



**REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

**MINISTRY OF LANDS AND REGIONAL  
GOVERNMENT**

**HABITAT III - NATIONAL REPORT**

**THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON  
HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Acronyms.....	4
List of figures.....	6
List of tables.....	6
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	7
Foreword by President Sheikh Professor Dr. Alh. Yahya A. J.J. Jammeh Babili Mansa.....	8
Introduction by Hon, Aki Bayo, Minister Lands and Regional Government.....	9
SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW URBAN AGENDA.....	11
Chapter I: Urban Demographic Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda.....	12
1. Managing Rapid Urbanization.....	12
2. Managing Rural-Urban Linkages.....	14
3. Addressing urban youth needs.....	14
4. Responding to the needs of the aged.....	18
5. Integrating gender in urban development.....	19
6. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas.....	21
7. Future Challenges and Issues in these Areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda.....	22
Chapter II: Land and Urban Planning: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda.....	23
8. Ensuring sustainable urban planning and design.....	23
9. Improving urban land management, including addressing urban sprawl.....	23
10. Enhancing urban and peri-urban food production.....	24
11. Addressing urban mobility challenges.....	25
12. Improving technical capacity to plan and manage cities.....	25
13. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas.....	26
14. Future challenges and issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda.....	26
Chapter III: Environment and Urbanization: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda.....	27
15. Addressing climate change.....	27
16. Disaster Risk Reduction.....	28
17. Reducing traffic congestion.....	28
18. Air Pollution.....	30
19. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas.....	31

20. Future challenges and issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda.....	32
Chapter IV: Urban Governance and Legislation: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda.....	36
21. Improving urban legislation.....	36
22. Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities.....	36
23. Improving participation and human rights in urban development.....	37
24. Enhancing urban safety and security.....	37
25. Improving social inclusion and equity.....	38
26. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas.....	38
27. Future challenges and issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda.....	39
Chapter V: Urban Economy: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda.....	40
28. Improving municipal/local finance.....	40
29. Strengthening and improving access to housing finance.....	40
30. Supporting local economic development.....	41
31. Creating decent jobs and livelihoods.....	41
33. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas.....	43
34. Future challenges and issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda.....	44
Chapter VI: Housing and Basic Services: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda.....	46
35. Slum upgrading and prevention.....	46
36. Improving access to adequate housing.....	46
37. Ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water.....	47
38. Ensuring sustainable access to basic sanitation and drainage.....	48
39. Improving access to clean domestic energy.....	49
40. Improving access to sustainable means of transport.....	50
41. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas.....	51
42. Future challenges and issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda.....	53
VII. Indicators.....	54
References.....	64

## List of Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
AMRC	Assets Management and Recovery Commission
ANRP	Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy
CBG	Central Bank of The Gambia
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CC	Climate Change
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CWG	Core Working Group
DPPH	Department of Physical Planning and Housing
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction)
ECRDS	Emissions Climate Resilient Development Strategies
EPMDP	Entrepreneurship Promotion and Microfinance Development Project
EU	European Union
FSCA	Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture
GALGA	Gambia Association of Local Government Authorities
GBA	Greater Banjul Area
GAMJOBS	Gambia Priority Employment Programme
GBoS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
GCP	Growth and Competitiveness Project
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GET Fund	Gambia Enterprise and Skills Development and Training Fund
GNAIP	Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan
GoTG	Government of The Gambia
GPA	Gambia Ports Authority
IUDF	International Urban Development Framework
LGA	Local Government Authority
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDFTs	Multi-Disciplinary Facilitating Teams
NAWEC	National Water and Electrical Cooperation
N E P	National Energy Policy
NGO	Non- Governmental Organisation
NDP	National Development Plan
NEDI	National Enterprise Development Initiative

NEEAP	National Energy Efficiency Action Plan
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NRA	National Roads Authority
NTA	National Training Authority
NYSS	National Youth Service Scheme
PAGE	Program for Accelerated Growth and Employment
PDO	Project Development Objective
SDF	Social Development Fund
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SE4ALL	Sustainable Energy for All
SSHFC	Social Security and Housing Finance Cooperation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
VOC	Vehicle Operating Costs
WB	World Bank

## List of figures

Figure 1: Population 1993-2013.....	12
Figure 2: Population Pyramid of the IHS 2010 Sample Population.....	13
Figure 3: Emigration Rate of Tertiary-Educated Population of Sub-Saharan Africa (Top 10 Countries), 2000 .....	17
Figure 4: Trunk Road network of the Gambia.....	29

## List of tables

Table 1: Population 1993-2013 .....	12
Table 2: Unemployment rate of persons age 15-64 by gender, area and LGA.....	15
Table 3: Poverty by Age Group less than \$1 per day.....	18

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**Foreword by President Sheikh Professor Dr. Alh. Yahya A. J.J. Jammeh Babili Mansa**



## **Introduction by Hon, Aki Bayo, Minister Lands and Regional Government**

The United Nations General Assembly (GA), through its Resolution 66/207, decided to convene in 2016, the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Urban Development (Habitat III), while Resolution 67/216 spelt out the modalities, preparatory activities and format of the conference. In line with Paragraphs 6(a) and 6(c) of GA Resolution 67/216 which indicate that the outcome document of Habitat III will be evidence-based and should be based on a highly inclusive preparatory process, The Gambia with support from UN-Habitat succeeded in securing the services of a National Consultant in the preparation of Habitat III reports.

The assignment was mainly to fulfill the following objectives:

- I. To conduct national consultations in order to validate the framework and outline the Habitat III National Report
- II. To conduct an urban dwellers survey and identify citizens priorities for an urban future for incorporation in the Habitat III National Report
- III. To undertake a national assessment and draft a Habitat III National Report on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda since 1996, identifying achievements, challenges, gaps, emerging issues and priorities for a 'New Urban Agenda', in time to feed preliminary results into the first meeting of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee in September 2014

With the aforementioned guiding objectives, the assignment resulted to the compilation of relevant information on housing and urban development drawing on the guidelines for the preparation of Habitat III National Reports for The Gambia. The report therefore focused on; demographic issues, national urban policies, urban planning and design, housing, land and security of tenure, urban economy and employment, disasters and resilience, environment and climate change culminating to seven interlinked chapters. Other relevant issues and indicators found relevant to urban development issues were as well incorporate into the report.

It is worth mentioning that the development of Habitat III in The Gambia adapted a national dimension with inclusive engagement of all those working in the field of sustainable urbanisation and human settlements. In an effort to build national ownership to the outcomes of the assignment, a mixed method of bottom-up and top-down approaches was adopted. The report also touched on gender disaggregated issues and in particular significantly dilated on youths and the elderly people of The Gambian people.

This methodological approach created room for citizens, especially urban dwellers, and non-state actors, individually and collectively, to engage constructively with cities and local authorities, government and UN agencies to determine key issues that affect their lives and livelihoods.

Furthermore and in an effort to enrich the report and under the stewardship of the Ministry of Lands and Regional Governments, the municipalities of; Banjul (Capital City) and Kanifing as well Brikama (a growth centre) were actively involved in the process. Given the immense importance of local authorities, The Gambia Association of Local Government Authorities (GALGA) was a key stakeholder in the preparation of Habitat III reports. Since local authorities are the level of governance closest to people, they play a vital role in educating, mobilizing, and responding to public needs and to promoting sustainable urbanization and human settlements development; as such their involvement was of prime importance for the success of this work.

In addition, smaller cities like Farefenni, Soma and Basse were as well included in the process. These are rural based town that have strong potentials for growth. The three hundred urban dweller questionnaires were administered with households within these defined areas with a proportionate sampling strategy. The enumeration areas were identified and questionnaires accordingly administered and entered into a spread sheet and shared with UN-Habitat.

## **SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW URBAN AGENDA**

- 1. Creation of secondary cities or transformation of growth centres into urban settlements**
- 2. Improved sanitation system for better management of solid and liquid waste**
- 3. Improvement of existing pathway network**
- 4. Construction of secondary roads**
- 5. Improvement/expansion of existing drainage system in urban settlements**
- 6. Assessment of available materials that could be used in promoting low-cost housing schemes**
- 7. Creation of public spaces such as car parks, recreation facilities and play grounds**
- 8. Review of Greater Banjul Area master plan and relevant legislations to facilitate the development of land use and development policy**

## Chapter I: Urban Demographic Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda

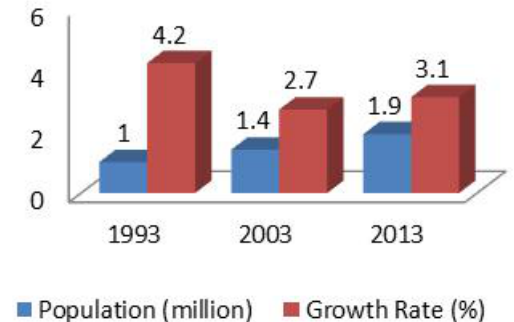
### 1. Managing Rapid Urbanization

The Gambia population and housing census 2013 has estimated that the Gambia has a total population of 1,857,181 million people in 2013 with an annual estimated growth rate of 3.1%. According to the 2013 census, 57.8% percent of the country's residents live in urban areas from 37.1% in 1993. This means that significant proportion of the population migrates from rural areas to urban centres as people looked for new opportunities and access to urban services. During the last two decade, the population of West Coast Region (WCR) increased from 389,594--- to 688,744– making it the most urbanized region in the Gambia. This makes planning urbanization a priority for the country.

Table 1: Population 1993-2013

	1993	2003	2013
Population (million)	1	1.4	1.9
Growth Rate (%)	4.2	2.7	3.1
Urban (%)	37.1	50	

Figure 1: Population 1993-2013

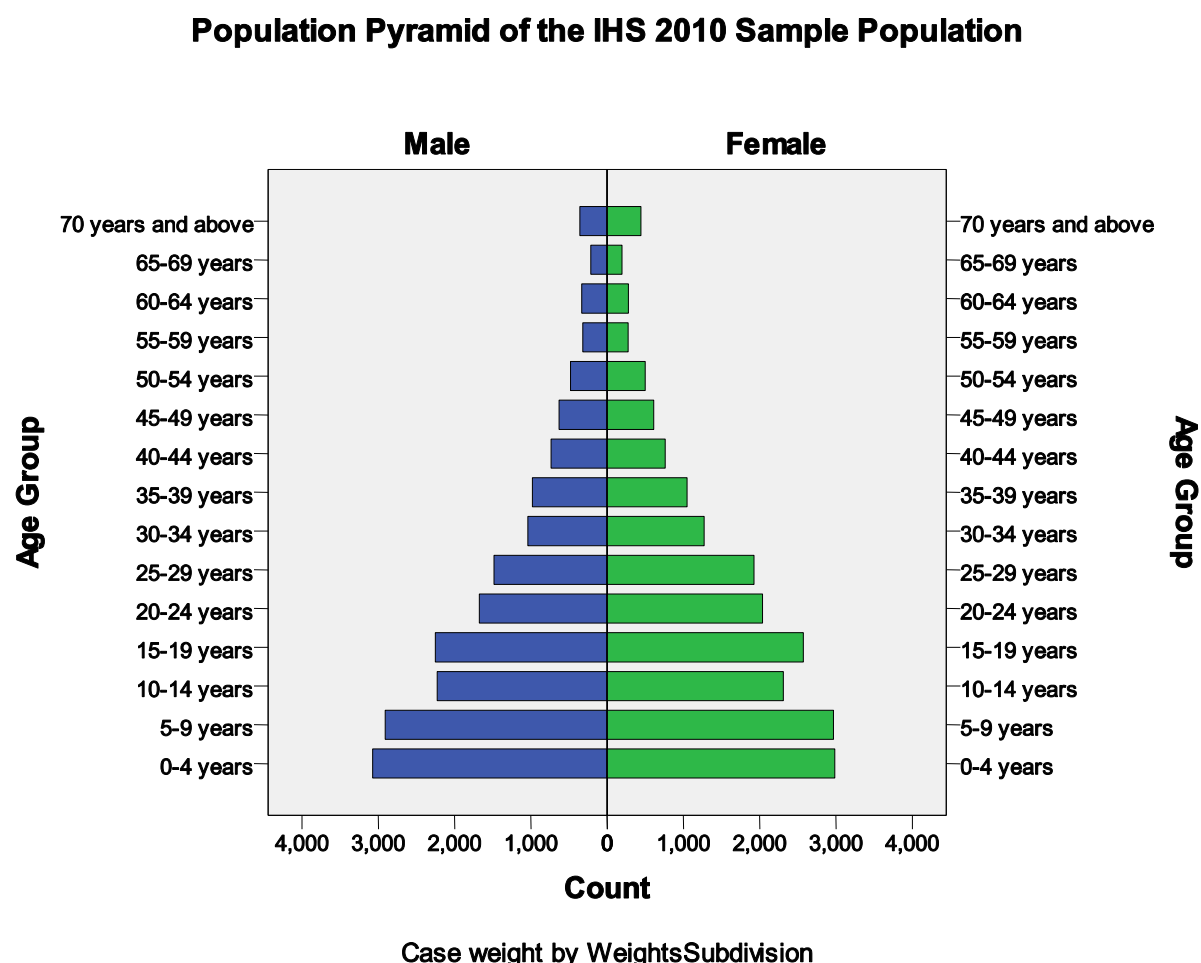


Source: Author- Regional Disparities of Population

### Population Age Distributions

The population pyramid in Figure 2 has shown that the age distributions of the sampled male and female populations are similar, with women having a slightly higher count in some of the age categories. This could be as a result of the larger female population than male population. The pyramid also reveals a decrease in the number of both males and females as age increases. The unlimited age category at the top of the pyramid (70 years and above) accounts for the slight increase in count compared to the three age categories beneath the age category at the top.

