



UNITED NATIONS
THE GAMBIA



UN The Gambia

Annual Results
Report
2022

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FOREWORD

The current UNDAF which for the last five years guided our support to the government and people of The Gambia is coming to an end. The UNCT together with the government and other partners is currently developing a United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) which will guide our strategic support to the country for the next five years.

This report highlights both the progress we have made and the challenges we have faced during the course of the year. It showcases the tireless efforts of UN agencies, partner organizations, and government to support the most vulnerable, and advance our shared goals for peace, sustainable development, and human rights. It also highlights the areas where we must do more, and where greater collective action and commitment is needed to address the urgent global challenges we face.

As Resident Coordinator, with 16 resident and non-resident UN agencies, funds and programmes contributing to the national development priorities and strategies of the Government of The Gambia, I am elated to present to you the 2022 UNCT Annual Results Report. This report details how the UN continues to collaborate with the Gambia government and development partners, working together to attain the country's development priorities.

2022 was a significant year for The Gambia as the country held its parliamentary elections. The UN supported this process with a series of engagements including getting political parties to sign the peace accord which aims to strengthen core democratic values and urging parties and their supporters to refrain from using hate language. The low participation of women continued to be a concern for the UN and development partners.

To change the status-quo and promote the participation of women in politics, The UN organized a dialogue with prominent Gambian women to share best practices and map out how this could be improved. Whilst only a few were elected to positions, it was promising to see the number of women that vied for positions in the legislative elections, and it is my hope the number will increase in future elections.

As a critical partner to the Government of The Gambia in responding to disasters and humanitarian situations, the UN was quick to respond to the Government's call for support through the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to provide assistance to communities affected by massive floods in the past rainy season. The heavy rainfalls led to the flooding of major areas within the country including the capital city, Banjul where hundreds of families were forced out of the safety of their homes. Through the UN's intervention, affected families were provided with dignity kits, personal hygiene products and cash transfers to support their daily expenses.

In addition to supporting flooded communities as part of its humanitarian interventions, the UN Country Team effectively coordinated response efforts to address the immediate needs of families and communities affected by the conflict between Senegalese Forces and the MFDC Rebels in villages around the Gambia-Senegal border.

The conflict led to the displacement of thousands of families, resulting in the disruption of daily life and hindering access to social amenities such as education and health facilities. UN support to the affected communities included food items, dignity kits, access to mobile health clinics, temporary shelter, access to clean and safe drinking water and cash transfers.

The achievements registered even in the midst of a global crisis is as a testament of how far we can go if we build and strengthen partnerships for the collective good of the people we serve. We are able to achieve results because of the support we receive from government, donors and the people we serve.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope this annual progress report enhances your understanding of how the UNCT in The Gambia is carrying out its work and contributing to the vision of a peaceful, inclusive, developed, and resilient Gambia and the Sahel region.



Signed:

