Global Registration System (PROGRESS) tool for data entry and analysis. For large caseloads, however, the team hires staff from other local partners. The caseload analysis focuses on the number of refugees and asylum seekers, as well as the vulnerability criteria (e.g. women, minors) and is led by the UNHCR. The data management team produces two types of reports: an annual summary report, and a media yearly summary report. These reports are then shared with the UNHCR offices, along with the Gambia Commission for Refugees, GAFNA and other partners (e.g. US Embassy, UNDP). These reports are also used to plan the activities and budget of the Gambia UNHCR office and the Commission.

Irregular migration

A few policies have attempted to cover issues related to irregular migration, but administrations lack the funding and capacity to enforce these strategies. For instance, the 2009 Youth Policy¹²⁶ describes “illegal migration” as a main problem for Gambian youth: “(...) illegal migration [is] not sustainable as it means that the potential of the youth [is] either lost or underutilized”. The policy recommends government action in the field – to spread awareness about the dangers of irregular migration, enhance skills development and provide support to the reintegration of returnees.

Trafficking in person

Legal framework

Trafficking of persons constitutes an ongoing issue in the Gambia (see 0) and it is banned under the 2007 Trafficking in Persons Act.¹²⁷ A 2010 amendment to the act increases the penalty for activities related to trafficking to 50 years of life imprisonment.

The Children’s Act, passed in 2005,¹²⁸ also prohibits child trafficking, which is punishable by life imprisonment. The Children’s Act completes However, enforcement of this law and case prosecution are limited by a lack of capacity and resources

126 See Youth Policy from 2009-2018: http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Gambia_2009_National_Youth_Policy.pdf

127 <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/90622/114255/F-347615750/GMB90622.pdf>

128 www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/90620/104569/F960858535/GMB90620_per_cent20Summary_per_cent20of_per_cent20Act.pdf

Government's effort to tackle trafficking

The United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report ranks governments based on their perceived efforts to acknowledge and combat human trafficking. Each country is assessed on a three-tier system where Tier 1 is the highest score.

The 2016 TIP report ranks the Gambia as a Tier 3 country.¹²⁹ The report states that "the Government of the Gambia does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so". In 2016, the Gambian government assisted in the repatriation of nine victims and conducted a sensitization campaign in key areas of the country. However, the TIP points to a lack of prosecution following cases of conviction and the lack of government investigation into cases of alleged government officials' complicity.

Statelessness

The Gambia acceded to the 1951 and 1964 Conventions of Statelessness in 2014. In February 2015 ECOWAS Member States adopted the Abidjan declaration on the eradication of statelessness. Banjul hosted the second regional conference in May 2017 where ECOWAS adopted a regional plan for the eradication of statelessness in West Africa.¹³⁰

The Gambia approved a national plan to end statelessness at the Ministerial level and a study is planned in 2017 to map the landscape of the phenomenon in the country.

129 www.state.gov/documents/organization/258876.pdf

130 www.unhcr.org/protection/statelessness/591c38347/statelessness-conference-2017-banjul-plan-action-english.html?query=banjul

C.2. STAKEHOLDER MAPPING INVOLVED IN MIGRATION

C.2.1. INSTITUTIONS AND ROLES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Stakeholder mapping

The table below summarizes the stakeholders involved in migration in the Gambia. The following subsections detail their roles and activities.

Table 11: Migration stakeholder mapping

Ministry	Entity	Role
Ministry of Interior	Irregular Migration Unit	Unit in charge of identifying flows and recording cases of irregular migrants, including deportees, returnees and Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs).
	Statistics Unit	Collect data from all the official entry points in the country and issue documents such as visas, residential permits, alien cards and national identification cards.
Ministry of Interior	National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (NAATIP)	In charge of enforcing the 2007 Act.
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare	Department of Social Welfare	Mandate of assistance to vulnerable persons including children, migrants, victims of trafficking.

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs	Gambian Bureau of Statistics (GBoS)	In charge of collecting and analysing data to assist Ministries in policy making and implementation.
Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment	Department of Labour	In charge of the labour policy.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Africa Division	Political lead on migration issues.