Figure 2: Population Pyramid of the IHS 2010 Sample Population



Source: Figure 2.1: Population Pyramid of the IHS 2010 Sample Population

The total fertility rate is 5.97 births per woman (Census 2013). This high fertility level has resulted in a very youthful population structure. Forty-two percent of the country's residents are below age 15, and about 22 percent are between age 15 and age 24. Average life expectancy at birth is 63.4 years (62.5 years for males and 65 years for females) (Census, 2003). Life expectancy increased between the 1993 and 2003 censuses

In 2013, the population of The Gambia was estimated to be 1,857,181 people, of which 50.8 per cent were female and 49.2 per cent were male. About 42 per cent of the population were below 15 years of age, 24 per cent were between 10 and 19 years old, and 22 per cent were between 15 and 24. Only 3.1 per cent of the population was 65 and over. The data shows higher poverty rates for children 0 - 5 and, 6 -14 and the population 65 years and above with 55.6, 55.8 and 57.9 per cent respectively.

As the Gambia is approaching the time line of Vision 2020 which aims “to transform The Gambia into a financial centre, a tourism paradise, a trading, export-oriented agriculture and manufacturing nation, thriving on free market policies and vibrant private sector, sustained by well-educated, trained, skilled, healthy, self-reliant and enterprising population and guaranteeing a well-balanced ecosystem and a decent standard of living for one and all, under a system of Government based on the consent of the citizenry.” It is therefore important that in the process of developing the next National Development Plan (NDP) 2016-2020, the government of the Gambia put in place an urban development strategy to make urban spaces livable, equitable, sustainable, resilient and efficient as well as support economic growth and social cohesion.

## **2. Managing Rural-Urban Linkages**

Countries and societies are habited by economic agents, who interact within their environment in pursuit of their socio-economic objectives. To this end, there exists an economic, social and environmental interdependence between rural and urban areas, and the need for balanced and mutually supportive approaches to development of the two areas. The rural-urban linkage development approach invites calls for the free flow of public and private capital, people (migration and commuting), goods (trade), ideas and information between the urban and rural areas in order to gain a better understanding of the dynamics of the rural-urban interface. This understanding is also important for the formulation of national poverty reduction strategies in the Gambia where both rapid urbanisation and rural-urban disparities co-exist. The increasingly dynamic demographic pattern in the Gambia has triggered the need to recognize the existence of rural-urban linkages within emerging policy contexts. Accordingly, the solution to the poverty problem in rural areas cannot be found in the rural economy alone. Indeed, poverty, unemployment, inequality, and environmental challenges are national problems that require both rural and urban places to deal with them collectively.

This recognition should inform the next National Development Plan (NDP) 2016-2020 by ensuring that new strategies are formulated and implemented to ensure that rural areas achieve their full economic and social potential. Economically, it is clear that rural growth cannot occur without access to urban markets and a vibrant nonfarm sector.

Equally so, the growth of urban areas can be compromised by inadequate rural development that distorts principles of equity and sustainable growth patterns. Thus focusing on linkages between rural and urban areas helps reframe our understanding of how development occurs in different spaces, and how effective planning and intergovernmental relations can work to sustain both spaces.

## **3. Addressing urban youth needs**

The Gambia has one of the highest population growth rates (2.7), with over 50 per cent of the population under the age of 20. The youth population suffers from high poverty and unemployment rates. The main policy-related issues are an uncoordinated policy and institutional framework for youth development; inadequate vocational and skills training facilities; the persistent growth in unemployment among high school leavers, drop-outs, and those who never attended school; youth migration and growing crime; the under-mobilization and under-

utilization of the youth's talents; the continuing growth of youth unemployment; and youth energies that are being channeled into anti-social activities.

The Gambia's young population has the potential to provide labour to all sectors and could ultimately lead to equitable growth. Managing youth would involve training them in knowledge and skills relevant to the job market and making them competitive in an increasingly global world. The PAGE policy objectives include mainstreaming youth development into the national development policy framework, implementing the recently formulated youth policy, equipping youth with employable skills, and introducing new initiatives for youth development. Rapid growth in population has not been matched with growth in gainful employment and therefore the greatest challenge in implementing PAGE is how to transform the current youth boom into youth resource. Migration better managed and mainstreamed in national development policies and plans will help enhance the attainment of PAGE objectives.

## Unemployment

According to HIS 2010, the overall unemployment rate is at 22 percent, it differs substantially by Local Government Area. Kuntaur has the lowest unemployment rate of 8 percent whilst Banjul has the highest unemployment rate of 38 percent. Rural areas have the lowest unemployment rate of about 13 percent whilst the urban areas have an unemployment rate of about 38 percent. This could be attributed to the fact that most people in the rural areas are engaged in agricultural activities as family helpers.

The gap between the male and female unemployment rate is wider in the urban area, with female urban dwellers having the highest unemployment rate of about 38 percent. It could also be observed that females in Kuntaur had the lowest unemployment rate among the female population.

**Table 2: Unemployment rate of persons age 15-64 by gender, area and LGA**

	Gender		
	Male	Female	National
Area (Percentage)			
Urban	20	38	29
Rural	10	16	13
Age group			
15 – 30	20	31	26
LGA			
Banjul	25	51	38
Kanifing	23	42	33
Brikama	19	33	26
Mansa Konko	12	16	14
Kerewan	8	13	11
Kuntaur	6	10	8
Janjanbureh	5	13	9

<b>Basse</b>	5	14	10
<b>National</b>	16	28	22

Source: **Table 5.9b** Unemployment rate of persons age 15-64 by gender, area and LGA, GBoS IHS2010

The unemployment rate is at 22 percent for persons within the 15 to 64 age cohort. In Banjul, Kanifing and Brikama the unemployment rates are much higher because of low levels of engagement in agriculture in these Local Government Areas. The data shows that the population aged 15 to 30 have a higher unemployment rate than the national average. This age cohort largely comprises young school graduates in search of white-collar jobs. In the recent past, many of these young people aspire to migrate to Europe and the Americas, where it is believed that they can earn a living. This has caused a lot of brain drain to our nation and Africa at large. To stem this outflow of young people calls for urgent action to equip these young fresh minds with life skills or provide them employment opportunities. Conscious effort has to be done to improve the rate of attrition of these youngsters. Motivating factors have to be sought after to advance the rate of retention of these youngsters. Thus, their quota to national development inevitably will be fulfilled.

Unemployment and underemployment pose significant challenges to The Gambia. Each year, the labour market demonstrates a weak absorption capacity as there is a weak relationship between the demand and supply of labour.

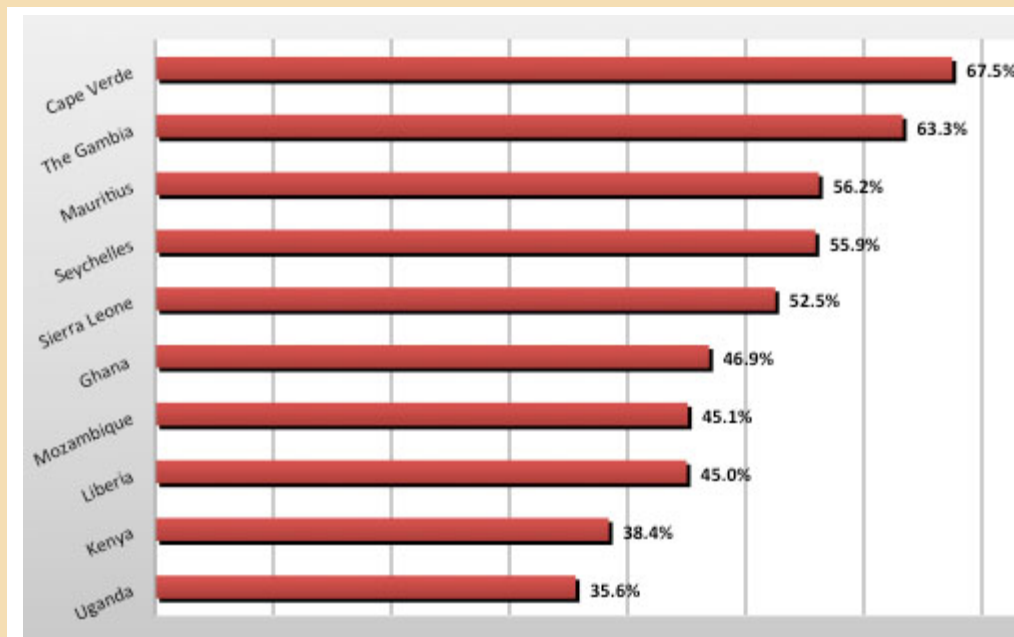
### **Migration and Development Considerations**

The Gambia has been experiencing migration from both high and skilled labour. The reasons for migration could be economic, social and political factor as result significant proportion of the countries labour force is lost annually. Most youth who have low skills and qualification and are not absorbed by the labour market have the high chance to emigration to Europe.

Over the years there is large-scale emigration of tertiary-educated workers, especially doctors and nurses, whose skills are fundamental to national development. According to researchers Frédéric Docquier and Abdeslam Marfouk, in 2000 (the most recent year for which data are available), The Gambia had the second largest emigration rate of tertiary-educated population in sub-Saharan Africa (63 percent), behind Cape Verde (67.5 percent).



**Figure 3: Emigration Rate of Tertiary-Educated Population of Sub-Saharan Africa (Top 10 Countries), 2000**



*Source:* Docquier, Frédéric and Abdeslam Marfouk. 2006. Measuring International Migration by Educational Attainment, 1990-2000: International Migration, Remittances and the Brain Drain. New York: McMillan and Palgrave. 151-99. [Available online](#).

Moreover, data compiled by researchers Michael Clemens and Gunilla Pettersson indicated that 53 percent of all physicians and 66 percent of all professional nurses born in The Gambia were practicing outside the country in 2000. Over half of both groups were practicing in the United States, and the remainder in the United Kingdom and other European countries. Most of these professionals presumably had completed their education abroad, as The Gambia did not have any medical school programs and only limited nurse training until recently (the first trained doctors graduated from the University of The Gambia in 2007).

Although Gambian nurses and doctors often enjoy better salaries and job opportunities in Western countries, many may face deskilling — for example, a Gambian doctor whose diploma is not recognized in the United States and instead takes a job as a taxi driver or gas station attendant.

### **The gap between education and the job market**

It has become increasingly evident that economic growth does not necessarily alleviate or eliminate unemployment or distribute income more equitably economic growth is clearly related to employment, many countries' experiences indicate that growth can lead to employment disparities. This is mostly the case when jobseekers' skills do not match the skills needed by the labour market. In its drive to accelerate the growth of the productive sector, the Government will therefore work to close the gap between education and the labour market. Doing this will require

it to adapt the curricula of the education system to meet the demand for skills and pursue more appropriate employment promotion strategies for the youth.

To address missing linkage between the demand and supply for labour, the government has committed itself during the PAGE period (2012 – 2015) to:

- design training programmes and activities consistent with the demands of the job market,
- create accessible credit schemes for women and the youth,
- build the capacities of the National Training Authority and key vocational and technical training institutions
- establish a reliable and efficient labour market information system.

#### 4. Responding to the needs of the aged

The Gambia remains committed to addressing the welfare needs of all its people by ensuring their dignity and respect as enshrined in the National Constitution and various other policies and instruments. There may not be any specific act on older persons in the Gambia but the Constitution of the Republic of the Gambia, 1997 Chapter IV, Section (17) intimates that: *(1) The fundamental human rights and freedoms enshrined in Rights and this Chapter shall be respected and upheld by all organs of Freedoms the Executive and its agencies, the Legislature and, where applicable to them, by all natural and legal persons in The Gambia, and shall be enforceable by the Courts in accordance with this Constitution. (2) Every person in the Gambia, whatever his or her race, colour, gender, Language, religion, political or other opinion, National or social origin, property, birth or other status, shall be entitled to the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the individual contained in this chapter, but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest.*

This section provides a framework for the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons, the elderly population is growing, presenting socioeconomic challenges as well as opportunities which the government needs to address. Among other things, the widespread role of older people in caring for children presents a unique set of challenges.

**Table 3: Poverty by Age Group less than \$1 per day**

Age	Poverty Headcount Rate	Share of the Poor Population	Share of the Entire Population
0-5	55.6	20.3	18.8
6-14	55.8	25.6	23.6
15-19	51.5	12.4	12.4
20-24	48.0	8.9	9.5
25-29	44.4	7.6	8.8
30-34	44.4	5.2	5.9
35-39	44.1	4.5	5.2
40-44	46.0	3.4	3.8
45-49	46.1	2.9	3.2
50-54	49.7	2.4	2.5
55-59	53.4	1.6	1.5
60-64	52.2	1.6	1.6
65+	57.9	3.5	3.1

Source: Poverty by Age Group less than \$1 per day, GBoS IHS 2010

The data shows higher poverty rates for children between 0 - 5 and, 6 -14 and the population 65 years and above with 55.6, 55.8 and 57.9 per cent respectively. The population aged 65 and above has the highest poverty rate and constitute 3.1 per cent of the population.

Among these age groups, the productive population- those aged between 20 and 59, had lower headcount rates. This age group comprises 40 percent of the population of the country. These figures suggest that younger people (0-19 years) and the elderly are most vulnerable to poverty. This could be attributed to the fact that the elderly have retired or the younger population are too young to work. Note that although the poverty rate is lowest in the middle age groups, it is still over 40 per cent.

## **5. Integrating gender in urban development**

Realizing gender equality and basic human rights requires all sectors and actors in development to address this issue in their area of activity. The Gambia is a patriarchal society characterized by male hegemony and other socio-cultural factors that interplay to influence the interactions between the genders and social groups. These inequalities have resulted, in some cases, in the exclusion of women and girls, from actively participating in the development process of the country. Overall, gender responsiveness in The Gambia is low. It is also due to limited community awareness of gender issues; bureaucratic resistance to gender mainstreaming, and weak support, advocacy, awareness-raising, coordination and monitoring on the part of other stakeholders.

In recognition of gender equality and women's empowerment as key to the attainment of social and economic development, the Government has taken concrete actions to mainstream women into the development process in the past two decades.