Ms. Seraphine Wakana,
UN Resident Coordinator
The Gambia

UN Entities in The Gambia

Resident UN Agencies



UN Agencies with Project Offices



Non-Resident UN Agencies



Key Government Partners in The Gambia

Office of the President

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare

Ministry of Agriculture

Minister of Fisheries and Water Resources

Ministry of the Interior

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Youth and Sports

Ministry of Ministry of Lands, Regional Government and Religious Affairs

Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment

Ministry of Energy and Petroleum

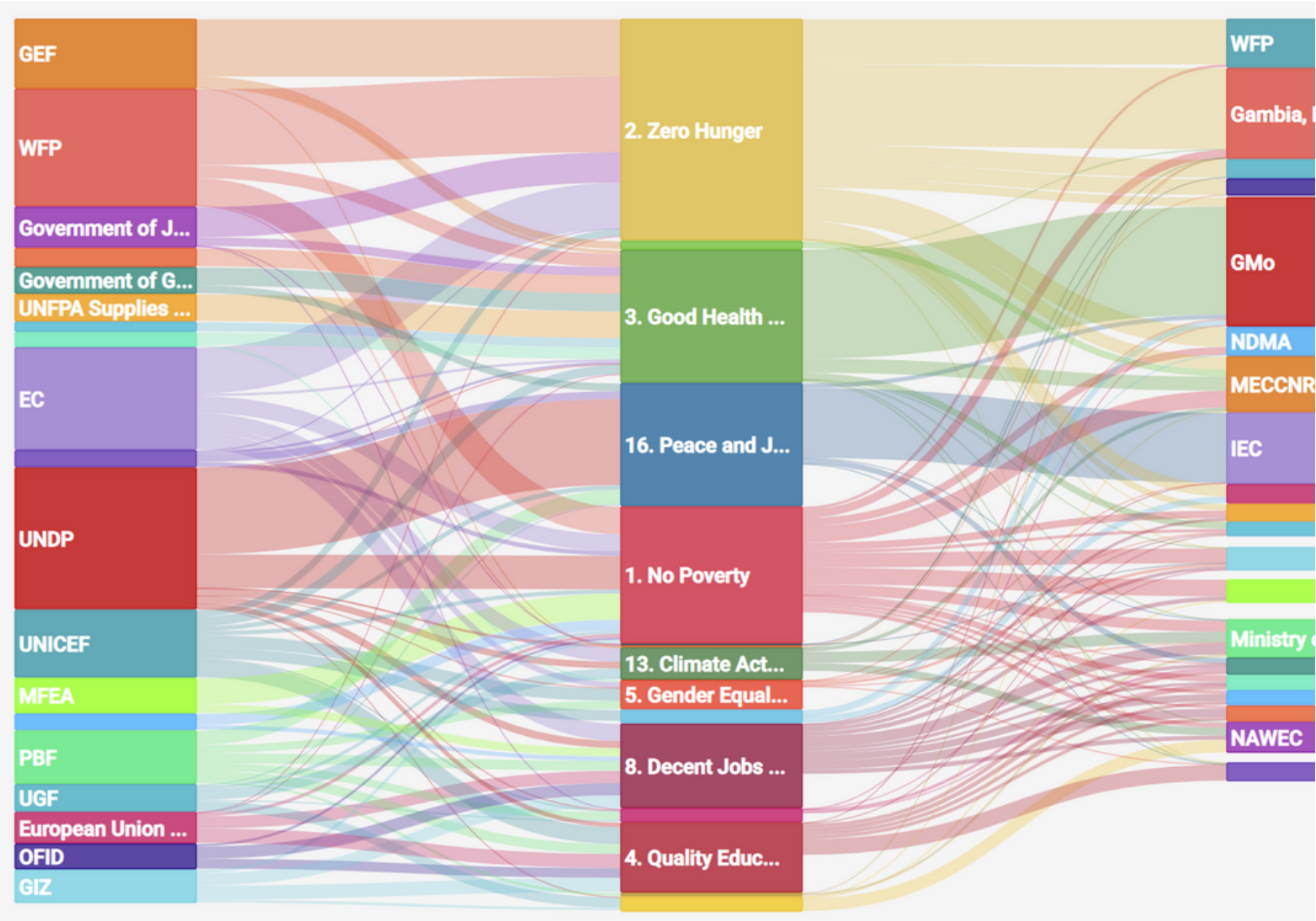
Ministry of Tourism and Culture

Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure

Minister of Transport, Works and Infrastructure

Ministry of Defense

Key Development Partners of the UN Development System in the Country



The above chart displays the top 20 Contributing Partners by financial contribution and top 20 Implementing Partners by total budget of associated Sub-Outputs. All additional partners are grouped under 'Other Contributing Partners' or 'Other Implementing Partners', respectively.

- legend
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Department for International Development | 11 The Gambia Ministry of Agriculture |
| 2 Government of Germany | 12 National Disaster Management Authority |
| 3 The Global Environment Fund | 13 The Gambia Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment |
| 4 European Commission | 14 The Gambia Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources |
| 5 The Global Environment Fund | 15 Gambia National Water & Electric Company |
| 6 The Gambia, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs | 16 The Gambia Ministry of Interior |
| 7 EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa | |
| 8 OPEC Fund for International Development | |
| 9 Peacebuilding Fund | |
| 10 The Gambia Ministry of Health | |

The findings in this report would not have been possible without the continued support of our strategic partners.

Our sincere appreciation goes out in particular to the many generous partners who provided financial and in-kind support for UN initiatives in 2022, as well as to our committed implementation partners who led field activities on the ground and supporting recovery efforts.



Canada



Netherlands



Sweden



Finland



Austria



Spain



UK



Italy



ECOWAS



Norway



Switzerland



Denmark



USA



Japan



Germany



Europe



France

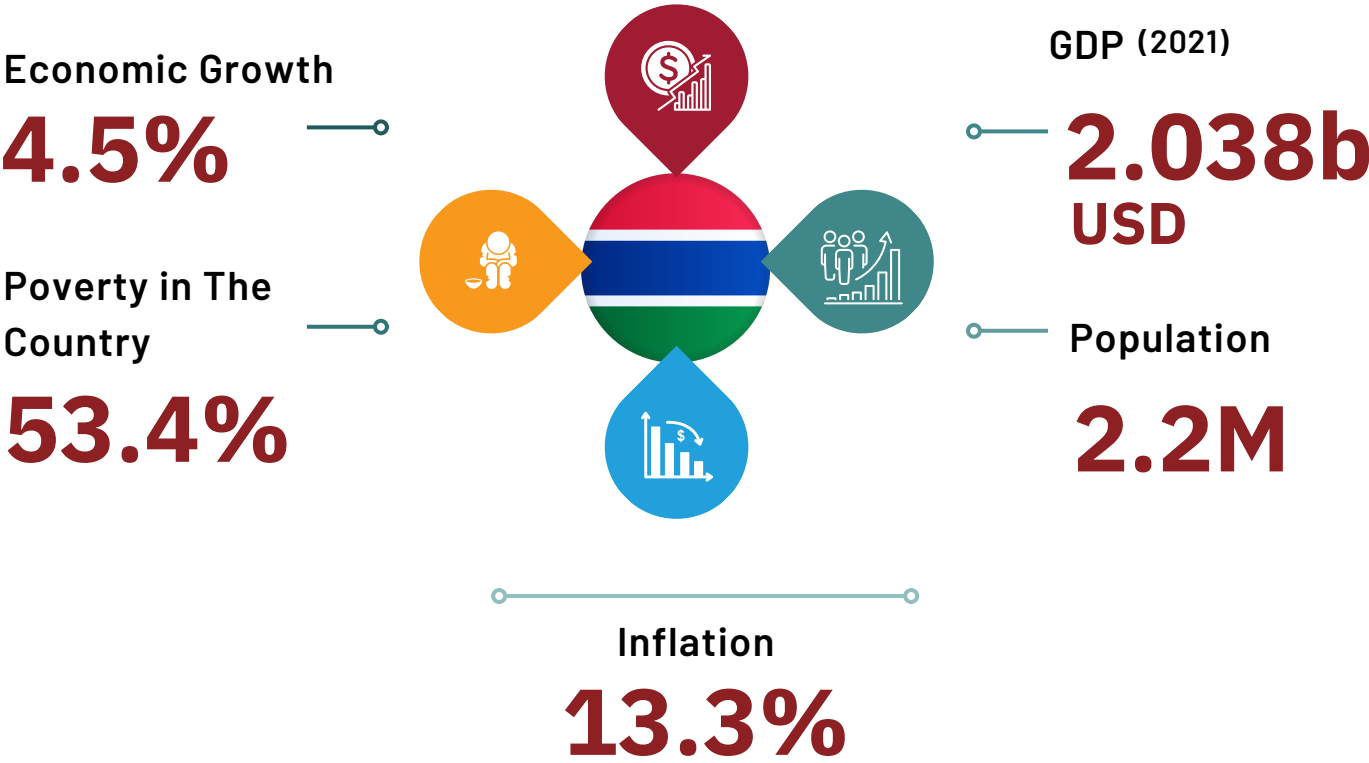




1

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY

Overall Context



The Gambian economy, much like in previous decades, remains undiversified and highly susceptible to shocks. Despite growing by 4.3 percent in 2021 and an anticipated growth of 4.5 percent in 2022, driven by the revival of tourism and industry, the country is still recuperating from the enduring impacts of COVID-19. However, the outbreak of conflict between Russia and Ukraine has hindered recovery efforts from the pandemic. Additionally, inflation in The Gambia reached double digits (13.3 percent) in 2022, marking the first time since 2004. This has led to a surge in the cost of living, particularly affecting the most vulnerable groups.