Ministry of Interior

The Ministry of the Interior is the main institutions in charge of data collection in the field of migration, both regular and irregular. Three departments are tasked with migration management:

Irregular Migration Unit

The Irregular Migration Unit was established in 2008 in response to an unprecedented volume of migration, when many individuals were leaving the shores of the Gambia and Senegal to reach Spain by boat. The Unit is in charge of irregular migrants, including deportees, returnees and Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs). The activities of the Unit involve:

- Working at the border posts, identifying and recording cases of smuggling into the Gambia, trafficking, UAMs and returnees;
- Conducting sensitization activities on irregular migration with community leaders, local authorities, and youth sometimes through projects involving work with Gambian media.

The Unit also initiated the national process to establish a Migration Policy and the Deputy Permanent Secretary has been the lead on this topic – even though policy gaps remain to be identified and objectives defined. The team is responsible for registering returnees and deportees—including UAMs—intercepted at the border, but its capacity is limited in terms of manpower and equipment (see 4.3.3. below).

The team counts around 50 staff, spread across six locations: four staff in five border posts at key entry points (Basse, Amdanlai, Giboro, Farafenni, Soma),

four at the Banjul airport, four at the Ministry in Banjul and between 25 and 30 at Tanji (in charge of patrolling). This coastal post was created at the time when migrants were travelling to Spain by pirogue (mid-2000s) and it is not as relevant as it used to be.

Statistics Unit

The Statistics Unit is in charge of collecting data from all the official entry points in the country. It is also responsible for issuing documents such as visas, residential permits, alien cards and national identification cards. The Unit develops monthly and annual reports, shared with all the relevant stakeholders, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Population Council, Gambia Tourism Board, the National Intelligence Agency, the offices of the President and the Vice President and the Gambian Bureau of Statistics (GBoS).

There are nine officers working in Banjul and two in each of the 18 entry points in the country. GBoS previously assisted the Unit with training, co-sponsored by the Gambia Tourism Board. While the staff is well trained, lack of equipment is a main issue – which implies that each step of the process (data entry, data analysis) takes longer and the risk of error is enhanced (e.g. manual data entry, loss of questionnaires).

NAATIP

The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (NAATIP) and the Ministry of Interior collect information about irregular migration and cases of trafficking. NAATIP registers the cases referred to the Ministry of Justice.

Focus box 6: NAATIP

NAATIP was established by the 2007 anti-trafficking act. It is the coordinating body for government anti-trafficking efforts. Twelve staff work for NAATIP, including three investigators, one procurement officer, one legal clerk, one prosecutor, one executive director, one database officer. The database officer is in charge of the data collection, which is completed electronically. In 2004, a national task force against trafficking in persons was established with the key Ministries involved in human trafficking. They meet quarterly and share information. The Agency develops a quarterly report for the national task force and a yearly report shared with relevant stakeholders.

Department of Social Welfare

The Department of Social Welfare is under the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and works with NAATIP to assist UAMs and victims of trafficking by providing shelter, counselling, reintegration and financial support. For instance, the Department helps UAMs reunite with their family outside the Gambia, and the social officers accompany minors to meet with their parents abroad.

The team working on child welfare counts approximately 20 staff, including staff working in each region. The team also works with counterparts in Senegal, Mali, Nigeria, Guinea and Guinea Conakry. With UNICEF support the National Child Protection Strategy 2016–2020 as well as National Social Protection Policy 2015–2025 were adopted, providing a roadmap for child protection and social protection in the Gambia.

Funding at the Department is limited and therefore its capacity to assist vulnerable people is also constrained. With regards to data management, the team does not have a formal unit responsible for data collection and analysis, and they record cases on an ad hoc basis. Only some of these reports are typed and saved in the Ministry's system. The Department produces quarterly and yearly reports, which are sent to the Director.