- It established the Women's Bureau and National Women's Council in 1980.
- It ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1992.
- It established a Ministry of Women's Affairs in 1996.
- It established a National Policy for the Advancement of Gambian Women (NPAGW 1999-2009).
- It enacted the Trafficking in Children's and Persons Bill in 2005 (Amended in 2007) and the Women's Act in 2010.
- It enacted the National Gender and Women Empowerment Policy 2010-2020 in 2010.
- It enacted the Gender Mainstreaming and Women Empowerment Strategic Plan in 2010 (2010-2015)
- It implemented Gender empowerment plan, 2007-2011
- It created the Federation of Gambian Women in 2010.

Nevertheless, gender disparities in The Gambia are still significant, and the resulting constraints in education, health, income, voice and legal rights prevent women from participating effectively in national development. The main barriers that prevent gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in The Gambia are as follows:

- Data is not adequately gender-disaggregated. This prevents development planners from addressing gender issues adequately in sector plans.
- Lack of formal professional education of the majority of women
- Women's access to land, capital and to market opportunities is limited.
- Women suffer from violence, particularly domestic violence and sexual abuse;
- Women with disability face multiple disadvantages.

To mainstream gender equality measures and empower women, the Government will create an enabling policy framework based on proper gender analysis and the provision of adequate gender statistics and budgets. Furthermore, the Government will improve women's and girls' employable skills and job opportunities by ensuring parity in primary, secondary and tertiary education, improving women's and girls' entrepreneurial skills and opportunities in all productive sectors, mobilizing resources for gender equality and women's empowerment interventions, and ensuring the proper coordination, monitoring and evaluation of women's and gender-related programmes.

In light of the above, the Government during the PAGE period has committed itself to:

- build stakeholders' capacity to mainstream gender equality measures,
- create awareness about gender inequality and its impact on both men and women,
- advocate for the formulation and enactment of a bill to counter gender-based violence, and provide the budget and human capital necessary to implement it, and
- ensure that prominence to not-formal education to improve women's access to numeracy and literacy training programmes and so bridge the gap between women and men's literacy levels.

## **Women in The Gambia: Achievements and gaps**

**Gender and women empowerment:** Significant progress has been made in involving women in national decision-making processes with a view to eliminating various forms of inequality between women and men and creating an enabling environment for women to participate in all spheres of national development. The Women in Development Project had helped eliminate sociocultural and traditional barriers to women's and girls' advancement through information, education, and advocacy.

## **Women and poverty**

Male-headed households are more likely to be poor than female-headed households using both thresholds (the less than \$1 and the less than \$1.25 per person per day), unlike the 2003 Integrated Household Survey where female-headed households have higher poverty rates (53.4%) compared to their male counterparts (34.8%).

## **Women's participation and voice**

Gender participation and voice is a critical component of social justice. It is also good economics in terms of development effectiveness. Although women's opportunities to partake in political decision-making have improved in recent years, women continue to be under-represented at all political levels.

### **Women's economic activities**

In The Gambia, 53 per cent of those employed are men. Females earnings are less than males as evident in the IHS 2010. Majority of the population (42%) earns less than D10,000 per annum and females accounted for 53 per cent and males accounted for 47 per cent. The data shows that only 3 per cent of the population earns more than D200,000 per annum, again males accounted for the highest proportion (61%) than females (39%).

### **Women's education and training**

Over the years, the enrolment and retention of students and the quality of education has improved, but gaps between boys and girls remain. Gender parity targets in primary education have been met, but goals for the secondary and tertiary levels are yet to be achieved. Quality education for girls remains a problem because of heavy domestic workloads, early marriages in some communities, and other factors. Only 40.2 per cent of women are literate, compared with 64.7 per cent of men in The Gambia (2003 census).

### **Women's participation in politics**

Even though women comprised 58 per cent of the voters during 2006 elections, 4 out of the 48 National Assembly members were women. 16 out of 119 Local Government Councilors were women (2008 local Government elections). However, the present figure in the cabinet is 40 per cent, which is above the 30 per cent recommended by international standards.

## **6. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas**

Challenges experienced and lessons learned in The Gambia have shown that the country is experiencing the phenomena of the urbanisation of poverty. With an increase in population from 31.7% in 1993 to 50% in 2003 and 57.8% in 2013 urbanization is a major social challenge, and also has major implications on service delivery, not only in the Urban areas but also in large growth centers in the rural areas. Another key trend in urbanisation is the increasing pressure on urban resources such as high price of land and house rents, water and electricity shortage.

Environmentally, rapid urbanisation is also leading to increasing pollution and excess waste generation, which poses risks to the health of residents as well as threatening the environmental sustainability of urban settlements. There is a need to implement differentiated fiscal and infrastructure support to cities so that they are able to better manage these challenges and maintain stability. The challenges to promote stronger urban-rural linkages highlight that development planners and policy makers must increasingly think of the impact of their development interventions in ways that are more integrated and emphasize the importance of analyzing rural and urban economies as a united whole, and municipalities should endeavor to ensure holistic regional Spatial /town planning and promote economic opportunities.

Coordinated and targeted infrastructure provision is also critical for linking the rural areas not only with basic services, but also with higher-level services in health, transport and education.

Infrastructure works as a bridge between rural and urban worlds and between agricultural sectors and other sectors of the economy. Again, the significant importance of infrastructure is its role integrating rural economies to larger towns, cities, national markets or trade networks. Lessons from past programmes have demonstrated the importance of coordinated investments by spheres of government as collaboration strengthens the linkages between the various spaces.

## **7. Future Challenges and Issues in these Areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda**

Ensuring sustainable planning and design Future challenges should be addressed by:

- i. Working closely with the governments, local authorities, private sectors of urban and rural areas to implement the International Urban Development Framework (IUDF) and other development programmes
- ii. Building spatial and planning partnerships to integrate, harmonize and coordinate investments and social infrastructure(roads, electricity, schools, health care delivery)
- iii. Revising the intergovernmental planning and development framework to provide for more specific and forward-looking planning innovations
- iv. Continuing to build international partnerships, such as with the sustainable development goals (SDGs), Post 2015 Development Agenda and the Busan Outcome Document on global partnership, the Habitat 111 New Agenda,
- v. Encourage land reform and private sector participation in Vision 2016
- vi. The Gambia Government should honor its commitment to increase investments in agriculture to 10 per cent of its own revenue by 2015. This will boost the creation of agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises and will create jobs and generate income for the rural population.
- vii. There is a need for holistic government programme on rural development focusing on improve service delivery, creation of employment opportunities as well as pro poor initiatives that will seek to reduce income inequalities and possibly increase the overall productivity of the poor.

## **Chapter II: Land and Urban Planning: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda**

### **8. Ensuring sustainable urban planning and design**

The Government recognizes that economic growth and employment will be largely influenced by proper land use planning and a regulatory regime that affords its management. This is why it puts such importance on the creation of a National Spatial Plan to ensure optimum utilization of the land and its resources. This will allow a management regime that ensures the greater portion of benefits of the country's land flow to its people and that environmentally it will be protected for future generations. Since the policy of decentralization of local Governments was adopted by the Government of The Gambia in 1997, it has seen the establishment of regional planning offices throughout the country.

### **9. Improving urban land management, including addressing urban sprawl**

The world more particularly Africa is undergoing profound demographic changes with people gradually moving to the cities. It is estimated that nearly half of sub-sahara people will be living in cities by 2025. More than 3 billion people will be living in urban areas in the next 35 years. Due to the level of poverty in many cities and towns less than 10% of the population lives in formal sector housing. Slums are sprawling in most cities as people cannot afford decent housing.

The Gambia realized urbanization like in all sub saharan countries in the early 1980s, when the first Physical Planning Act was enacted in 1994. This led to the preparation of the following Physical Development Plans:

- The Greater Banjul Area (GBA) Physical Development Plan 1985 – 2000 covers Banjul, then Kombo St. Mary District now Kanifing Municipality, the whole of Kombo North District and part of Kombo South District. These areas were fast experiencing rapid urbanization; rural urban migration was just beginning.
- Brikama Physical Development Plan 1985 to 2000. This covers Brikama Town in West Coast Region which was also experiencing rapid growth,
- Farafenni Physical Development Plan 1985 to 2000,
- Basse Physical Development Plan 1985 to 2000.

The idea of preparing these Physical Development Plans and identification of the growth centres was to control the rapid urbanization in the country.



## 10. Enhancing urban and peri-urban food production

Crops, livestock, forestry, and fisheries are the four subsectors of The Gambia's agriculture and natural resources sector. In terms of employment, agriculture is the most pro-poor sector in the country's economy, accounting for 44 per cent of the population (IHS, 2010). The agriculture and natural resources sector is responsible for generating farmers' incomes, improving food security, increasing foreign exchange earnings, and boosting tax revenue. It is the Gambians' main source of income and plays an important role in reducing poverty.

The Government's vision for the agriculture sector is to transform The Gambia into a major supplier of agricultural products to local and international markets between 2012 and 2015. To achieve this vision, the Government intends to pursue the following courses of action:

- Increase food and nutrition security and boost the income-generating capacity and the nutritional status of farmers, especially women and the youth
- Transform the agricultural sector from a traditional subsistence economy to a modern market-oriented commercial sector

In 2010, the Government approved The Gambia National Agricultural Investment Programme (GNAIP) in line with the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), which it will continue to implement during the PAGE period. In line with its GNAIP, the Government intends to gradually increase investments in the sector from 3 per cent of Government revenue in 2009 and 6 per cent in 2011 to at least 10 per cent during the PAGE period, in line with the 2003 Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security. The focus of the increased expenditure will be on irrigation, quality inputs, extension services, post-harvest management and marketing. To sustain agricultural production throughout the year, the Government will improve and expand irrigation systems and will develop rainwater harvesting infrastructure, two measures that have been identified as climate change adaptation measures to reduce future water shortages and stress and also enhance agricultural productivity under a changing climate. The increase in public spending will be matched with an expected increase in the sector's annual growth rate from 4.3 per cent to 8.5 per cent.

Implementing GNAIP will also allow the Government to give farmers financial opportunities to access long-term loans to develop modern farms and acquire seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, and other inputs. In this way, the Government intends to boost investments in agriculture, including mechanization, agro-processing, fish processing, services, and marketing. It also intends to promote private sector participation. In order to improve linkages between sectors and subsectors, it will introduce a multi-functional platform to enhance agro-processing, improve the incomes of rural farmers and women living in the rural areas, and promote job creation. This will be done within the context of the diversification of the agricultural sector. Finally, the Government will undertake land reforms to expand the amount of land available for agriculture and livestock farming and to make it more accessible to the population in a sustainable manner



## 11. Addressing urban mobility challenges

Accessible and affordable transport infrastructure facilitates and supports economic and social interactions and sustained economic growth. An effective and efficient transport system will boost private sector production by reducing production costs and increasing productivity, and also increase employment opportunities. It also impacts on the lives of people both, directly and indirectly. Directly, by enabling them to attain their basic needs, like access to school, health centres, hospitals, food and energy supplies, and indirectly, through economic growth by enhancing the free movement of people, goods and services, to and from the urban and rural communities, and to the local and regional markets. Employment in the transport sector is created in both construction and operational phases of the transport system. Therefore, improving and modernizing the transport infrastructure will contribute immensely to economic growth and employment generation in the country.

The transport sector has the potential to support the productive capacity and long term expansion of the economy. It the Government's objective to improve the transport sector's adaptation to climate change and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions through the improvement to public transport, a better road maintenance regime, better maintained vehicles and through the use of more water-based transport. The Government has taken significant steps towards the attainment of this goal through investment and projects to improve:

- Road transport,
- Maritime transport,
- River transport, and
- Air transport

## 12. Improving technical capacity to plan and manage cities

The key areas where governments, local authorities and experts need to act are on proper attention to public spaces. To reduce urban poverty we must reorganize the spatial order in unplanned cities and we must have the institutions to implement this. In The Gambia we first need urban Land use policy. This policy would be the areas for establishing institutions, status and resources to prepare the Physical Development Plans.

Currently these are all outdated and long since overtaken by events, they needed to be updated. The densification strategy should be encouraged, as this will give chance to more plots, but it has to be reviewed as peoples activities are changing. Upgrading of the unplanned settlements is necessary to minimize slum activities. The planning standards are no longer usable, thus they need to be reviewed too. As our villages are turning in to towns and towns in to cities due to urbanization more growth centres should be identified where planning offices should operationalize thus more recruitment and capacity building is required. Since it is projected that by 2050 up to 3 billion people would be living in cities, thus slum upgrading should be heard far

and wide and it is suggested that the sustainable urbanize and poverty eradication should be harmonized in all cities.

### **13. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas**

These offices have been less than effective and efficient for a number of reasons, not the least being a need for capacity development at all levels and better awareness among the local citizens. The non-functioning of the National Planning Board has stymied the development of adequate governance and control mechanisms that would simplify the work of the regional planning authorities. This has held back better control and management of land resources. This has also led to inadequate and less-than-useful land use databanks, which are important for proper administration and control.

### **14. Future challenges and issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda**

These challenges will be addressed by reforming land policies and regulations, updating standards guidelines and revitalizing and strengthening planning at all levels. It would also require updating the outdated Physical Development Plan and identify new growth centres, for which physical development plans would be drawn. Addressing the challenges will also need intensifying capacity building efforts for the staff and broaden its efforts in increasing awareness throughout the country on the necessity of effective land use planning.

- There is need to update land use planning policies supported with strengthened human resource in the planning units of councils with clear roles and responsibilities.
- Councils should have clear boundaries with availability of spatial data to enhance municipal planning
- Councils should ensure the development of cadastral maps in all Local Government Areas with identification of new growth centers to minimize congestions in the existing urban areas.
- There need to create an efficient land leasing system and also to revitalize the National Planning Board for purpose of efficiency and effectiveness
- There is also need to have internal valuers

## Chapter III: Environment and Urbanization: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda

### 15. Addressing climate change

A major milestone in addressing climate change in the Gambia is the establishment of a Ministry to that effect. Climate change has also been integrated in the Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE), the Government Blue Print and the National Disaster Management Policy among others.