According to the national food security survey 2022, approximately 27 percent of households in The Gambia are food insecure (moderately and severe), with one out of every four households facing inadequate food consumption/not meeting food needs. The prevalence of food insecurity in The Gambia has been on the rise, increasing from 8 percent in 2016 to 14 percent in 2021 and further reaching 27 percent in 2022. Food insecurity is more severe in rural areas (30 percent of households) compared to urban areas (8 percent of households). Therefore, it is imperative for the government and partners to take deliberate measures to enhance the productive capacity of the country.

Despite efforts by the government to implement various poverty strategies and programmes, poverty levels remain high in The Gambia. Prior to the pandemic, poverty figures were said to have declined from 48.6 percent in 2015-16 to 45.8 percent in 2019. According to the World Bank poverty and Gender Assessment 2022, the restrictions during the pandemic affected economic activities of many households, leading to an increase in poverty rate to about 53.4 percent, a level last seen in 2008. Furthermore, according to the 2020 IHS, poverty has increased both in rural and urban areas. This implies that poverty and deprivation is on the rise in the country, with rural areas being the most affected. The government and partners have intensified social protection programmes through cash transfers and food aid in the past two years.

In terms of political developments, The Gambia successfully conducted a presidential election in 2021 and a parliamentary election in 2022, both of which were deemed free and fair by domestic and international observers. The country is currently preparing for local government mayoral and chairmanship elections slated for the second quarter of 2023. In December 2022, the country witnessed a foiled coup by members of the security forces, who attempted to overthrow the democratically elected government. The incident was met with condemnation from Gambians and the global community. In addition, the Senegalese Casamance region continue to experience intermittent tensions between the separatist group and the Senegalese armed forces. This has led to internal displacements in the southern part of The Gambia (parts of West Coast Region) and an influx of refugees. The government and partners continue to provide humanitarian support to those affected by the conflict.

In July 2022 victims of the flash floods received humanitarian support to mitigate the effects of the disaster. The Gambia's susceptibility to the impact of climate change has resulted in a recurrence of flooding, droughts, and windstorms in recent years. The flash floods were the worst the country recorded in nearly half a century, totaling 276mm of rainfall in 3 days.

In addition, a concerning development in The Gambia in 2022 was the outbreak of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI), which resulted in the deaths of at least 70 children in the country. The disease was reported to particularly affect children under the age of two and had a high mortality rate. The government and its partners promptly responded to minimize the fatality rate of the disease.

Furthermore, the government is currently formulating its medium-term Development plan (NDP) which will be focused on post-pandemic recovery and build resilience of the country against adverse shocks.

2

UN THE GAMBIA SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Overview of Cooperation Framework

The Gambian United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2021 is a five-year strategic partnership framework between the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the Government of The Gambia (GoTG). However, the UNDAF was extended for an additional 2 years to ensure alignment of the new Cooperation Framework with the government's National Development Plan. The formulation of the UNDAF was highly participatory, involving stakeholders including government (both central and regional) the National Assembly, CSOs and persons living with disabilities. The UNDAF was developed to align with government's NDP (2018-2021) and the country's previous long-term vision (Vision 2020). The framework has been supportive of the government's medium-term development priorities in line with UN guiding principles.

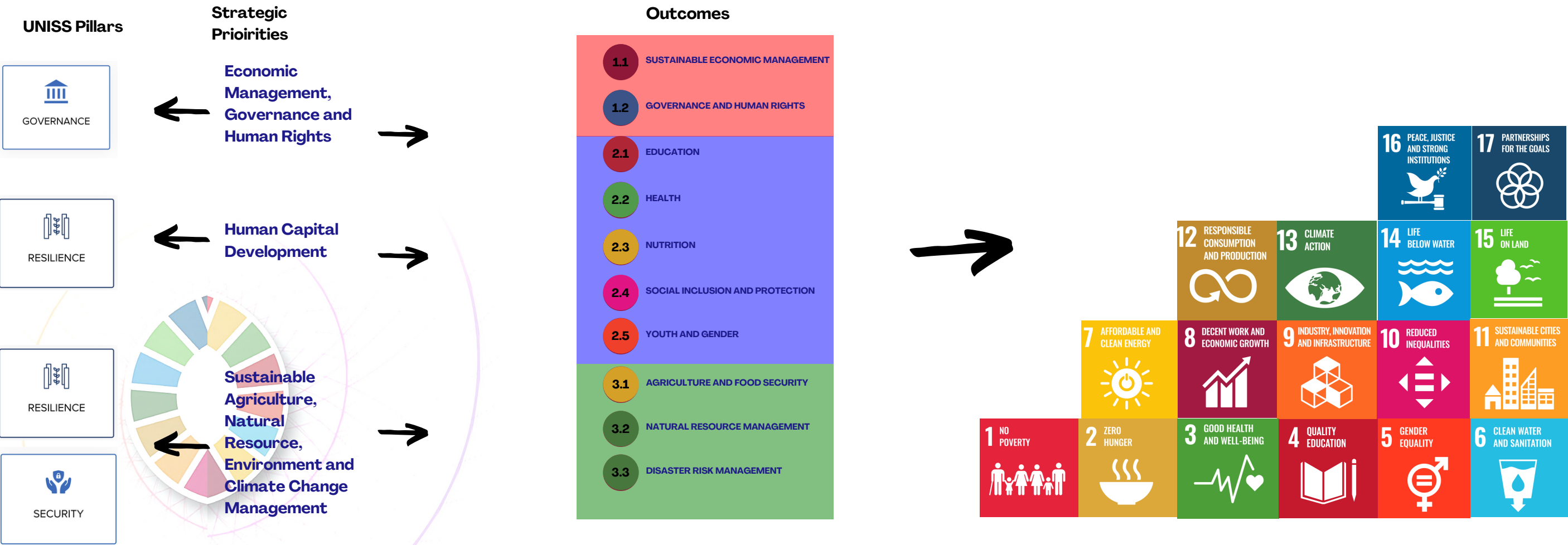
Key highlights and milestones of the UN's strategic work over the past years include support to government's transition process to democratic rule, the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the support to the peace development nexus through the peace building fund. In addition, UN support has enhanced the economic and business environment while promoting environmental sustainability and provision of basic social services. The UN has also supported initiatives geared towards the empowerment of women and girls, including their representation in decision making and participation, access to economic opportunities, and elimination of harmful traditional practices.