Gambian Bureau of Statistics

The Gambian Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) is the institution in charge of collecting and analysing data to assist Ministries in policymaking and implementation. It counts over 100 staff, which are split in two divisions: the Social and the Economic Departments. The Social Division counts between 15 and 20 people and primarily works on population household censuses, health and education. The Bureau regularly conducts studies – based on funding availability – and works with the World Bank, UNDP and other UN agencies such as UNICEF and WFP.

GBoS does not work regularly on migration questions due to a lack of funding, but the Social Department, which is officially in charge of migration, conducted a report about migration trends in 2009.¹³¹ In 2012, it also led the second Gambia Labour Force Survey (the first to be nationally representative, see A.1.3), which includes an entire section about migration.

131 The Migration and Urbanization Survey Report, Gambian Bureau of Statistics, 2009.

Department of Labour at the Ministry of Trade

The Department of Labour at the Ministry of Trade is not involved in the management of foreign workers, at the policy or practical levels. Its priorities are domestic and it works with partner organizations and Ministries to increase youth access to the job market. It collaborated with the GoBS and UNDP in the past to collect data about the labour market.

Under the Gambia Priority Employment Programme (GAMJOBS), the Department and the GoBS developed a Labour Market Information System based on information from the 2012 Gambia Labour Force Survey.¹³² The website collects data on employment, based on a list of indicators, and the Department is in charge of updating it. Nonetheless, the website faces maintenance challenges and is not currently functioning. A new labour survey is planned for 2018.

While the Department is not presently involved in migration activities, its role could be strengthened if it was associated with the new Migration Policy.

Ministry of foreign affairs- the Africa division

The Africa Division (one staff) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) is involved in the Rabat process but there is no migration policy and the MoFA is not involved in data collection or analysis. Resources are limited in Banjul and the diplomatic missions and data collection mechanisms would require an investment in the capacity and the operational capability of the Ministry and its staff deployed abroad.

¹³² <http://lmis.gov.gm>

C.2.2. OTHER ACTORS INVOLVED IN MIGRATION

National interventions

Other actors are involved in migration management in the Gambia: non-profit as well as governmental bodies.

The Association of non-governmental organization (TANGO) is the umbrella organization for NGOs and CSOs operating in the Gambia. Seventy-eight associations are registered in TANGO, including some migration-related associations such as ActionAid or Child and Environment Development Association (CEDAG).

Governmental-bodies such as the National Enterprise Development Initiative (NEDI) or the National Youth (NYC) also work on this issue indirectly. NEDI was established in 2004 to support entrepreneurship through the provision of training, advisory services and mentoring, along with business grants (depending on the projects). NEDI works under the authority of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Office of the Vice President.

NEDI succeeded in establishing a strong network of young entrepreneurs for which it regularly hosts training or on which it relies for mentorship activities. They work in collaboration with the IOM to provide training on entrepreneurship to returnees and potential migrants. The NYC, under the authority of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, oversees the implementation of the youth policy. It also collaborates with the IOM to deter young people from taking the “back way” and sensitizes them to the associated dangers.

International interventions

IOM

The IOM Gambia Country Office currently has 7 staff and is in the process of expanding its operations, increasing its capacity to a total of 20 staff and establishing a sub-office in Basse in the coming months. IOM Gambia is implementing a range of initiatives focused on the protection of migrants and technical assistance and capacity-building for relevant stakeholders in government and civil society working on migration.

UNHCR

UNHCR is responsible for activities involving migrants, refugees, displaced populations and asylum seekers. The UNHCR works closely with the National Refugee Commission to ensure the protection of refugees. In previous years, UNHCR conducted a series of trainings to strengthen the capacity of the authorities. The Agency also worked with the government to issue ID cards to refugees, to allow their free movement, and currently implements a few projects to assist refugees.

Increasing support in the migration field

During the last years of the Yahya Jammeh regime, several Western countries suspended aid due to a deteriorating situation in terms in human rights abuses. Since the election of Adama Barrow, the international community is reengaging with the country. The European Commission, the main donor in the Gambia, signed a €75 million pledge of support in immediate funding after the crisis, and €150 million in the longer term.¹³³ The Gambia is eligible for the EU Emergency Trust Fund (see Focus box 7). Two projects have been signed so far: the Gambia Youth Empowerment Scheme in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the IOM Initiative for migrant protection and reintegration.