Apart from the above, The Government of The Gambia has in place various legislative instruments to address climate change. They include Vision 2020, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy, National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), National Energy Policy, (2014 – 2018), National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP/2015-2020/2030), National Investment Program on Access to Energy (2013 – 2020), Renewable Energy Act, 2013, Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus (2015 – 2030), Decentralization Policy, Fisheries (2012 – 2015), Forestry (2009 – 2019), Water Resources (2009 – 2019), Biodiversity and Wildlife Management policies.

Under a GOTG-EU project, a National Climate Policy for The Gambia is being developed. The initiative stems out of the need for an overarching policy, defining strategic priorities to guide actions and investments in all sectors.

The development of the Policy builds upon the revitalization and empowerment of the National Climate Committee facilitated by the 'Early Warning' project and is contributing to the capability of the government and people of The Gambia to adapt to increased climate variability and change by strengthening national capacity to plan and respond to climate change impacts in coastal areas and also contributing to mainstreaming climate change into development planning.

The outputs of the process will be:

- 1) A national climate change policy;
- 2) Rationalized institutional arrangements and inter-sector coordination mechanisms for climate change; and
- 3) Strengthened capacities of decision makers to respond to climate change.

The process includes:

- Establishment of a Core Working Group (CWG) on Climate Change capacity building and facilitation of a multi-sector dialogue on implications of climate change for development planning;
- Scoping of issues, analysis of sector needs and resource mobilization strategies for CC;

- Studies to generate evidence, policy briefs, advocacy work;
- Definition of guiding principles and roadmap to develop an overarching policy document;
- Development of a national climate change policy;
- Establishment of climate change related inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and identification of coordination needs, definition of roles and responsibilities and implementation arrangements; and
- Sensitization and training on the relationship between climate change and development and on selected technical topics targeting policy makers and planners in key ministries and agencies, National Assembly members, and representatives of the civil society.

The ultimate aim of the National Climate Change Policy is to ensure that decision makers are receptive of the need to integrate climate change issues into sector policies and plans. The need to consider the relevance of Gender in respect of vulnerability to climate change is equally stressed.

Some of the existing and proposed climate change projects being implemented in the Gambia are summarized as follows:

1. The GOTG/WB/AfDB Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR, 2016-2021)
2. GOTG/GEF/UNDP NAPA LDCF Coastal Zone Project (2012 to 2016)
3. GOTG/GCF/UNDP Concept on Enhancing Resilience of coastal and estuarine/riverine economies and livelihoods of the districts in the coastal zone
4. The GOTG/GCF/UNEP GCF Concept

## **16. Disaster Risk Reduction**

Since its establishment, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) decentralized its activities in all the Local Government Areas across the country. In the Gambia, there are several ongoing projects and programs that directly or indirectly contribute to reducing risk factors. Most of them are related to food security and are part of action being currently implemented.

The current road map of the NDMA, which aims at advancing the country's DRR agenda, reflects the vision and strategic objectives of Gambia Disaster Risk Reduction and Management policy for the next four years. As such, the country needs a revised and updated tool to set the future direction of making the country and communities safer and more resilient from disasters. Hence, the country's revised Disaster Management Policy is based on the gains made by shifting from relief to preparedness and mitigation. The policy highlights the overarching challenges relating to the effective implementation of risk reduction measures in the country.

## 17. Reducing traffic congestion

The National Roads Authority (NRA) was established in 2003 by an Act of Parliament vested with the statutory responsibility for the administration, control and maintenance of all roads in the Gambia and the financing of its operations through the setting up of a Road Fund. Hence, the NRA is responsible for the administration, control, construction and maintenance of all roads in The Gambia. The Authority may with the approval of the Secretary of State, delegate to a local authority or any competent body or person the control, maintenance, administration and protection of a part of a road.

The vision of the agency is “TO PROVIDE SAFE, RELIABLE AND WELL-MAINTAINED ROAD NETWORK FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE GAMBIA”

The Gambia has a total road network of less than 3,800 kilometers of primary, secondary, feeder and urban roads, of which about 1,652 kilometers are categorized as ‘primary’ roads, 75% of which are either being paved or in the process of being paved. It was estimated in 1998 that only about 20% of the total network was in good condition, with the remaining 80% varying from fair to poor. Since that time, there have been a number of significant road development projects, funded by the EU and other bilateral donor agencies, enabling the primary road network to be gradually improved to a reasonable standard.

The highest priority over the past few years has been the development of the primary road system, especially the North and South bank trunk roads which are now close to completion. Apart from the Laminkoto-Passimus Road, for which expressions of interest has been received for the consultancy services; the remaining link will be the Basse-Fatoto and Fatoto-Koina roads.

Although side works are created, these pedestrian tracks are mostly used by vehicle owners as parking space. Otherwise, there are no specific links for other un-motorized road users. Hence, the facilities are utilized by all categories of road users.

A significant achievement in reducing road traffic congestion is the installation of traffic and street lighting systems at strategic locations in the urban area. The NRA has also concluded a study on urban drainage and sanitation, the findings and recommendations of which will be implemented.

**Figure 4: Trunk Road network of the Gambia**



*Source: National Road Authority*

On traffic congestion that there is a need for adequate sensitization of stakeholders especially the drivers and pedestrians on traffic codes and conducts

## 18. Air Pollution

Although The Gambia is a relatively small polluter in global terms, its growing population within the urban settlement with a potential increase of pollution is creating new challenges for urban settlement and the environment. The patterns of motorization resemble those of the industrialized countries. Since the 1960s, the number of motor vehicles in The Gambia has been growing faster due to the high import of second-hand cars and engines. In addition, there is steady increase in the number of industries, both formal and informal. Emissions from motor vehicles and industrial processes are recognized as the major contributor to urban air pollution. For example, the emissions of suspended particulate matter such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide and unburned hydrocarbon are associated with incomplete combustion.

In November 1998, ambient air quality monitoring started in The Gambia to detect pollutants for a period of two years. The parameter being monitored was nitrogen dioxide, which is one of the most potent greenhouses. At the time, the results gathered on nitrogen dioxide indicated that the levels obtained were within the provisional guidelines although peak values were noted around Serrekunda, which is one of the largest growth centers within the Kanifing municipality. This is the municipality with the highest population, traffic, and industries; and therefore susceptible to high risk of air pollution.

In 2000, the first inventory of unintentionally produced Persistent Organic Pollutants in The Gambia was performed according to the UNEP Toolkit for the Identification and Quantification of Dioxins and Furans. According to the inventory, some of the source categories were absent in The Gambia and most of the categories identified produced only small quantities. It identified uncontrolled burning as the major source of releases accounting for more than 98% of the national total.

Recently in 2015, in accordance with the Section 5 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, a second inventory of the unintentionally produced Persistent Organic



Pollutants was conducted to identify major source categories of dioxins and furans. The second inventory did not use the UNEP toolkit. Instead, the inventory was based on literature review, site visits and interaction with industrial operators in the informal sector.

For the next 24 months (2015 - 2016), the National Environment Agency is embarking on mercury assessment in products and processes using the UNEP mercury toolkit Level 1 and 2. Mercury is a hazardous chemical and could contribute to both air, soil, and water pollution if not managed well. Therefore, the inventory will identify major sources of mercury pollution as the foundation for future intervention.

A major achievement in pollution prevention process has been the development of an Environmental Quality Strategy and guidelines, which largely aim to safeguard the health of the population and ensure sustainable environmental quality. In 2001, The Gambia joined the global partnership for clean fuel and vehicle (PCFC) initiative. Since July 2006, a ban on importation and selling of leaded petrol in the country has been effected. The National Environment Agency, in close collaboration with UNEP worked towards reducing sulphur levels in diesel fuel.

A number of measures have been adopted to mitigate air pollution problems, particularly those caused by the transport sector and improper waste management as follows:

- Introduction of a nationwide cleaning exercise called Operation Clean the Nation
- Introduction of the Anti-littering Regulation
- Enforcement of National and International Environmental Quality Standards and Regulations.
- Enforcement of the National Environment Management Act of 1994 as a strong regulatory tool for pollution control of activities of both the public and private sectors.

## 19. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas

**19.1. Addressing Climate Change:** The main climate change related challenges in the Gambia are increased upstream migration of salt water, increased salination of coastal ecosystems, receding coastline and reduced crop yields.

The first phase of the Climate Change Early Warning System Project (2011 to 2014) dealt with the initiation of mainstreaming of climate change into development processes in The Gambia. The process included building the capacities of stakeholders on mainstreaming of climate change into development and to animate the integration of climate change in some sectoral policies and programmes. The process involved extensive consultations with senior policy makers who are responsible for development and implementation of policies and other strategic documents in the public and private sectors. Technicians from the public and private sectors, media houses and civil society organizations were also engaged and capacitated through training to support the consultations and sensitization of various local level stakeholders.

It has been recognized that the absence of an overarching framework on climate change and overlapping institutional mandates as noted in the PAGE and the preceding PRSP II are major challenges which hinder effective coordination and implementation of climate change issues.

The Gambian NAPA of 2007 also emphasized the need to enhance technical and managerial capacities of implementing agencies, beneficiaries and extension workers which can only be achieved through an operational Climate Change policy and strategy.

**19.2. Disaster Risk Reduction:** The lessons learnt from DRR initiatives in the Gambia by different stakeholders must be considered as part of the ongoing planning process. The current action plan builds on the mandate and comparative advantage of all partners in DRR and serves as a road map for reaching the DRR goals and objectives of the Gambia. It therefore provides the opportunity to consolidate best practices and the efforts of stakeholders, thus contributing to reinforce the culture of prevention among individuals, households, communities, government and its development partners. This will enable all stakeholders to effectively utilize relevant DRR techniques, normative standards and intervention approaches as enablers of resilient development.

A major DRR related challenge is the absence of risk reduction as a component of development planning and low levels of risk awareness and knowledge among others. Other risk factors that also need to be taken consideration are summarized as follows:

- The dynamic nature and changing patterns of risks and vulnerabilities over time.
- Inadequate institutional and human resource capacity to adequately implement DRR interventions at all levels
- High staff turnover
- Inadequate funding

**19.3. Reducing Traffic Congestion:** The Gambia has experienced an increase in the number of vehicular traffic. Compared to ten years ago, the number of people owning cars has increased. It has been recognized that traffic congestion and air pollution are very closely related, especially in the face of a large number of vehicles, many of which are second hand cars. Notwithstanding, traffic congestion in the urban areas is not always due to the large number of vehicles plying the roads at any given time. Frequent break downs and off loading of heavy duty vehicles along these roads are also contributing factors to traffic blockage.

Traffic accidents in The Gambia are almost certainly under-reported, since not all accidents are reported to the traffic police, plus the definition of traffic fatality in The Gambia is reportedly not the same as the international convention used for comparison purposes. The Gambia's traffic fatality statistics are likely higher, possibly by about 30% or more, than the official figure

**19.4. Air Pollution:** The ambient air quality monitoring programme was affected by the lack of capacity and funding to ensure continuity. In addition, the lack of enough air quality monitoring devices restricted the monitoring activities in few locations. The lack of these monitoring devices still remains a problem, and recently, there is no air quality monitoring activities going on at national level.

The lack of capacity to manage waste, which is a major source of air pollution through open burning, remains a serious problem, especially those of a hazardous nature.



## 20. Future challenges and issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda

**20.1. Addressing Climate Change:** Extreme climate events that present serious short term challenges have been identified as windstorms, rainstorms, dust storms and drought which will become more frequent and severe in nature. On the other hand, land use and land cover change; sea level rise and coastal erosion present significant long term challenges.

To move away from the sector specific and ad-hoc activities to address climate change, The Gambia needs forward-looking national economic development plans or strategies that encompass low-emission and/or climate-resilient economic growth. The development of Low Emissions Climate Resilient Development Strategies (LECRDS) is proposed and a background Paper has already been developed with financial and technical support from UNDP. LECRDS are primarily intended to help advance national climate change and development policy in a more co-ordinate, coherent and strategic manner and provide value-added to the myriad of existing climate change and development related strategies and reports that already exist.

For The Gambia, a Low Emission Climate Resilient Strategy will be premised on the creation of a new era for a harmonious relationship between the economy, environment, social and long term sustainability; that shifts from a brown, contaminative and inefficient economy to a green one; is largely driven by a government policy package that promises to create new markets ranging from organic agriculture to sustainable forestry and technological advancement that takes into account environmental concerns; unlocks new opportunities for economic growth and jobs in a way that keeps Gambia's ecological footprint low enough to contribute to efforts that will keep in pace with the planet's carrying capacity; and one that will foster low cost, efficient and effective collaboration between businesses, academia, providers of technology, financial institutions and civil society to see green growth.

The Government of The Gambia intends to achieve this goal through (a) elimination of conflict between economic growth and environmental sustainability through policies that provide the appropriate incentives that align economic, environmental and social goals; (b) re-alignment, development and implementation of coherent domestic, trade and multilateral policies working in tandem with markets and contribute to realizing the economic growth, social equity and environmental performance potential; (c) creation of awareness and understanding of and encouragement of the population to be patient on the inter-temporal trade-off between the short and the long run of transitioning to green growth; (d) facilitation of inclusiveness of all stakeholders in transitioning from brown to green economy; and (e) change and adjustment, sequencing and timing of national and sectoral policies and strategies both in the short and long term are required to put The Gambia on a greener growth pathway.

During the Second Phase of the Early Warning Project, the process to integrate climate change into sectoral policies and plans will continue. Candidate policies to be considered for integration include the successor of the PAGE which will come into effect from 2016, the Education Policy and all Education Curricula, the Decentralization Policy, National Policy on Gender, and any others that are suggested by the sectoral stakeholders.

**20.2. Disaster Risk Reduction:** The priority issues identified to promote risk conscious and resilience development include building the capacity of communities and other actors, evidence based decision making through the conduct of risk assessment and mapping, adequate regulatory framework to promote and enforce DDR measures in land use planning and building regulations. There is also an urgent need to raise public awareness on need to integrate climate change adaptation with disaster risk management. These mutually reinforcing issues are not fully articulated as both risk factors and opportunities.