The UNDAF has three priority areas with ten outcomes and specific indicators. The priority areas and outcomes were aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2030, and United Nations Integration Strategy for the Sahel pillars (UNISS).

While the UN needs to increase its efforts to provide better support for the most vulnerable in society, especially women and persons living with disabilities, the UN is at the forefront of promoting the welfare and needs of those most at risk of being left behind. The UN was able to provide humanitarian, financial and technical support to the government and people of The Gambia.

As part of its technical support, the UNCT was a key player in the government's transitional justice process through the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission (TRRC) which brought to light the various human rights violations and culminated to the development of a white paper to address the concerns highlighted.

Also, over the UNDAF period, the UN supported to build the capacities of young people interested in entrepreneurship to become self-employed whilst growing their businesses to create viable job opportunities for other youth in their communities. UN initiatives exposed the youth to skills and entrepreneurship opportunities which will ease the burden of depending on government for jobs and curb challenges posed by unemployment.





“My biggest motivation has been wanting to do things that people think cannot be done by a woman.” Ellen S. Sambou has the zeal to defy the odds in a male-dominated field. Studying Refrigeration and Air conditioning at GTTI was an undertaking she chose, so that she can encourage more women to challenge the norm and realize their full potential. “I chose this because it is a field widely dominated by men and I believe that women should not be left behind” she shared. In the beginning, it was not easy for Ellen due to stereotypes, however her drive to attain tangible results in this field for a fair workforce kept her determined. Similar to other students who struggle to balance their adult responsibilities with pursuing higher education, the financial strain almost became unbearable. However, Ellen's strong resolve assured her that she could surmount any hindrances that stood in the way of achieving her dreams. The grant that she received from the UN had an immense impact on her ability to repair and maintain cooling equipment. She stated that her skills and income were significantly boosted. “With knowledge of the opportunities in the sector and the enormous impact it can create, I want more women to follow my footsteps.”



1.1

GOVERNANCE, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT



UNCT was also able to support women and youth with skills and funds to start a business and improve their livelihoods. The support was targeted to vulnerable individuals from marginalized communities including women and youth, especially returnees.

To ensure improved national capacities and ensure private sector competitiveness, the UNCT supported numerous interventions in the areas of entrepreneurship and skills development, including provision of access to finance. The main objective was to improve livelihood skills and discourage the youth from embarking on irregular migration. Also, the UN in line with the principle of leaving no one behind provided capacity building to businesses as well as startup opportunities for persons with disabilities and women.

The UN provided skills, entrepreneurship training, and business management to 2,559 youth through the Empretec Model. Through the Songhai Initiative in collaboration with the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Migration Project, UN supported 388 (320 female and 68 male) MSMEs to improve their productive capacities. 75 youth were also trained in diverse skills through national training institutions, with 90 over percent gaining immediate employment after their training. Furthermore, 80 youth were supported through training in business plan development and marketing for packaging. The Gambia Chamber of Commerce & Industry was also supported in the development of its e-commerce platform feasibility study and the establishment of an incubator Centre. UNDP also worked with GCCI and partners to organize the National Business Forum - a platform for public private dialogue.

In addition, ITC facilitated the training of about 2085 youth and women (1196 were women) on skills and entrepreneurship of which 180 were provided with grants to start or expand their businesses and 300 supported with start-up toolkits to facilitate self-employment. The skills training included traditional skills such as carpentry, welding and fabrication, construction, tiling, etc. It also included climate smart agriculture, solar and ICT. The entrepreneurship support included market linkages such as trade fairs, establishment of production centres and packaging hubs for small businesses and support to the entrepreneurship ecosystem. Of those trained, 78 were returnee migrants. These skills and entrepreneurship support were part of the wider Tekki Fii programme funded by the European Union and implemented with other partners which officially closed at the end of 2022. The programme provided skills training to over 7,500 youth, supported over 4, 821 small business and created over 9,500 jobs. The Tekki Fii closure also witnessed the launch of the National Employment Policy and Action Plan to further sustain and build on these efforts.

Through IOM support, 672 returnees completed the entrepreneurship training, a precondition for receiving IOM micro-business reintegration assistance. At the end of the training, each participant was able to develop a simple viable business plan for their venture initiative; 607 business plans were developed, and 72 businesses registered. In addition, 44 returning migrants were trained in solar installation, poultry, repair, and maintenance of small engines and smartphone repairs through referral to Instituto Marques de Valle Flôr (IMVF).

In line with strengthening national and sub-national institutions of planning, budgeting and monitoring, the UNDP continues to support capacity building of the planning cadre under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

Furthermore, 20 Institutions were supported through capacity building, operational procedures updating for enhanced operational performances for reporting period. UNDP and UNDCF supported 16 planning, budgeting and monitoring processes and systems 5 of which are at national level and 11 at the sub national levels. This support included technical assistance of capacity building, systems infrastructure development, financial assistance inclusive economic planning and management efficiency and evidence-based planning and reporting.