- The Gambia Youth Empowerment Scheme aims to contribute to the economic development of the Gambia and to reduce migration pressure by improving the employability of potential and/or returning migrants. The amount of money allocated to this project is €11 million.
- The IOM Initiative for migrant protection and reintegration's objective is to contribute to strengthening the governance of migration and ensuring the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants in the Gambia. €3.9 million are dedicated to this project. The project is three fold: (i) support the reintegration of returning migrants and the capacity of the national structures in charge of managing reintegration, (ii) conduct sensitization work to inform migrants of the risks and alternatives to irregular migration and, (iii) strengthen migration data management.

133 https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/press_release.pdf

Focus box 7: The EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa

The EU Trust Fund for Africa was launched at the Valletta Summit on Migration in November 2015 by European and African partners. The Emergency Trust Fund for Africa was created to address the root causes of instability, forced displacement and irregular migration and to contribute to good migration management. The Fund is worth over 2.6€ billion.

The Gambia is part of the Sahel and Lake Chad window of the Trust Fund along with 11 countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal.

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Coordination between local and international actors

The Gambia signed migration-related agreements with a few countries:

- In 2006, a Cooperation agreement on immigration was signed with Spain to control illegal immigration;¹³⁴
- In 2010, a security cooperation agreement on illegal migration and human trafficking was signed with Italy and, in 2013, this agreement was reinforced through capacity-building training for immigration personnel;¹³⁵
- In 2012, a bilateral agreement was signed with Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China Province of the People's Republic of China on cooperation in immigration affairs and human trafficking prevention.¹³⁶ The agreement became redundant when the Gambia severed ties with Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China Province of the People's Republic of China in 2013;

Also, the Gambia signed specific agreements with Senegal:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Committee

134 www.boe.es/boe/dias/2006/12/28/pdfs/A45914-45918.pdf

135 The Gambia: Migration in Africa's "Smiling Coast", C. Omar Kebbeh, August 2013.

136 Momodou Faal, The Daily Observer, 12 October 2012.

Against Trafficking in Persons of the Republic of Senegal to fight cross border trafficking crimes between the two countries;¹³⁷

- An agreement on preferred entry and stay.¹³⁸

137 Editorial, The Daily Observer, 2014.

138 A Survey on Migration Policies in West Africa, ICMPD and IOM, March 2015.

D. CONCLUSION

D.I. SUMMARY OF THE MAIN TRENDS IN MIGRATION

The Gambia has a long tradition of migration, due to its geographic position at the mouth of the Gambia river, which has drawn trades and fostered mobility. Internal migration, mainly from urban to rural areas, is very common in the country. Emigration is also a common phenomenon, especially among young people who seek opportunities abroad. The number of young Gambians taking the “back way” has soared. This increase has also extended to minors.

Despite the dire economic situation, migrants from neighbouring countries also move to the Gambia. The Senegalese and Sierra Leoneans account for the top two diaspora communities. No internally displaced persons are reported and the country hosts a small refugee community, which is mainly composed of Senegalese.

Migration impacts the Gambia’s development in many ways, one of the most visible being the remittances that represent almost 20 per cent of GDP in 2015. However, efforts remain to be made in order to channel these funds so that they contribute to an inclusive economic growth.

The country has not adopted a migration policy yet but discussions are initiated to launch the process in 2017. The Ministry of the Interior remains the main entity in charge of migration-related issues, even though other institutions are involved. The recent political transition could represent a moment of change, and be accompanied by an increase in funding from the international community.

D.2. MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Migrations interact closely with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Decent work and economic growth

The most talked-about impacts of migration on the labor market and economic growth are remittances and the « brain drain », each supposedly having opposite effects on the economic situation of the country of origin. The effects of these phenomena are however not clear-cut: remittances are not fully channeled to promote inclusive growth, and the emigration of highly educated Gambians can have positive effects.

Good health and well-being

The Gambian diaspora and returned migrants can spread good health practices and provide money for treatment or health infrastructures, but migrations also facilitate the diffusion of infectious disease such as Ebola.