The involvement of the private sector in promoting DDR negligible and hence the need to promote enhanced dialogue with the private sector through strong and dedicated public-private sector partnership supported by a disaster risk financing and insurance mechanism.

In order to fully implement the disaster risk reduction policy and its supporting action plan(s) the NDMA in collaboration with relevant partners will embark on the following lines of action:

- Financing and resource mobilization.
- Partnership development
- Financial protection
- Human resources development
- DDR for food and nutrition security
- Development of a national emergency strategy and plan
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Development of disaster preparedness and response plan
- Development of an integrated disaster risk management program

**20.3. Reducing Traffic Congestion:** In order to reduce traffic congestion, there is a need to regulate the movement of certain types of vehicles to ply the roads at specific times. Equally important is the need to review, update, improve and strengthen the enforcement of traffic related laws, policies and regulations to deter drivers from committing traffic offences.

There is also a need to institute improved/proper traffic management in collaboration with the mobile traffic unit of the Gambia Police Force. The need to widen and improve the existing drainage systems, install additional traffic and street lights cannot be over emphasized. Similarly, there is the need for The Gambia to tally up with other countries regarding the collection, analysis and interpretation of road accident data so that a true picture of the road safety situation in the country can be correctly depicted. It is only when the real safety situation is shown that the rightful remedies can be instituted to curb the menace.

There will be a large economic loss in terms of increased vehicle operating costs (VOC), reduced economic production and development if the existing system is allowed to continue to deteriorate. In that regard, Improved maintenance and rehabilitation will continue to receive a higher priority than the construction of new roads, except for instances where economic evaluations may show that new roads have rates of return equal to or greater than the returns on improved maintenance and rehabilitation

**20.4. Air Pollution:** In a bid to ensure effective surveillance and strengthen the enforcement of regulations on air pollution, new regulations will require to be incorporated under the Motor Traffic Act to enable the police force to issue improvement notices relating to air pollution by vehicles.

Power generation and fossil fuel combustion in the transport sector continues to be significant sources of pollutants into the air. Due to the high import of used vehicles, engines, generators, etc., there is a high chance of release due to the inability of such engines to perform complete combustion. Therefore, there is need to explore other sources of power generation (e.g. renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal); and to put regulations on the importation of old engines in the country.

In order to effectively deal with the release and discharge of pollutants such as dioxins and furans into the environment, there is need for continuous sensitization on the main sources, and the negative effects on human health and the environment. In addition, there is need for improved coordination at both national, regional, district, and village levels. Institutional and infrastructure capacity remains a challenge in all municipalities to effectively deal with domestic and industrial wastes, which are major sources of air pollution.

Uncontrolled open combustion in dumpsites remains to be a priority area for intervention. This category is by far the most significant source of unintentionally produced POPs in The Gambia. It accounts for more than 98% of national release to air. Hence, there is high risk of increased emissions to air, water, and residues if the capacities of concerned institutions are not built.

Currently, there are no suitable equipment to detect and analyze air pollution. Hence, the provision of suitable equipment and tools for detection and analyses of pollutants in the air will improve data availability. In addition, the availability of hand-held detection tools will enable the extension of air pollution monitoring to most parts of the country. The data provided will be useful for decision making and provide guidelines for mitigation actions.

**20.5 Waste Management:** The main issues in the management of solid and liquid waste in the Gambia revolve around inadequate and inefficient collection, transportation as well as inappropriate final disposal.

The increasing trend of solid and liquid waste generation both in terms of volume and types as a result of economic growth and urbanisation constitutes a huge challenge for all the regional Councils and Municipalities. Effective and sustainable management of solid waste requires data on present and anticipated waste situations, a supportive policy framework, knowledge and capacity to develop plans/systems, proper use of environmentally sound technologies and appropriate financial instruments to support implementation.

It is evident that the local government authorities have serious inadequacies in waste management as they lack a strategy or long term plan and resources.

The existing cleansing services units focus on daily waste collection and dumping. The staffs are not trained in public health or waste management. Equipment used for waste collection, transportation and disposal are grossly inadequate and inappropriate. Financial resources allocated to waste management are also inadequate.

There are no sanitary landfills throughout the country. Waste collected by councils and private operators is crudely dumped at officially designated dumpsites and at undesigned dumpsites. None of the officially designated dumpsites meets the minimum criteria for the establishment of an environmentally sound dump site. Both designated and undesigned dumpsites are frequently set on fire to reduce the volume of waste.

For long term sustainable management of solid waste, each of the councils and municipalities needs to designate a final solid waste disposal site that meets the minimum requirements for a landfill. Temporal collection sites should also be identified based on sound environmental criteria for regular collection.

## **Chapter IV: Urban Governance and Legislation: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda**

### **21. Improving urban legislation**

In an attempt to transform and reform the Gambia, the Government of the Gambia went on series workshops to reach the final consensus on the road to National Governance policy and programme. In May 1997, a decentralization and Local Government reform workshop was held. The result of these two workshops and other consultative and consensus building process paved the way for the national governance policy framework of which the 1999, July stakeholders consultative workshop was to come up with the National Governance policy and programme.

It is in this regard that in the policy framework, the government recognizes that improving the governance environment is a necessary pre-requisite to sustainable development and the welfare of the Gambian people. The national governance policy framework and programme have been developed through an extensive process of consultation and consensus building. The Government has established a senior level National Governance Advisory Taskforce headed by the Secretary General and Head of Civil Service, an indication of government commitment to governance approach and implementation at all levels in the Gambia.

The Government has approved several Acts and regulations for decentralization since 1997, when it adopted the official revised policy on the decentralization of local Government systems. It further solidified decentralization and the provision of more local Government autonomy by passing the Local Government Act in 2002, which provides a legal framework and regulations for the implementation of the new system. The Finance and Audit Act 2004 and the inauguration of the Local Government Service Commission shifted the paradigm further.

## **22. Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities**

Local Governments play a critical role in overall governance in The Gambia and are key players in economic development, growth and employment. By interacting with local government authorities, the Government of The Gambia is able to provide valuable insights for policy development. Since the early 1980s, the Government of The Gambia has been rethinking development approaches with a view to ensuring greater citizen participation in national socioeconomic development activities.

For these reasons, the Government's overarching objective is to accelerate decentralization and increase the autonomy of local Governments, help them provide more effective and efficient social services and make a greater contribution to economic growth and employment in local communities. To achieve this objective, the Government will pursue four actions:

- Assist local Government authorities, technical line departments, and community institutions to coordinate, inspect, implement, manage, monitor and evaluate decentralized development programmes in a democratic and transparent manner
- Ensure that land is used rationally and equitably for different purposes that promote socioeconomic development
- Administer land judiciously and make access more equitable through comprehensive surveying and mapping

For the implementation of decentralization, arrangements have been made to establish/strengthen Multi-Disciplinary Facilitating Teams (MDFTs) as field extension resources to set-up Divisional Development Fund, Local Government Pension Scheme, Local Government Service Scheme, and develop Local Government Communication Strategy.

## **23. Improving participation and human rights in urban development**

The Gambia has a tradition of consulting the people on important governance issues, either through forums, commissions, seminars, and consensus building workshops or in the form of task forces. It was against this background that the present National Governance Policy was developed through a broad-based consultative and consensus building process among key stakeholders and other development partners.

The Gambia has a well-articulated decentralization programme to ensure appropriate local actions towards achieving the MDGs. The programme also aspires to localize resource allocation and monitoring, since provincial as well as district/local level data can be collected, and programme and resource allocations targeted.

Ministry of Land and Regional Governments is empowered to monitor and coordinate matters pertaining to the operations of LGAs.

## 24. Enhancing urban safety and security

In 2003, about half of the Gambian population lived in towns and cities. Six out of ten of people lived in the unplanned peri-urban areas. Uncontrolled urban sprawl and speculative land markets have pushed many marginal settlements into high-risk areas that are flood prone. The country also has volatile environmental and climatic conditions, which can lead to disaster, such as floods, desertification, and negative effects as a result of climate change. The poor slum dwellers are the most vulnerable to such incidences.

The Government of The Gambia also has strict legislation against drug production, drug trafficking and money laundering, whether associated with the drug trade, terrorism or other illicit activity.

To enhance urban safety, the following need to be reinforced:

- Road safety
- Social amenities
- Security of tenure
- Community policing

## 25. Improving social inclusion and equity

Social protection consists of policies and programmes designed to reduce poverty and population vulnerability by promoting efficient labour markets, diminishing individuals' exposure to risk, and making people more able to protect themselves from hazards and from the interruption or loss of income. The Government is convinced that investing in social protection is a vital tool for poverty eradication that will trigger a virtuous cycle of improved productivity and employability. This will ensure the sustainability of statutory schemes and enable more people to move into contributory systems and better able to manage lifecycle risk.

According to the 2003 population and housing census in the Gambia disability prevalence rate was 2.4 per cent, up from 1.6 per cent of the 1998 National disability Survey. The trend is for this figure to continue to rise with the on-going risks associated with malaria and other diseases, poor nutrition, inadequate healthcare services, and road traffic accidents. The WHO Disability Report (2011) estimated the prevalence of disability in developing countries at between 15-20 per cent, which demonstrates the importance of ensuring that all social protection programmes in the country have a disability lens.

Against this background, the Government has developed several sector policies to improve social protection for the population. Examples are: Social Welfare Policy, draft Disability Policy, National Employment Policy, National Population Policy, Health Policy, Gender and Women Empowerment Policy 2010-2020 and its Education Policy. Several pieces of legislation have already been approved, including the Children's Act 2005, the Women's Act 2010, the Trafficking in Persons Act 2008, and the Labour Act 2007.

## **26. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas**

The implementation of the governance reforms was supervised by a National Steering Committee charged with overseeing decentralization and awarding more autonomy to local Governments. Despite Government actions to deepen decentralization, certain difficulties are challenging the results. The main ones are as follows:

- Government budget allocations that are inadequate for the facilitation of decentralized governance, proper land administration, equitable land use, participatory community planning, and development interventions
- Local decentralized structures' weak capacity to plan and implement their own development initiatives

## **27. Future challenges and issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda**

The Government intends to counter these challenges by improving local governance, promoting community participation in development, and enhancing the use and management of land for poverty reduction. It is committed to remedying the financial constraints of local Governments by:

- Strengthening local Government autonomy
- Accelerating decentralization
- Increasing the resource base available to local Government authorities
- Finding ways to make local Governments more financially able to act with more autonomy and better respond to communities' needs

The Government will address the weak capacity of decentralized structures through the following ways:

- Reviewing and strengthening the role of the National Steering Committee
- Reviewing and updating legislative frameworks for the local Governments



- Assessing the human and institutional capacity shortfalls of local Governments and implementing programmes to build the necessary capacity with a view to improving the local delivery of social services and increasing accountability and transparency at all levels
- Assessing the status of the institutional facilities of municipal and area councils

## **Chapter V: Urban Economy: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda**

### **28. Improving municipal/local finance**

The Gambia has a small financial system that is dominated by the banking sector which is regulated by the GoTG through the Central Bank of Gambia. The CBG issues banking licenses under the Financial Institutions Act of 1974 and monitors, regulates, and supervises the banking system. Besides the central bank, the banking system is built around several financial institutions, mainly commercial banks, insurance companies, a number of foreign exchange bureaus and pensions, and provident and housing finance funds. In addition, there are a number of microcredit financial institutions offering leading and credit facilities to their members.

Section 192(4) of the Local Government Act in 2002 and amended in 2003 establishes that issues of local policy and administration shall be decided at a local level and that local government authorities shall co-operate with the Central Government in adopting a policy of decentralisation. It could be recalled that prior to the enactment of the Local Government Act in 2002 a National Governance Policy was adopted in 1999. Following the Act, the Local Government Finance and Audit Act 2004 was created to provide a legal basis for fiscal decentralization in The Gambia.

In addition to these provisions, several initiatives have been implemented to complement the efforts of the municipalities. These included the Entrepreneurship Promotion and Microfinance Development Project (EPMDP) implemented by the Social Development Fund (SDF) supported entrepreneurship and micro finance development and other related outreach and capacity building activities aimed at poverty reduction in the Gambia. The Project Development Objective (PDO) was to reduce socio-economic imbalances in The Gambia by increasing social and



economic opportunities for the poor and vulnerable groups by diversifying income generation sources, and improving access to financial services.

## **29. Strengthening and improving access to housing finance**

The Gambia has a housing policy since 1993 which caters for all people including low income earners though there is still no provision for the informal sector workers. The development of the Building Act and National Health Policy demonstrates the government's commitment to address urban development issues as well as Slum Upgrading. The Department of Physical Planning and Housing under the Ministry of Lands is responsible for all housing programs and designs. Several credit unions instituted by different sectors of the country also provide housing finance for its members. The private Real Estate Agents are also playing pivotal roles in this endeavor.

The establishment of the Social Security and Housing Finance Cooperation to cater for the housing needs of the middle and low income earners also addresses the housing needs of The Gambian people. The enabling environment created as a result of increased demand for improved housing has led to increased private sector investment. The Establishment of the Civil Service Loan scheme under the Civil Service Reform program has availed the opportunity for Civil Servants to receive building loans at an interest rate of 2% with convenient mode and duration of payment.

## **30. Supporting local economic development**

The Gambia has developed a Micro and Small Enterprise Policy (2013 – 2017) aimed at promoting local economic development. In addition to this policy, various institutions are established to provide technical and vocational training and other support services. These provided enabling environment for technical education, skills development and the training of the country's human resources for national development. However, the low productivity growth rates of large sectors of the economy, lack of or mismatch of skills relative to those required in the labour.

The importance of the informal sector in the Local Economic Development in employment generation and its contribution towards the economic growth of the country is fully recognised in various national documents. The Gambia has developed a micro finance policy and a national entrepreneurship promotion strategy to promote entrepreneurship and provide fresh impetus to the economy.