In addition, UNDP, IOM, ITC and ILO collectively supported the formulation of 9 policies/ strategies and 3 national statistical surveys (including the labour force survey), study on cross border traders, policy paper on poultry to support effective gender sensitive policy formulation, referencing, evidence-based decision making, learning and sharing. UNDP supported the formulation of the green-recovery focused NDP 2023-27 and midterm review of seven local government strategies. UNDP further supported the the revision of the domestic tax regulation and supported several domestic resource mobilization advocacy programmes through radio and print media thus contributing to the record high tax revenue collected by the government. Support was also given in the formulation of a national debt strategy which is being implemented now to ensure that the country moves out of debt stress.



1.2

GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

UN collaboration and partnership helped set up institutional frameworks that strengthened human rights promotions especially for persons living with disabilities in line with the programming principles of leaving no one behind.

In line with the principle of leaving no one behind, the UNDP and UNICEF supported Mobile Legal Aid Clinics in 5 Regions and established 3 legal aid desks in all the prisons to ensure every citizen irrespective of socio-economic background has access to free legal services. As a result, 244 (143 F, 101 M) community members received free legal, mediation and social service. Whilst 212 (205M, 7F) inmates, including 37 child offenders received free legal consultation resulting in 77 cases (71 M, 6 F) including the 37 children granted bail, 3 cases (2 M, 1 F) withdrawn, another 3 acquitted and 6 convicted.

The UNDP upscaled the technical capacity of 293 (226 female, 107 male) police officers on community policing that incorporates child and gender-related crimes and response. To complement this, 161 (79 female 82male) community members in three regions were also trained on community policing to foster trust between the police and their local communities to combat crime. A total of 40 (22 female, 18male) participants from the MoJ, GPF, DSW, and CSOs were trained on reporting, protection and prosecution of SGBV offences for an integrated SGBV service delivery. To diffuse community tension fostering peaceful coexistence, 10 Alternative Dispute Resolution Secretariat staff technical skilled were upscaled on mediation, negotiation and reconciliation to respond communal conflict.

UNICEF supported 57 Justice professional (Social Workers, Probation Officers, Police Prosecutors, Prison Officers, Lawyers, Police Officers, Drug Law Enforcement Agents) through training on access to a child friendly justice system in the Gambia, to ensure the realization children's rights by institutions mandated to promote their rights and ensure that rule of law principles are upheld in all legal processes affecting children. In addition, 77 Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs) in all regions were trained on child justice administration to support children in conflict with the law and link them to legal and social services. Also, capacity of criminal justice practitioners (prosecutors and law enforcement officials) was strengthened to combat trafficking in persons in The Gambia and strengthen skills is investigation and prosecution.

In 2022, the IOM supported the development of the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS)[1] together with the installation of office equipment at 3 main Ports of Entry (Amdallai, Giboro and Farafenni) to support immigration with migration data collection. 40 (11 female, 29 males) Immigration Officers were trained in the use of Migration MIDAS for exit and entry processing of travellers at border crossing points through collection and analysis of migration data to inform policy making. The IOM supported the establishment of a MIDAS laboratory at the Gambia Immigration Department (GID) training school in Tanji. An additional 20 (5 female, 15 male) officials from the Police and GID were trained on transnational organized crime. This training improved the skills and knowledge of officials to better detect and respond to transnational crime in the country. Other migration-related interventions include construction of 1 new border post and equipped in Sabi to improve immigration service delivery for safe and orderly migration of travelers; donation of a patrol vehicle to ensure effective border patrols and a speed boat donated for sea surveillance.

A National Referral Mechanism for protection and assistance of vulnerable migrants (including victims of trafficking) was validated and adopted by the government with support of IOM. About 60 (15 female, 45 male) immigration officials received capacity building on document security and protection of vulnerable migrants.

Several legal, regulatory and policy frameworks were promulgated in 2022 to ensure increased access to justice and protection of human rights. To support the implementation of the new Disability Act in relation to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a Persons with Disabilities Policy 2022-2031, and the Strategic Action Plan 2022-26 was completed and validated in 2022. In addition, the government with the support of UNICEF has commenced the formulation of a Child Labour Policy to protection of underage children in the labour market. To ensure the protection of children through strong legal frameworks, a technical committee is already in place to facilitate the revision of the Children's Act.

At the heart of any thriving community are citizens who live in peace, however, this was not the case for the bustling community of Gambisara. Unlike most communities in The Gambia, Gambisara is fortunate to have a police station 20 kilometers away, the Basse Police Station. However, for decades, officers were granted minimal access into the community by its traditional leaders. According to Police Commissioner Lamin Jaiteh, this resulted in few reported criminal cases, and increase in crime rates.

To address these issues, The Gambia Police Force in partnership with UNDP and stakeholders initiated Community Policing that was widely rolled out in 2020. Three years on, residents of Gambisara are today experiencing a new wave of enthusiasm in collaborating with the local police. Ali Bongo, leader of the community policing volunteer in Gambisara said, since the launch of the initiative, issues of rape, child abuse and petty theft has reduced, noting the peaceful coexistence among residents of Gambisara and its border communities.

Confirmed by a resident of Gambisara, Kumba Mbaye recalls the high rate of motorbike accident affecting children before, but with the community policing initiative, these cases have reduced drastically. Kumba claims that they “now feel safe and motorists are careful.” Similar sentiments were made by Aji Jabbi, a youth leader, that “prior to community policing, the community experienced issues of missing children. Now, this has drastically reduced due to regular patrol by the volunteers”

According to Police Commissioner Lamin Jaiteh, policing is the business of all, and the community policing initiative is designed to restore a democratic policing culture.



When school closes for the long holiday in the summer, most students look forward to engaging in exciting activities during the month-long break. For most students in the rural areas of The Gambia however, the holiday is a time for them to work on the farm or at home or get a job to support their families. Most schools in rural areas and children from low-income households cannot afford the cost of a holiday camp, especially when it is organized by private providers.

Students out of school who do not engage in productive activities face a higher risk of engaging in harmful behaviours and practices. Long holidays can cause immense learning and academic skills loss. "Participating in this holiday camp is an educative and supportive experience that gives children everlasting memories and the opportunity to set them up for success in their future. I am grateful to have the UN support this journey for me" said Baboucarr Njie, Teacher Coordinator at Kabakoto Basic Cycle School.