Quality education

Accessing education is one of the main factors for migrating. It allows the migrant to accumulate human capital that can be channeled for the benefit of both the host community and the community of origin.

Gender equality

Migration can give women new professional and personal development opportunities, but it can also put them at risk, notably in the case of irregular migrations.

Life below water, life on land, clean water and sanitation

Migrations can have a negative impact on biodiversity and natural areas, which can be mitigated by sustainable management of natural resources.

D.3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Engage in a dialogue with all the migration stakeholders

The interministerial committee could perform as a platform to engage a migration dialogue with all the stakeholders involved. This would involve:

- Appointing a focal person responsible for liaising and communicating between stakeholders of the interministerial committee. This role of the focal person should be a full-time position staffed by a dedicated individual.

The person's full-time job would be to liaise and coordinate between stakeholders to ensure the Interministerial committee meets on a regular basis, and to push forward the development of a migration policy.

- The interministerial committee should be expanded to include the Ministry of Lands and Regional Government. The Ministry of Lands and Regional Government collaborates with the Ministry of the Interior, and the Irregular Migration Unit to collect data on foreigners in the Gambia through the Alien registry system.

The data collection system relies on a reporting system that goes to the grassroots village level to the regional level, and ultimately to the national level. Local village heads report to their regional contact point on the number of non-Gambians are living in their village. The Ministry of Lands and Regional Government could act as a key stakeholder for collecting data and relaying information on migration

Support the development and implementation of a national migration policy

Following the creation of the interministerial committee, stakeholders would need to meet on a regular basis in order to:

- Support the elaboration of a national migration policy;
- Ensure all stakeholders are involved in the elaboration of the policy, including local and international actors;
- Facilitate the implementation of the policy;
- Monitor its implementation.

Build capacity of migration data management actors

- Create a standardized data collection system and build on the capacity of the Gambian Institute of Statistics;

- Build the capacity of institutions to collect and analyse data relating to migration in their respective fields of concern;
- Share information about data collection initiatives being pursued independently by the institutions and discuss the opportunity of integrating migration modules into future surveys;
- Increase the use of digital data;
- Improve the “alien registry” system and expand it to collect data on irregular migration. Dependence on community leaders to report information on aliens in their communities makes the registry system weak and the flow of data unreliable and scant. Literate enumerators or data collectors should be sent to collect data on a regular basis. The data collected could be expanded to include information on the impact of irregular migration in communities of origin, including the number of families with children that have taken the “back way.”

Make continued efforts to raise awareness regarding migration related issues, propose alternatives to irregular migration (including legal migration) and facilitate the return and reintegration of migrants

- In the main areas of departure, develop adequate awareness campaigns to inform aspiring migrants of the risks of migrating irregularly and the common hardships of life in Europe;
- Foster the development of public services in these regions, especially access to health care; education; vocational training; and technology;
- Negotiate legal paths of migration with main countries of destination, to support circular migrations;
- Develop communication systems with migrants in the countries of origin, transit and destination. Support networks should be created with previous returnees and local communities that include psychosocial support from fellow community members who have already experienced the trauma of returning;
- Support access to employment, for both returnees and host communities. Collect data on the diaspora and encourage the Gambians abroad to participate in the development of the country
- Support a diaspora census;
- Create incentives for Gambians abroad to foster local investments;
- Support the reduction of costs involved with sending and receiving remittances through formal channels.

Continue efforts against human trafficking

- Sensitize key actors involved in counter-trafficking (border police, justice department) on the necessity of carrying out investigations that could lead to prosecutions;
- Aim to change public attitudes towards human trafficking and child labour through public awareness campaigns;
- Identify communities at risk and target sensitization and awareness campaigns towards them;
- Public awareness campaigns could be effected at the local level by sensitizing community leaders and helping spread the message at the community level.