Over the years, the Government in collaboration with the International Organizations implemented several projects which impacted the lives and livelihoods of Gambians and especially the poor. The objectives of such projects were mainly to reduce poverty through activities aimed towards strengthening targeted sector competitiveness, promote new business opportunities in the Domestic market, generate additional income and create employment. These are MSME related project spread across the country targeting the poor and especially the women folk. The following projects are some of those that contributed positively to the sector's response to poverty reduction.

- (a) Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA)
- (b) Sector Competitiveness and Export Diversification project

- (c) Growth and Competitiveness Project (GCP)
- (d) Entrepreneurship Promotion and Microfinance Development Project (EPMDP)
- (e) Fostering Agro-enterprises and Market development for Improved Livelihood and Economic Security (FAMILIES)

### 31. Creating decent jobs and livelihoods

The Government is convinced that decent, durable jobs are the key to eradicate poverty. For this reason, the Government aims to improve job opportunities in the country by coming up with the National Employment Policy and Strategies 2010-2014, whose main goal is “the promotion of more rapid growth of the productive employment sectors.” The Government expects to achieve more employment-intensive, inclusive and equitable economic growth in four ways:

- By formulating an appropriate macroeconomic policy environment
- By encouraging more labour-intensive economic activities, particularly in agriculture, natural resources, fisheries and construction, by means of more support and incentives for the private sector
- By adopting the green economy and green investment initiatives for the creation of green jobs and for the stimulation of green growth of the national economy
- By promoting access to credit for productive investments

These measures will enable the economically active population to attain and secure sustainable livelihoods through full productivity and freely chosen employment.

The Government has also created The Gambia Priority Employment Programme (GAMJOBS) in 2007 in response to increasing unemployment and poverty, particularly among women and the youth. GAMJOBS attempts to facilitate access to credit for productive investments and advocates investment policies that are expected to make the economic environment more conducive to job creation. GAMJOBS mainly supports skills training to compensate for the lack of qualified skilled labour force and consequently address the gap in labour supply and labour demand. For example, training programmes have been conducted in the area of ICT and mobile phone repairs. Additionally, GAMJOBS supports the promotion of labour intensive technologies in public works and in this area unemployed youth have been trained in the proper collection and disposal of domestic waste and in the production and laying of concrete pavement blocks. By adopting the utilization of climate friendly and environmentally-sound technologies and equipment in the repair and maintenance of basic services and in the management of our solid waste and waste water, GAMJOBS will be effectively translated into green jobs.

The government further established The Gambia Enterprise and Skills Development and Training Fund (GET Fund) to promote entrepreneurship in the formal and informal economy, to develop skills, to encourage training, and to improve access to financial services. GET Fund’s goal is to stimulate the creation of micro, small and medium enterprises as a means of creating wealth and jobs. With the help of GET Fund, five training institutions have trained over 1488 women and youth in new skills and have provided over 488 women and youth with business start-up capital.

The Government developed vocational and skills training programmes as integral parts of broader strategies to develop the economy and promote employment. It created the National Training Authority in 2003 for this purpose. As a result, vocational training and skills development have expanded in the last five years. Apart from regulating, organizing and supervising the subsector, the National Training Authority developed The Gambia Skills Qualification Framework and established a labour market information unit.

In 2014, the EMPRETEC aimed at reinforcing and strengthening competencies in Entrepreneurship through training was launched. It involves self-assessment, individual transformation and business stimulation activities. The project is in line with the CPAP and fully supports the attainment of related National Development Strategies. Prior to the EMPRETEC, other national Initiatives aimed at creating decent jobs especially for young people include the Gamjobs, National Youth Service Scheme, National Enterprise Development Initiative (NEDI), President International Award among others.

### **33. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas**

There are inadequate resources (human, financial and material), service and co-housing facilities offered by some housing service providers (such as SS HFC). Such services are usually out of reach of their target groups (Low and middle income earners).

Most “Osusu”<sup>1</sup> groups are not in the position to provide enough money that can build a standard house. The issue of collateral security is not available for the average civil servant, thus making it difficult for them to access the building loan from the Revolving fund to build standard houses. Most of the housing individual house developers nowadays are abroad and the as the average civil servant can’t save enough from their salaries to build a house. The unmet demand for microfinance, including credit and other financial products, allows for further growth of the subsector.

In terms of financing housing, there are Small and Medium Enterprises in the form of Estate Agencies and presently there are 24 registered estate agencies E.G Swam India, Paradise Estate, and Taf Holding to name a few as house developers and dealers. There still need to be a strategy to collaborate with estate agents for the needed to address the housing needs of the lower income earners in the form of a low cost form of housing is absent.

- The land records are efficient but it takes an average of three years to secure a title deed. The cost involved is too high particularly at the transfer stake.
- The existing master plans are well out dated and people are not well sensitized with regard to land registration and land acquisition. Land encroachment became uncontrollable, even though there is a State Lands Act.
- The limited monitoring and evaluation of the private estate developers by Department of Physical Planning and Housing (DPPH).

<sup>1</sup>Rotating informal savings and loan scheme

- The facilities offered by these land developer institutions are mainly out of the means of the average Gambian.
- Inadequate funds for the Civil Service Reform Project to give to additional support needed for the majority Civil Servants
- Collateral security for the average civil servant is usually a problem as most of them cannot produce it as guaranty for the Housing loan. High illiteracy has led to in exploitation of business opportunities which has contributed to the agrarian economy of the Gambia. The lack of adequate post- harvest techniques, lack of post-harvest preservation and processing.

The Gambia still faces several challenges when it comes to linking skills training to the job market. The National Training Authority and the development of technical and vocational skills suffer from four shortcomings:

- Weak links with the job market, shortages of qualified staff, and ill-adapted programmes
- Insufficient capacity to expand technical and vocational training to the regional levels
- Insufficient capacity to maintain and sustain reforms, expand The Gambia Skills Qualification Framework to include other areas of the economy, and carry out assessments, certification and quality assurance processes
- Inadequacies in changing the attitudes of young job-seekers from white collar jobs to self-employment and out-of-office technical jobs

### **34. Future challenges and issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda**

Noticeably, implementation plans for decentralization do not provide explicit milestones on what needs to be achieved by a particular date. Similarly, the government's development plan, PAGE (2012-2015), has no specific indicators for measuring progress made in improving governance and fighting corruption. Furthermore, practical measures boosting greater financial autonomy of LGAs are out of phase with demands for improved and new services. For purposes of accountability, National Assembly oversight of LGA management of public affairs, and citizen engagement through social audits are worth pursuing.

Institutional strengthening of the Department of Physical Planning and Housing (DPPH) in tandem with other land governance reforms that contribute towards making "the right to shelter" a meaningful policy objective is a major challenge.

The following challenges needs to be considered:

- In addressing some of the challenges related to sand mining, alternative/local building materials and appropriate technologies (such as press bricks, roofing and pavement tiles) need to be promoted on a large scale basis. There is a need to bring about a coherent and cogent effort since majority of initiatives are taking place which calls for a concerted action and well-coordinated roadmap for Local Economic Development within the municipalities.
- Issues of capacity building especially in entrepreneurship can help in creating new entrepreneurs and providing steady supply in to the market.
- Collection of best practices and initiatives taken in other places can be modified in view of the local conditions.
- There should be windows of opportunities at council level such as micro credit services and assistance for the local economic development initiatives
- There is still a need to identify, at the earliest stage as possible, sources of practical advice on implementation issues that are likely to affect urban policy outcomes and timeliness.
- Urban economy is captured at piece meal in various development policies. A development policy initiative is more likely to achieve the best possible outcomes when the question of how the policy is to be implemented has been an integral part of policy design. Where this does not receive sufficient and early attention, problems may arise during subsequent implementation. These problems may include: sub-optimal delivery methods; overambitious timeframes; resources not being available when required; inappropriate skills or capability for the initiative; and insufficient contingency planning
- Since the process of developing a new country strategy paper is in progress, there is a need to incorporate the issues of urban consideration as one of the priorities of the Government in a quest to capture and build on objectives that minimize the ad hoc of policies of urban development.  
There is need to put in place proper town plans, street naming and compound numbering that would facilitate property identification and subsequent revenue collection.

## **Chapter VI: Housing and Basic Services: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda**

### **35. Slum upgrading and prevention**

Over the years, the Gambia has embarked on series of slum upgrading initiatives and in 2011, completed urban profiles for three cities and as well national profile. This was achieved through the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme implemented with a focus on the development and adoption of inclusive policies and strategies for slum upgrading in line with the PSUP principles and contributing to the achievement of MDG 7 c and d. The Programme aimed to strengthen community, city and national key stakeholders' capacities in participatory slum upgrading in Gambia particularly in the selected cities/towns of Banjul, Brikama and Kanifing municipalities thus adding value to the development of policy, institutional, legislative, and financial frameworks.

The urban profiling in The Gambia consisted of an accelerated, action-oriented assessment of urban conditions, focusing on priority needs, capacity gaps, and existing institutional responses at local and national levels. The assessment was based on analysis of existing data and a series of interviews with all relevant urban stakeholders, including local communities and institutions, civil society, the private sector, development partners, academics, and others. The consultation typically resulted in a collective agreement on priorities and their development into proposed capacity-building and other projects that are all aimed at urban poverty reduction.

In addition to the development of the urban profiles, the is also implementing the second phase; which builds on the priorities identified through pre-feasibility studies and develops detailed capacity building and capital investment projects.

### **36. Improving access to adequate housing**

Housing is considered one of the basic needs of human requirement. The availability and quality of housing has a significant impact on peoples live. It has direct impact on the socio-economic

development of a nation. Better housing facilities leads to community growth and stability, improved health condition, increased safety and education among the citizens which in turn leads to the development of a country. In the Gambia various entities are involved in the creation and or provision of decent housing.

The Government in its derived to create a save and affordable settlements for its people has established institutions such as the Ministry of Lands and Regional Government and its technical departments, Social Security and Housing Finance Corporation (SSHFC), Assets Management and Recovery Commission (AMRC). In this regard a number of residential layouts have been planned, demarcated and allocated to provide housing opportunities for the general public in the housing layouts of; Nemasu , Bijilo, Salagi and Tanji.

On the other hand the private Estate Agencies and by extension the informal sector village heads and families are also providing land for housing in their own ways. The Establishment of the Social Security and Housing Finance cooperation to alleviate the housing problem of the Low, Middle and the Upper Middle-income group has been a tremendous achievement. The cooperation is mandated amongst others to;

1. Finance housing development projects in the Gambia;
2. Make direct investments in housing/real estate projects either alone or in partnership with others;
3. Develop, administer and mortgage housing and real estate projects;
4. Administer and manage the repayment of all housing loans and grants received by the corporation;
5. Provide finance for housing and real estate activities;
6. Undertake research and Development with other partners in the production of affordable and sustainable housing The Gambia.

In 1998 SSHFC venture into mass housing project. The Brusubi Housing Project which was the third housing project after Bakoteh and Kanifing has been one of the most successful housing projects comprises of service plots, Business Plots, Core Houses and Complete Houses (Turn Keys Houses) of over 2800 plots of standard sizes (15m x25m). Currently, SSHFC is embarking on ongoing projects in Brikama, Jabang and Tujereng.

### **Key Achievements:**

- The Ministry of lands and its technical departments has created 5307 plots from 1996 to date.
- 2800 plots of standard size (15m x 25m) has been created under the Brusubi housing project
- According to a research report carried out by DPPH, there are 24 estate agencies in the country with 16 having permanent establishments among them 8 agencies are active housing providers most of whom came into being in 2004. The eight private agencies created residential plots of about 5418.



### **37. Ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water**

Rapid urbanization poses a serious challenge to basic social services of water and sanitation both in terms of their supply and quality. Increasing the population's access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation dramatically reduce their susceptibility to water-borne diseases and increase their likelihood (especially for women and children) from incurring additional expenses related to treatment. In The Gambia, the efforts to ensure access to safe drinking water have been effective over the past years. The proportion of the population with access to safe drinking water increased to 85.8 per cent in 2010 from 69 per cent in 1990, exceeding the MDG target of 84.5 per cent by 2015. Looking at the sub-national level, in general, the water supply situation improved in all the six regions.

Until recently, the only legislation guiding the water sector was the National Water Resources Council Act, 1979. The Act originally sought to provide a legal framework for the orderly development, exploitation, conservation and preservation of water resources. The Act also provides for the formulation of a water supply policy and a regulatory process, but this was not carried out for two-and-a half decades, leaving the sector without an overall national policy to guide development. Government adoption of the 2006 National Water Resources Policy, based on integrated water resources management principles, acknowledges that access to water is a common right, held in trust by the government on behalf of the people of The Gambia. The policy defines the responsibility of the Department of Water Resources in managing the resources, which includes licensing, data collection, analysis and dissemination and provides for coordination at the regional, sub-regional and national levels in resources management.

#### **Key Achievements:**

An important achievement has been the formulation and adoption of the National Water Resources Policy in 2006 based on an integrated approach to water resources management. The Policy calls for institutional restructuring and the development of an implementation strategy and regulatory framework.

### **38. Ensuring sustainable access to basic sanitation and drainage**

The Government of the Gambia recognizes that safe water, improved sanitation and hygiene are essential in achieving the improvements to people's health and development and in contributing to the attainment of Goal 7 and target 7c of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

While significant efforts have been made in the provision of safe drinking water, much still remains to be done in the field of basic sanitation, waste management and sewage. Besides the water and sanitation project implemented by the Department of Water resources, with the aim of introducing hygienic means of excreta disposal in the entire country, there has not been much coordinated policy response to basic sanitation issues in the country. Another weakness in the policy response to basic sanitation issues has been the lack of a clear cut institutional home for



sanitation. Sanitation issues could be found in various policies and programmes of several sectors such as the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Department of Water Resources, National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC), Department of Community Development, the National Environment Agency and the Local Government Authorities and Municipalities. The main governing instrument is the Public Health Act and Regulations of 1990. These set health standards and provide, with respect to sanitation, a supervisory framework for maintenance of proper sanitary conditions of premises together with adequate measures for collection, removal, and sanitary disposal of human waste. Currently, the lack of subsector policy is being addressed with the recent formulation of a draft policy with the Ministry of Health coordinating. However, longer term, a lead agency for the sanitation subsectors needs to be formally defined.