2.1

EDUCATION

115,000

CHILDREN SUPPORTING WITH
SCHOOL FEEDING MEALS

15,350

LEARNING RESOURCES/
MATERIALS

Since the government launched the free education in basic education, access to education has significantly improved with children from predominantly vulnerable households getting enrolled in schools especially girls. This together with the school feeding programme supported by the UN continues to be a crucial factor in enrollment.

UN agencies, UNICEF, contributed to ensuring that children aged between 4 and 6 years benefitted from formal and informal quality learning opportunities for enhanced school readiness. To this end, UNICEF trained 250 Early Childhood Education facilitators/teachers and 50 centre managers and provided individual and school-wide learning and play materials to about 4,700 ECE and 15,350 primary children in 60 centers and 60 schools, respectively, resulting in reducing the cost burden on parents and made learning and play resources readily available. Additionally, a parenting education programme was supported by UNICEF to 200 young couples on positive parenting practices. Nine new community children's playgrounds were constructed to promote child physical and socio-emotional development. UN advocacy has led to the establishment of an Early Childhood Directorate in 2022. Support was also provided for the conduct of an Early Learning Assessment in 2022.

To increase enrolment and completion rate of children especially those excluded from quality basic and secondary education, UNICEF built capacities of 1500 community members from 25 communities, 300 members of Mothers' Clubs and School Management Committees on community engagement methods to increase enrolment and create demand for ECE services.

WFP supported 115,000 school children attending primary schools and preschools with nutritious daily hot meals in Upper River Region, Central River Region and North Bank Region. USD 836,000 was transferred to schools in Upper River region and Central River Region for school level food procurement while 960 tons of locally produced rice and beans valued at USD765,000 were procured locally and delivered to schools. Each meal provided each child with 580 kcal daily on average.

Mainstreaming Majalis (Koranic) Education into the formal education stream continued through engagement, sensitization and training. To this end, 180 Majalis operators, caregivers, and 6 facilitators were trained, basic sanitation and hygiene supplies were provided to 59 Majalis and reaching about 5,000 'Talibehs' (students). 140 committee members of Mothers' Clubs, education managers and the School Management Committees at regional and national levels equipped with skills in Safe School approaches.



2.2

HEALTH

The UN supported the strengthening of the health sector capacity to sustain the continuity of essential health-related services, including vaccination programmes for children, COVID 19 and sexual and reproductive health rights issues.

It is evident that pregnancy and childbirth will continue even while crisis situations occur. However, during such times, access to crucial Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services, including maternal health care services, is often disrupted, leaving pregnant women, new mothers and their new-borns exposed to severe health risks.

In March 2022, conflict broke out between the MFDC rebels and Senegalese forces in the Southern region of Senegal, resulting in the displacement of thousands of families living in communities around the Gambia-Senegal border in the affected area. Fatou Marie Tamba, an indigene of Arankono village visited the UN-supported mobile clinic. Luckily for her, complications with her pregnancy were detected early and she got a timely referral to the Bwiam General Hospital where she received emergency care.

"I could have lost my life due to a lack of a constant antenatal check-ups because of the unforeseen conflict in my community. However, I am grateful that I could have my unborn baby and I checked at the mobile clinic, and we were sent for proper treatment before it was too late" Fatou exclaimed.



In ensuring access to quality maternal, emergency obstetric, neonatal and child care services nationwide including in emergencies and pandemics, the United Nations (WHO, UNICEF, IOM and UNFPA) provided support to ensure universal access to health services and leaving no one behind. The UN support entailed training and capacity development of health care workers, community members, border officials and volunteers. These entail the training of 49 health professionals (doctors, midwives and nurses) on EMNCH and BEmONC signal functions, 170 health workers trained on Covid-19 prevention and other infectious diseases, 60 nurses on newborn care and IMNCI for treatment of complicated childhood illnesses at health facility level to ensure timely and appropriate treatment. Additionally, the UN supported training of 80 Village Health Workers (VHW) on management of childhood illnesses at community level. 138 health care workers were trained on the use of the Stock Management Tool which enhances efficient and timely reporting of vaccines and stock monitoring from central to the lower level.

In terms of promoting sexual and reproductive health in The Gambia, the UN expanded the availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health information and services, including family planning, through the formulation of a rights-based family planning policy, which aimed to increase the visibility of family planning as a national development strategy and to provide the country with the required advice on family planning issues. The UN continues to support the distribution of contraceptive supplies as well as the capacity building of Community Based Distributors (CBDs) who assisted in reaching the last mile. As a result, In 2022, 68,892 couple years of protection was generated. 88.2% of Service Delivery Points (SDP) that offered three (3) modern contraceptives in accordance with national protocols had no stock-outs, compared to 75.6% in 2020. (RHCS, 2022).

The UN supported the Ministry of Health to roll-out a COVID-19 vaccination campaign in border communities, starting with twenty (20) communities in the North Bank Region in December 2021. The campaign covered Five (5) regions in 2022 reaching a total of 100 border communities and hard to reach areas. A total of 7,314 (4,540F, 2,774 M) community members were reached with health education and other forms of awareness raising sessions out of which a total of 5,230 (3,234 F, 1,996M) received a single dose or full vaccination during the campaigns. The coverage of COVID-19 vaccination increased from 25.6% to 28.7% with a total of 123,433 newly vaccinated people. [R1] To further strengthen the COVID-19 health emergency preparedness and response, IOM supplied WASH facilities to 6 border communities and 4 Points of Entry (including boreholes, toilets, handwashing, and waste management), and provided cash assistance to 54 cross border traders to cope with the losses from COVID-19. In collaboration with Ministry of Health, IOM supported the development of COVID-19 specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for frontline border officials for improved border coordination and operational procedures. The SOP was validated and will be disseminated at all Points of Entry.