APPENDIX

LITERATURE REVIEW

Title	Author	Date
A Survey on Migration Policies in West Africa	ICMPD and IOM	2015
Glossary on Migration	IOM	2004
Regional Guidelines for ECOWAS and Mauritania, Migration Data Capacity-building	IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre	2016
African economic outlook, Gambia, African Development Bank	OECD, UNDP	2016
Youth employment, The Gambia National Human Development Report	UNDP	2014
Study on Multidimensional Poverty and Inclusive Growth in The Gambia	UNDP	2015
Human Development Report 2015, Explanatory note on 2015 HDR composite indices, Gambia	UNDP	2015
The Gambia, overview	ACAPS	2017
The Gambia Transport Sector Diagnostic Study	African Development Bank Group	2016
Historical dictionary of The Gambia	Arnold Hughes and David Perfect	2008
The Gambia: Migration in Africa's "Smiling Coast"	C. Omar Kebbeh	2013
The World Factbook	CIA	2017
Trafficking in persons report	Department of State, United States of America	2016
Flow monitoring point, Mali, report # 14	DTM	2017

Rapport sur les points de suivi des flux de population, Niger, Rapport # 2017-2	DTM	2017
IPC Global Partners, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Technical Manual, Version 1.1	FAO	2008
Labour Force Survey 2012 Report	Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS), Gamjobs, and Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE)	2013
Population and housing census, economic characteristics	Gambian Bureau of Statistics	2013
The Migration and Urbanization Survey Report	Gambian Bureau of Statistics	2009
Population and housing census, economic characteristics	Gambian Bureau of Statistics	2013
Politics and Policies in Upper Guinea Coast Societies: Change and Continuity	Højbjerg, Christian K. (et al.)	2017
Civil Society and Conflict Prevention in Senegambia	Jibrin Ibrahim and Ebrima Sall, Centre for Democracy and Development	2010
Climate Change and Development in The Gambia, Challenges to Ecosystem Goods and Services	Malanding Jaiteh, Columbia University	2011
Missing migrants tracking deaths along migratory routes	Missing Migrants Project	2017
ECOWAS: a promise of hope or success for sub-regional economic integration in West Africa, Silesian Journal of Legal Studies 6, 72-104	Michael C. Ogwezzy	2014
A decade of African governance, 2006-2015, 2016 Ibrahim index of African governance, Gambia insight	Mo Ibrahim Foundation	2016

Connecting with Emigrants, A Global Profile of Diasporas	OECD	2015
Flow to Europe overview dataset	IOM	2016
DTM	IOM	2017
The back way to Europe: Gambia's forgotten refugees	Alexandra Embirocos	2016
The Least Developed Countries Report 2013	UNCTAD	2013
Spain arrivals dashboard	UNHCR	2016
UNHCR Update Italy, Sea Arrivals	UNHCR	2016
Italy UASC Dashboard	UNHCR	2016
Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 revision (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2015)	United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs	2015
World Development Indicator	World Bank	2017
Migration and Remittances Data	World Bank	2017
Migration and Remittances Factbook 2016, 3rd edition	World Bank	2016

LIST OF INTERVIEWS

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

N°	Entity	Name	Position
1	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Employment	1. Yaya Samateh 2. Ajara Jallow 3. Baboucarr Sallah	1. Head of Regional Integration Unit (ECOWAS) 2. Labour Economist 3. Labour Economist
2	National Youth Council	Alagie Jarju	Programme Manager
3	UNDP	Abdou B. Touray	Programme Specialist, Poverty, and Inclusive Growth
4	TANGO (The Association of Non-Governmental Organizations)	Mr Ousman Yabo	Director
5	Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology	1. Yusupha Touray 2. Papa Sanneh	1. National Focal Point and Head of the Secretariat 2. Principal Assistant Secretary
6	NEDI (National Enterprise Development Initiative)	Landing B. Sanneh	General Manager
7	Gambian bureau of statistics, Social department	Nyakasi Sanyang	Statistician General
8	The Refugee Commission	1. Ensa Jawana 2. Momodou Jallow	1. Officer in charge 2. Deputy Commissioner
9	National Commission Population Secretariat, Office of the Vice President	Mr Saikou JK Trawally	Director of National Population Commission Secretariat

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