There is no proper drainage system in place in the country. The impact of such a lack of facilities on other infrastructure, such as settlements and roads, is severe. Moreover, in case of heavy rainfall, the natural drainage system is often overwhelmed, mostly because of settlements in inappropriate locations, rubbish blocking the flows or lack of infrastructure. The rain water mixes with sewage and garbage and drastically increases the possibility of contracting diseases such as malaria, cholera and infant diarrhea. The impact on health is increased by the vulnerability of victims who often live in poor conditions in very populated areas with low hygienic knowledge.

Studies for the improvement of the drainage and sanitation system in Banjul and the Greater Banjul Area have also been completed by NRA. Additionally the NRA carries out annual drain cleaning and rehabilitation of drains before the rainy season. The Government of the Gambia declared a state of emergency in 2010 as a result of heavy rains which caused severe damage to infrastructure and loss of lives. This prompted Government to seek funding from the EU to remedy the situation.

The Drainage, Sanitation and Waste Management interventions for flood prevention in the Gambia is an ongoing project funded by the EU to the tune of 1.9million euros, under the B-envelope for emergency situations. The project started in 2012 with the overall objective of improving the living conditions and health of the most vulnerable population by mitigating the impact of future heavy rains. These include Bunding in Kanifing Municipality, Brikama in West Coast Region, Basse in Upper River Region, Barra in North Bank Region, Bansang in the Central Rive Region, Banjul the Capital City and Soma in Lower River Region.

The overall objective of the project was the improvement of the living conditions and health of the most vulnerable population by mitigating the impact of future heavy rains.

#### **Key achievements**

- For the past four years, the country has also introduced a nationwide monthly cleansing exercise for ensuring proper environmental sanitation. In 2008, an Anti-littering Bill was developed to ensure proper environmental hygiene practices.
- Waste management which is largely the role of Local Government Authorities has been revived and there are periodic waste collection exercises in the Gambia.
- A National Sanitation Policy and strategic plan developed and validated.

### **39. Improving access to clean domestic energy**

The energy sector is a crucial support to economic development. The Government of The Gambia places a lot of importance on the energy sector for development. It has focused its support in this sector through: improving electricity supply, use of renewable energy, existing regulatory framework, and supporting petroleum exploration and regulatory framework.

Giant strides have been made to improve access to domestic energy since 1996. Notably the coming in place of the Renewable Energy law to provide an enabling environment for investment in Renewable Energy thus improve and increase access to domestic energy. Reinforcement of the regulatory framework and review of the electricity Act has been done. A sub-regional approach through the West African Power Pool and the OMVG is also seriously taken on board to ensure improve access to energy. A lot projects have been developed and implemented thus increasing the generation capacity and expanding the T&D network to improve access to energy. These projects are implemented alongside system upgrades to ensure efficiency. This is achieved as a result of the political will through the initiative and inflicting support of His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Gambia.

#### **Key achievements:**

- The major achievement is a significant increase in power generation and higher electricity access rate. Good policies to attract investment in Renewable Energy amongst others.
- Awareness creation in the area of energy efficiency and proliferation of small scale Renewable Energy initiatives in the country has risen.

### **40. Improving access to sustainable means of transport**

The Gambia has a total road network of about 4000 kilometer of which about 1800 kilo meters are categorized as 'primary' roads with about 50 percent of these being paved. The road network has improved recently with the maintenance and construction of new roads. Moreover, in order to promote efficiency in road construction and maintenance, the Government established the National Roads Authority (NRA) and the Road Fund by an Act of National Assembly (GRTSA ACT, 2003). The mandate of the NRA is to construct, maintain and manage the road network of the country to the standard that facilitates the socio-economic welfare of the country within the framework of vision 2020. A draft National Transport policy is currently under review.

The Gambia Ports Authority continues to contribute significantly to the socio- economic development of the Gambia. It handles all imports and exports transported by sea which accounts up to 80% of goods and traded in the country.

The ferry service also managed by the Gambia Ports provides affordable and efficient service for the movement of people and goods with in the country and creates a link between the Gambia and neighboring Senegal. There are eight (8) main crossing points within the Gambia namely:

- Banjul- Barra
- Yellitenda- Bambatenda
- Barajally-Almameh lay
- Jarreng- Kaur
- Basang-Fulladu
- Janjanbureh-Laminkoto
- Basse-Wulli
- Fatoto-Sandu

The provision of ferry services for socio-economic development is vital in enhancing movement of people and goods. GPA management is committed to providing safer, reliable and affordable service to the public, thus development strategies will be aligned to the dynamics of customer needs and the operating environment.

### **Key Achievements**

- Rehabilitation of the Banjul Pump house
- Drain improvements and upgrading of drainage infrastructure
- Establishment of an urban roads and drainage unit within the NRA
- In providing quality service to esteem customers, the GPA acquired, commissioned ferry fleets and carried out other maintenance works as follows:
  - 1996 carried out major rehabilitation works on the Banjul-Barra Bridge Landers
  - In 1998, Barra and Johe ferries were commissioned
  - The Kanilai ferry was commissioned in 2005
  - Soma and Farafenni ferries were also commissioned in 2006
  - Aljamdu and Kansala were commissioned in 2011
  - In 2013-2014, the Authority embarked on a major rehabilitation project which includes the repowering and hull repair works of the Banjul-Barra and Farafenni ferries
  - In 2014 the JOHE ferry was slipped at the Banjul shipyard for rehabilitation works and general maintenance.
  - The rehabilitation of Kanilai ferry is currently on the way

## **41. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas**

### **41.1 Improving Access to Housing**

A number of factors contribute to high cost of developing low cost housing in The Gambia, some of them include demographic changes and trends the volume and composition of immigration from our neighboring sister countries in political instability, rural migration, the available supply

of rental units, the availability of land for housing in communities, costs of building materials, land cost etc.

The rate of urbanization within the Greater Banjul Area and the major growth centre's has also resulted in acute housing shortage. A few public and private institutions are engaged in the provision of housing. Financing is also a major impediment to housing development in the Gambia. In view of the current state of the economy coupled with rapid population growth, it has been increasingly difficult for SSHFC in particular, been the only Government institution mandated to provide shelter to those Low and Middle income Gambians to provide adequate housing and services.

The provision of infrastructure is of importance to low income settlements as the costs of these services constitute a large part of the cost of shelter. SSHFC which provides these services to all its estate it has developed over the years is not able to quickly extend to meet the needs of its beneficiaries.

#### **41.2 Ensuring sustainable Access to Safe drinking Water**

The sector lacks a comprehensive development plan for strategic investments. It is therefore, difficult to establish priority areas for investment and ensure better coordination with all sector development partners.

#### **41.3 Ensuring sustainable Access to basic sanitation and drainage**

A weakness in the policy response to basic sanitation issues has been the lack of a clear -cut institutional home for sanitation. Sanitation issues could be found in various policies and programmes of several sectors such as the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Department of Water Resources, National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC), Department of Community Development, the National Environment Agency and the Local Government Authorities and Municipalities.

There is no master plan ready to allow the implementation of a relevant and efficient infrastructure project in the sanitation sector. In addition, illegal settlers in low-lying flood zones are reluctant to co-operate with the authorities to improve their communities. As a result, there continues to be poor sanitation, health and hygiene and consequently becomes more prone to disease outbreaks.

#### **41. 4 Improving Access to clean domestic energy**

The energy sector's main challenge is the limited electricity supply, the unreliable and high electricity tariff. The operational efficiency of electricity services must be improved and the country must explore the potential of renewable energy. Vision 2020 targets the generation of 150 megawatts of electricity. In 2010, installed capacity stood at 75 megawatts. The over-reliance on fossil fuels to generate electricity has exerted pressure on electricity costs. The low electrification rate and high electricity losses through inefficient transmission and distributive grids remain serious challenges. These challenges are being addressed by scaling up the rural electrification programme and by investing in the transmission and distribution network. Increases in the availability of energy and reductions in its cost will boost production and

productivity and increase foreign direct investment. The other main challenge is the mode of production due to the fuel prices and bill payment. Lesson learnt is to gradually increase the energy mix and phase into a more cost effective mode of production and take advantage of the sub-region electricity network integration for cheap energy. On bill payment, the introduction of prep-payment system is gaining momentum.

#### **41.5 Improving Access to sustainable means of transport**

The Government intends to improve and maintain the road network between 2012 and 2015 in order to support economic development and employment. Hence, the Government will carry out a holistic study of the GBA drainage system, construct, renew and maintain the road system, improve the public transportation system update its National Transportation policy, and improve the road data system as outlined in the National Development Plan (PAGE 2011-2015)

### **42. Future challenges and issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda**

Labyrinthine roads in old city quarters of municipalities and unplanned housing configurations in recent settlements represent a huge challenge to provision of water and waste collection services. Installing modern sewage systems in these areas may no longer be feasible and protection of groundwater resources from sub-surface becomes imperative.

As a result of the high demand for low cost housing in the Gambia it is important for the Government to encourage both public and private sector into real estate development

The steps that the Government should undertake in the area of water and sanitation include provision of safe drinking water supply to all education and health facilities across the country as well as to the entire population of The Gambia. The Government also plans to improve the operation and maintenance arrangements for water and sanitation facilities, and to mobilize stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector so as to improve governance of water resources and address climate change issues.

There should be new policies with regards to housing and building codes to avoid people settling in water ways and low-lying flood zones.

## VII. Indicators

### URBAN-RELATED DATA RELEVANT TO THE NATIONAL REPORT

#### Household headship, The Gambia DHS 2013

	Urban	Rural	Total
Male	73.9	83.1	77.7
Female	26.1	16.9	22.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

#### Household size, The Gambia DHS 2013

Number of usual members	Urban	Rural	Total
1	11.2	4.5	8.5
2	7.2	2.9	5.5
3	8.5	5.2	7.1
4	8.6	5.7	7.4
5	11.1	7.9	9.8
6	9.4	9.4	9.4
7	8.1	8.8	8.4
8	5.8	7.5	6.5
9+	30.1	48.0	37.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean size of households	7.1	9.9	8.2

#### Tenure of accommodation, sex and Urban-Rural areas, Census 2013

Tenure of accommodation	Residence						Total
	Urban			Rural			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	

Owner	37.3	48.7	40.0	83.0	82.7	83.0	58.3
Rent	51.0	43.0	49.2	8.7	9.6	8.8	32.0
Free	11.6	8.2	10.8	8.3	7.6	8.2	9.7
Not stated	.0	.0	.0	.1	.0	.0	.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of households	95,771	28,993	124,764	76,118	16,518	92,636	217,400

**Security of tenure** Percentage of household members living in households in urban areas which lack formal documentation for their residence in the dwelling or who feel at risk of eviction from the dwelling, and percentage of household members who were evicted from any dwelling in prior 5 years, The Gambia, MICS 2006.

	Household does not have formal documentation for the residence	Respondent feels there is a risk of eviction	Household does not have security of tenure*	Household members evicted from any dwelling in prior 5 years	Number of household members
Education of household head					
None	45.9	16.4	50.4	5.8	8817
Primary	41.0	15.2	45.5	6.0	3460
Secondary +	32.3	12.7	37.3	4.7	5171
Wealth index quintiles					
Poorest	15.7	26.8	39.2	1.2	308
Second	44.5	13.7	47.8	5.5	1434
Middle	49.7	19.7	53.5	6.0	3137
Fourth	49.1	15.8	53.1	6.5	4694
Richest	32.8	12.6	37.7	4.9	7875
Ethnic group of head of household					
Mandinka	32.3	12.6	38.0	4.2	5856
Wolof	35.2	13.9	38.7	5.6	2467
Jola	41.0	14.4	44.7	6.0	2088
Fula	59.4	20.4	64.4	8.1	3385
Serere	56.6	20.3	61.5	6.0	1089
Other ethnic group	34.6	13.1	38.5	4.5	2563
Total	40.9	15.1	45.6	5.5	17448

**Durability of Housing - Percentage of households and household members living in dwellings in urban areas (or in capital city) that are not considered durable, by background characteristics, The Gambia, MICS 2006**

	Dwelling has natural floor material	Dwelling is in poor condition	Dwelling is vulnerable to accidents	Dwelling located in hazardous location	Per cent of households living in dwellings considered non-durable*	Number of households	Per cent of household members living in dwellings considered non-durable	Number of household members
Education of household head								
None	8.2	9.1	.0	.0	2.8	1744	2.8	11166
Primary	1.0	6.7	.0	.0	.5	207	.3	1119
Secondary +	2.6	2.3	.0	.0	.3	980	.2	5164

Wealth index quintiles								
Poorest	85.1	54.5	.0	.0	48.0	43	50.1	308
Second	30.1	22.5	.0	.0	8.4	249	8.4	1434
Middle	8.8	10.7	.0	.0	1.8	539	1.6	3137
Fourth	1.2	5.3	.0	.0	.2	841	.1	4694
Richest	.1	1.0	.0	.0	.0	1258	.	7875
Ethnic group of head of household								
Mandinka	6.6	6.4	.0	.0	2.2	821	2.2	5856
Wolof	1.7	5.2	.0	.0	.7	424	.7	2467
Jola	11.7	5.9	.0	.0	.9	331	.9	2088
Fula	6.8	10.0	.0	.0	2.8	694	3.9	3385
Serere	3.1	6.7	.0	.0	2.2	191	1.5	1089
Other ethnic group	3.7	3.9	.0	.0	1.0	468	.6	2563
Total	5.8	6.6	.0	.0	1.8	2930	1.9	17448

**Slum housing Percentage of households and household members in urban areas (or in capital city) that are considered as living in slum housing, by background characteristics, The Gambia, MICS 2006**