WASH supplies such as family kits, Aqua tabs water bladders etc were procured and prepositioned as part of the emergency preparedness plan. Additionally, UNICEF supported the testing of (250) and treatment of 343 water points including 73 in the NBR; 87 in the CRR, 67 in the URR, 54 in the LRR, and 62 in the WCR in the flood affected school, Health care facilities, and communities. In response to the flash flooding emergency in greater Banjul, NBR, and CRR, an impact assessment was conducted and as a result, 42000 people including 10,486 women, 9,526 men, 11,628 girls, and 10,562 boys in 70 communities benefited from sanitation education and hygiene promotion. As part of the flood response, IOM reached 310 households through the provision of NFI's and 4,696 (1,732 M, 2964 F) individuals living in flood affected areas in UPR and CRR with mental health and psychosocial support.

The UN (UNICEF, UNFPA) continues to support the implementation of Kabilo- Baama in Kiang East and Central River Region- North. Out of 264 health facility deliveries, no maternal death was registered due to the Kabilo Baama initiative in The Gambia's Kiang East district. The initiative also enhanced male involvement in SRHR and ending GBV including FGM and Child Marriage. In collaboration with the Office of The First Lady a National campaign to end fistula by 2030 was launched and has helped to bring obstetric fistula to the national agenda leading to the conduct of 9 fistula repair surgeries and the revitalization of the National Fistula Taskforce.

In a bid to strengthen the health system infrastructure in The Gambia through life-saving essentials for the most vulnerable, and also in driving the "one UN" delivery modality; collaboration between UNDP, WHO and WB as well as the private sector refurbished, equipped and remodeled the landscape of Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital (EFSTH)Bakau Centre into a major emergency referral hospital. This later served as a springboard for the installation of the first ever oxygen Plant for the Gambia (50Nm²/H production capacity) in October 2022 with funding of \$966,642 from UNDP, WHO, WB and Government. The success prompted Global Fund to support an additional two oxygen plants to EFSTH Banjul and Bansang Hospitals with a production capacity of 25Nm³/h that includes 400 oxygen cylinders for USD 1,302,607.63 in 2022. All three plants are expected to produce 246 oxygen cylinders a day thus reducing the annual mortality by 6,456 and improving oxygen access to approximately 640,547 people (33.3% of the population) living in Banjul, Janjanbureh, Kuntaur and Kanifing whilst reducing Government's oxygen cost reduction by an estimated 5.8%.





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme



The number of women, men and children lacking regular access to safe and nutritious food in The Gambia is projected to reach 319,600 between June and August 2023, according to a recent study by the UN.

Kaddy Jawo is a 38-year-old woman who lives with her parents in Kerr Banno, Lower Baddibu. Her husband resides in a nearby non- primary healthcare village, where nutrition screening through community health and nutrition structures is absent. Kaddy moved with her three-year-old daughter, Ndey Bah who had suffered weight loss and difficulty in feeding for a couple of weeks to her father's village (Kerr Banno). Few weeks later, during a monthly Child Health clinic in Kerr Banno, Ndey recorded low weight and Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) of 10.5cm.

Her inability to obtain her desired weight/MUAC was exacerbated by underlying medical issues. She was successfully admitted to the Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food initiative supported by the UN which helped to improve her situation. "I can now go to my husband and live happily with my other children. If I had stayed in my husband's village, I could have lost my child" said Ndey.



2.3

NUTRITION

The UN supported The Gambia's efforts to provide more equitable and high-quality nutrition-specific services to children, women, and other vulnerable groups. The support provided ensured that children, women, and other vulnerable groups had access to nutritious foods to promote healthy development. The UN continued to influence the necessary government policy commitments for the advancement of nutrition program implementation in the country.

In 2022, there has been growing concerns and threat of food insecurity that could have a bearing on the level of nutritional intake in the country. Thus, UNICEF continues to influence the necessary government policy commitments for the advancement of nutrition program implementation in the country. Following the approval of the Nutrition Policy 2021-2025, the UN supported the costing of the National Nutrition Multisectoral Strategic Plan 2022-2025. Lifesaving nutrition supplies of 1,000 cartons of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) were procured for Severe Acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment. As of October 2022, the total SAM admission was 3,038 (1,337 Males, and 1,701 Females).

UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) has in the year under review incorporated Vitamin A and deworming alongside the Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign. The Agency uses this integrated approach to further increase coverage and complement the routine Vitamin A and Mebendazole programs. 176,048 children 6-59 months were supplemented with Vitamin A and 155,044 children 12-59 months were dewormed.

210 nurses from across the country were oriented on newborn care with a focus on early initiation. This helps to build their capacity to support mothers to initiate breastfeeding early, encourage them to practice skin-to-skin care, and eventually practice exclusive breastfeeding. UNICEF supported the scaling up of mother Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) to 37 New communities in the year under review. 370 mothers benefitted from this expansion and were skilled to train caregivers on how to screen children for acute malnutrition using color-coded MUAC tapes. In 2022, 59,879 caregivers were counselled by mother MUAC champions on Infant and Young Children Feeding (IYCF).

UNICEF supported the training of 240 Vaccine Supply Group (VSG) members from 25 communities on breastfeeding counselling focusing on early initiation, exclusive breastfeeding, and continued breastfeeding for up to two years. This resulted to the orientation of 1800 antenatal women across the country.

As part of efforts to strengthen nutritional status of Gambian through food fortification, FAO has supported the development of the bio fortification strategy. In addition, fortification monitoring and surveillance (FORTIMAS) system was established. The Food Safety Quality Authority (FSQA) Laboratory was equipped with High-Performance Liquid chromatography (HPLC), Atomic absorption Machine and iChecks for analyzing chemical components in foods.

2.4

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PROTECTION

1700

PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE CONFLICT
SUPPORTED

31

SENIOR HEALTH OFFICIALS
TRAINED

The UN provided technical and financial support to the government to increase access to quality services related to protection from Gender Based Violence (GBV) and other harmful practices that undermine the holistic development of people especially women, girls and persons living with disabilities.

During the unprecedented flash floods in The Gambia in 2022, the UN launched an emergency food assistance targeting women, men, and children affected by the floods. Emergency food assistance in the form of cash distributions prevented the deterioration of food security and helped affected families meet their basic food and nutrition needs.