	Dwelling is considered non-durable	Lack of security of tenure	Over-crowding: more than three persons per sleeping room	Lack of use of improved water source	Lack of use of improved sanitation	Per cent of households considered to be living in slum housing *	Number of households	Per cent of household members considered to be living in slum housing	Number of household members
Education of household head									
None	2.8	60.3	15.2	9.9	12.8	71.7	1744	60.3	11166
Primary	.5	64.0	18.1	11.5	13.3	74.4	207	62.0	1119
Secondary +	.3	58.9	12.1	6.4	8.6	66.6	980	56.3	5164
Wealth index quintiles									
Poorest	(48.0)	(43.3)	(11.2)	(4.7)	(55.6)	(84.9)	43	86.3	308
Second	8.4	57.6	17.8	12.4	16.5	73.0	249	66.3	1434
Middle	1.8	64.7	18.6	14.6	13.0	77.5	539	69.6	3137
Fourth	.2	68.4	16.9	12.2	11.4	78.3	841	67.5	4694
Richest	.0	53.6	10.2	3.6	8.2	60.6	1258	47.7	7875
Ethnic group of head of household									
Mandinka	2.2	50.8	12.4	8.1	12.3	62.4	821	52.4	5856
Wolof	.7	55.6	10.2	8.0	8.7	64.5	424	51.7	2467
Jola	.9	56.7	21.3	10.5	11.6	72.4	331	65.1	2088
Fula	2.8	76.6	17.6	8.5	12.5	84.1	694	76.2	3385
Serere	2.2	72.6	19.3	18.4	12.4	80.4	191	71.5	1089
Other ethnic group	1.0	53.1	9.7	6.5	10.1	62.7	468	49.6	2563
Total	1.8	60.1	14.3	8.9	11.4	70.2	2930	59.2	17448

**Number of rooms per household, IHS 2010**

	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	20 and above
Urban	67	24	6	2	1
Rural	46	35	11	5	2
Total	54	31	9	4	2

**Rooms used for sleeping, The Gambia DHS 2013**



Number of rooms for sleeping	Urban	Rural	Total
One	24.6	9.5	18.4
Two	29.8	19.3	25.5
Three or more	44.3	70.7	55.1
Missing	1.3	0.5	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

### Use of improved water sources

Percent distribution of household population according to main source of drinking water and percentage of household members using improved drinking water sources, The Gambia, 2006

	Improved sources				Unimproved sources							
	Piped into dwelling	Piped into compound or yard	Public tap	Protected well	Unprotected well	Surface water	Protected spring	Unprotected spring	Recessed	Surface	Hand-dug	Other
Urban	43	3	13	91	61	0	2	91	0	0	76	2
Rural	91	72	13	73	91	0	1	13	0	0	5	0

Use of improved water sources and improved sanitation - Percentage of household population using both improved drinking water sources and sanitary means of excreta disposal, The Gambia, MICS 2006

	Percentage of household population:			Number of household members
	Using improved sources of drinking water*	Using sanitary means of excreta disposal**	Using improved sources of drinking water and using sanitary means of excreta disposal	
Residence				
Urban	91.2	93.3	84.9	17448
Rural	81.3	78.4	64.6	27429
Total	85.1	84.2	72.5	44877

Main source of drinking water for household, IHS 2010

	Piped indoors/ Compound	Public stand pipe	Well in compound	Well with Pump (public)	Well without pump (public)	Other
Urban	40	42	8	3	1	5
Rural	4	46	9	24	17	
Total	18	44	9	16	11	2

Percentage distribution of households by main source of water and local government area, Census 2013.

LGA	Main source of water										Total households
	Piped into Dwelling	Piped into Compound	Public Stand Pipe	Protected Well in Compound	Unprotected Well in Compound	Well with pump public	Well without pump public	Other	Not Stated	Total	
Urban	10.0	51.0	19.9	6.0	4.6	2.3	1.9	4.2	.0	100.0	124764
Rural	1.6	8.3	23.9	12.9	8.8	28.6	13.2	2.5	.1	100.0	92636
Total	6.4	32.8	21.6	9.0	6.4	13.5	6.7	3.5	.1	100.0	217400

Household drinking water, The Gambia DHS 2013

Source of drinking Water	Households			Population		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Improved source	95.3	84.7	91.0	94.3	84.8	89.6
Piped into dwelling	5.5	0.4	3.4	4.3	0.3	2.3
Piped to yard/plot	60.4	6.1	38.2	59.2	5.0	32.5
Public tap/standpipe	24.6	44.7	32.8	25.2	44.7	34.8
Tube well or borehole	1.8	18.9	8.8	1.6	18.6	10.0
Protected well	2.4	14.5	7.4	3.9	16.1	9.9
Bottled water	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1
Non-improved source	3.7	14.5	8.1	4.3	14.6	9.4
Unprotected well	3.7	14.3	8.0	4.3	14.5	9.3
Surface water	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Other source	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.3	0.5	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentage distribution of households by main source of light and local government area, Census 1993

Local government area	Main source of light							No. of households
	Electricity	Kerosene lamp with shade	Other kerosene lamp	Candle	Other	Not Stated	Total Per cent	
Urban Gambia	44.9	12.4	3.8	36.1	0.1	2.7	100	54,042
Rural Gambia	2.7	38.3	24.6	29.8	1.5	3.1	100	61,959

<b>Total</b>	22.3	26.2	14.9	32.7	0.9	2.9	100	116,001
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#### Main source of light for household, IHS 2010

	NAWEC Electricity	Private Generator	Kerosene lamp	Candles	Solar	Improved torch light	Other
<b>Urban</b>	51	1	1	35	2	10	0
<b>Rural</b>	10	2	1	47	5	34	1
<b>Total</b>	25	2	1	42	4	25	1

#### Percentage distribution of households by main source of light and local government area, Census 2013

LGA	Electricity	kerosene lamp with shade	Other kerosene lamp	Candle	Solar	Battery powered lamp	Other	Not stated	Total
<b>Urban</b>	70.3	.5	.4	11.0	1.2	16.4	.1	.0	100.0
<b>Rural</b>	18.2	.8	.6	20.3	6.2	53.3	.5	.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	48.1	.7	.5	15.0	3.3	32.1	.3	.0	100.0

#### Electricity, The Gambia DHS 2013e

	Urban	Rural	Total
<b>Yes</b>	66.4	12.9	44.5
<b>No</b>	33.6	87.0	55.5
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0

#### Percentage distribution of households by type of toilet facility and local government area, Census 1993.

Local government area	Type of toilet facility									No. of House Holds
	W. C.	Private pan	Public latrine	Private pit	Public pit	V.I.P	Other	Not stated	Total Per cent	
<b>Urban Gambia</b>	15.8	7.8	5.1	53.2	9.3	2.6	2.6	3.7	100.0	54,042
<b>Rural Gambia</b>	1.1	0.8	4.2	60.5	10.3	1.7	16.0	5.3	100.0	61,959
<b>The Gambia</b>	7.9	4.1	4.6	57.1	9.8	2.1	9.8	4.6	100.0	116,001

#### Percentage of the population using sanitary means of excreta disposal, The Gambia, MICS 2000

	Type of toilet facility									Total with sanitary means of excreta disposal	No. of persons
	Flush to sewage system/ septic tank	Pour flush latrine	Improved pit latrine	Traditional pit latrine	River	Open pit	Other	No facilities/ bush/field	Missing		
<b>Urban</b>	19.1	10.6	17.9	47.9	.0	1.9	.9	1.7	.0	95.5	11,904
<b>Rural</b>	.6	2.0	6.1	74.3	.0	4.8	.3	11.9	.0	83.0	18,354
<b>Total</b>	7.9	5.4	10.7	63.9	.0	3.7	.5	7.9	.0	87.9	30,258

Type of toilet facility used by household, IHS 2010

	Own flush toilet	Shared flush toilet	Own pit latrine	No Toilet	Other
Urban	15	21	61	0	3
Rural	1	19	71	4	5
Total	6	2	67	2	4

Type of toilet facility, Census 2013

	Piped Sewer System	Septic Tank	Pit Latrine (with slab)	Pit Latrine (without slab)	Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine	Bucket/ Pan	No facility/ Bush/ Open	Other	N S
Urban	4.6	28.9	40.1	20.0	4.5	.5	.6	.7	.0
Rural	.0	5.3	39.1	46.7	3.4	.0	4.7	.8	.1
Total	2.7	18.8	39.6	31.4	4.0	.3	2.4	.7	.0

Household sanitation facilities, The Gambia DHS 2013

Type of toilet/latrine facility	Households			Population		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Improved, not shared facility	45.9	24.3	37.0	50.4	29.0	39.8
Flush/pour flush to piped sewer system	2.0	0.0	1.2	1.9	0.0	1.0
Flush/pour flush to septic tank	26.2	2.0	16.3	25.6	1.7	13.8
Flush/pour flush to pit latrine	2.1	0.4	1.4	2.2	0.5	1.4
Ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine	4.3	4.2	4.2	5.8	4.2	5.0
Pit latrine with slab	11.3	17.7	13.9	14.8	22.5	18.6
Shared facility	31.5	12.8	23.8	26.8	10.8	18.9
Flush/pour flush to piped sewer system	2.3	0.0	1.3	1.2	0.0	0.6
Flush/pour flush to septic tank	4.6	0.2	2.8	3.9	0.1	2.1
Flush/pour flush to pit latrine	1.5	0.2	1.0	1.3	0.2	0.8
Ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine	6.9	2.1	4.9	6.1	1.7	4.0
Pit latrine with slab	16.3	10.2	13.8	14.1	8.8	11.5
Non-improved facility	22.6	62.9	39.1	22.9	60.2	41.3
Pit latrine without slab/open pit	22.1	58.0	36.8	22.6	56.5	39.3
No facility/bush/field	0.3	4.7	2.1	0.2	3.5	1.8
Other	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Main construction materials of outside walls, IHS 2010

	Mud/ Kirinting	Wood	Brick	Concrete
Urban	23	2	30	45
Rural	52	1	20	28
Total	41	1	24	34

Main roofing material, IHS 2010

	Thatch	Corrugated iron sheet	Asbestos	Cement/concrete	Other
Urban	4	92	1	3	0
Rural	24	73	1	1	0

<b>Total</b>	17	80	1	2	0
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Main flooring material, IHS 2010

	Mud/earth	Tiles	Cement/concrete
<b>Urban</b>	10	16	74
<b>Rural</b>	45	10	45
<b>Total</b>	32	12	56

Flooring material, The Gambia DHS 2013

	Urban	Rural	Total
<b>Earth, sand</b>	2.7	40.9	18.4
<b>Parquet or polished wood</b>	0.0	0.3	0.1
<b>Vinyl or asphalt strips</b>	0.0	0.2	0.1
<b>Ceramic tiles</b>	27.9	4.0	18.1
<b>Cement</b>	24.4	41.1	31.3
<b>Carpet</b>	5.7	1.0	3.8
<b>Plastic carpet</b>	38.6	12.1	27.8
<b>Other</b>	0.5	0.1	0.3
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0

Mode of solid waste disposal, IHS 2010

	Burning	Buried	Recycled	Collected by private firm	Municipal/ Area Council	Other
<b>Urban</b>	50	7	4	9	14	16
<b>Rural</b>	44	7	5	0	1	43
<b>Total</b>	46	7	4	3	6	33

Place for cooking, The Gambia DHS 2013

	Urban	Rural	Total
<b>In the house</b>	4.3	1.2	3.1
<b>In a separate building</b>	54.0	81.0	65.0
<b>Outdoors</b>	32.4	15.2	25.3
<b>No food cooked in household</b>	9.2	2.5	6.5
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentage distribution of households by cooking place and residence, Census 2013

Cooking place	Urban	Rural	Total
<b>Separate Room (Exclusive Use)</b>	55	65	60
<b>Separate Room (for use of other households)</b>	14	14	14
<b>Open Space</b>	19	17	18
<b>Other/Don't Cook</b>	11	2	7
<b>Not stated</b>	1	1	1
<b>Total Percent</b>	100	100	100

### Cooking fuel, The Gambia DHS 2013

	Urban	Rural	Total
Electricity	0.0	0.0	0.0
LPG/natural gas/biogas	3.6	0.4	2.3
Kerosene	0.2	0.0	0.1
Charcoal	41.0	4.1	25.9
Wood	44.3	92.7	64.1
Straw/shrubs/grass	0.1	0.2	0.1
Saw dust	1.4	0.1	0.9
No food cooked in household	9.2	2.5	6.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percentage using solid fuel for cooking	86.8	97.1	91.0

### Type of cooking fuel, The Gambia, MICS 2006

	Electricity	Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	Natural Gas	Biogas	Kerosene	Coal, lignite	Charcoal	Wood	Straw, shrubs, grass	Other source	Missing	Solid fuels for cooking
Urban	.1	4.6	2.9	.3	.3	.1	21.7	62.0	.4	7.4	.1	84.2
Rural	.0	.6	.8	.2	.0	.0	4.4	92.5	.1	1.4	.0	97.0
Total	.1	2.5	1.8	.3	.2	.1	12.8	77.8	.2	4.3	.1	90.9

	Value	Source
i. Percentage of people living in slums		
ii. Percentage of urban population with access to adequate housing		
iii. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to safe drinking water	84.8	DHS
iv. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to adequate sanitation	77.2	DHS
v. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to regular waste collection	14.0	IHS
vi. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to clean domestic energy	66.4	DHS
vii. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to public transport	Not Available	
viii. Level of effective decentralization for sustainable urban development measured by:	Not Available	

ix. Percentage of city, regional and national authorities that have implemented urban policies supportive of local economic development and creation of decent jobs and livelihoods	Not Available	
x. Percentage of city and regional authorities that have adopted or implemented urban safety and security policies or strategies	Not Available	
xi. Percentage of city and regional authorities that have implemented plans and designs for sustainable and resilient cities that are inclusive and respond to urban population growth adequately	Not Available	
xii. Share of national gross domestic product (GDP) that is produced in urban areas	Not Available	
xiii. Any other urban-related data relevant to the National Report	See above tables	

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