The UN contributed towards building a child-sensitive, gender, and shock responsive social protection system in The Gambia. This includes coordination, institutional capacity strengthening-training staff on data management systems and analysis, social protection information management systems (Social Registry data collection).

The National Disabilities Policy 2022-31 was developed and validated with UN support and a Strategic Work Plan 2022-26 developed with the Gambia Federation for the Disabled and Organizations of Persons of Disabilities. A CEDAW training for women and girls with disabilities was also supported. The Safe School Project was piloted in 15 schools in 3 regions (LRR, CRR and URR. A draft Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) protocol for Birth Registration has been developed for use by both service providers, stakeholders and customers. A total of 31 Senior health officers from the central River region were trained as part of capacity building on CRVS. A National Referral Mechanism for protection and assistance of vulnerable migrants (including victims of trafficking) was validated and 26 (15 males, 11 females) people trained on the curriculum manual as trainers.

160 (103 women-headed families, 57 male-headed families) households and over 1,700 people affected by the armed conflict have benefited from the NFIs distribution. 4560 (2891 Female, 1669 Male) IDPs and host community members have been reached through structured individual and group interventions- that includes sociocultural and recreational activities, from referral to specialized mental health and psychosocial support services, individual counseling sessions and psychoeducation sessions.

The UNDP supported the most marginalized communities in protected areas affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through the reduction of economic and social vulnerability. Community livelihood and resilience were enhanced through community based social protection schemes targeted at 718 individuals (505 women and 213 men). Furthermore, access to funding and business partnership opportunities was granted to 45 entrepreneurs out of 779 individual (488 women and 291 men) trained on entrepreneurship, financial and digital literacy, nursery management and tree grafting, soap as well as tye and dye production.

Aisha's experience of physical and sexual violence has affected both her psychological wellness and emotional state. According to her, she has on several occasions been suicidal, by hitting her head against the wall multiple times. But the thought of her little son has always been a source of strength for her to live again. She suffered rape, battering & psychological abuse from her husband, resulting in her hospitalisation.

"I had to leave the house as I could no longer take the pain, humiliation. The fact that I could always be killed was my major fear." She had to leave her husband's house and live with a friend for safety and refuge. She explained how at other times she would have to shuttle between two friends' houses to feel safe. "When I was told about the One-Stop Centre, I shed tears of hope knowing that it was possible for me to live happily again. The comfort and care I get from the centre feel like a dream" she shared.

The UN supported One-stop Centre has empowered and contributed tremendously to the safety of survivors. After weeks of undergoing counselling and psychosocial support, they come back to the centre, and you can barely tell that they were the same women. The One-Stop-Center has served as a beacon of hope to Aisha and other survivors of Gender-Based Violence in The Gambia.



59

SOCIAL WORKERS TRAINED

611

GBV SURVIVORS REACHED AND SUPPORTED

8

GBV ONE STOP CENTRES CREATED

Significant progress has been made in the policy framework with increased access and support to victims of GBV. The UN supported the setting up of a GBV toll free line for reporting and rolled out programmes that supported survivors with services to rebuild their lives.

A critical programme focus for the UN is addressing GBV and harmful traditional practices including FGM and Child Marriage. To this end, the UN supported the development, finalization, and validation of the National FGM policy with a costed implementation plan. Through a consortium of 12 member organisations with different strategic approaches to combat FGM and included Child marriage and sexual violence perpetrated against children, a UNICEF-supported programme reached 49,000 people in 77 communities in the five administrative regions of the country. 611 survivors of Gender Based violence were reached with various forms of services which include psychosocial counselling, clinical management of Rape, livelihood/economic empowerment, and legal services. 812 people (428 female 384 male) across regions were reached through activities such as intergenerational dialogue sessions, community led peace talks and recreational activities such as football tournaments geared toward strengthening local peace structures to increase access to mental health and psychosocial support for SGBV survivors. These dialogue sessions upscale and enhance reconciliation, and peacebuilding at the community level and reduce the vulnerability of women and girls.

In improving the quality of GBV services and ensuring increased access, UNFPA supported the functionality of 8 one stop centers and one GBV shelter. The capacities of 59 social workers, case managers, medical doctors, and data officers in various GBV programming areas were strengthened. 80 survivors of GBV were trained on economic livelihood reintegration back into society. They were provided with livelihood skills aiding economic empowerment and promoting their resilience and well-being.

The UN supported the development of a National out-of-school Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) manual in accordance with international standards. 20 CSE facilitators have been trained using the new manual. 1161 teachers have been trained to provide out-of-school CSE to adolescents and young people in the Gambia. Additionally, an adolescents and youth-friendly mobile phone application (Suma Tyme App) that provides access to information on sexual and reproductive health and rights and GBV for adolescents and youth in the Gambia.

On data, the UN supported the conduct of an in-depth analysis of the 2019-2020 DHS as well as support the conduct of the 2023 Population and Housing Census through the acquisition of an ESRI statistical modernisation software including installation and training of personnel, census mapping including the development of questionnaire, training and pretesting, and procurement of mapping equipment and consumables. UNFPA supported the development of an investment case for the three transformative results and a National Gender analysis.

2.5

YOUTH AND GENDER

Married with two kids, Ms Fatou lives in jenoï in Jikoko Community in LRR with her extended family. For years, Fatou was a housewife whose day evolves around doing the chores and depending on her family to take care of her basic needs. Today, she is the proud owner of a small trading business thanks to her involvement in a cash for work initiative introduced by The UN to support women and youth to start businesses while learning entrepreneurship skills along the way. “The money from the cash for work initiative helped me start a poultry business in my community which I use to help my family” said Fatou.

The cash for work model creates employment for women and youth from vulnerable communities with opportunities in public projects such as irrigation canals, poultry, vegetable gardening and Infrastructure projects. More than 45,000 Gambians have benefitted from the programme creating more than a thousand jobs.





3.1

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Fatoumatta Jallow, has spent most of her life working as a small-scale farmer in the increasingly drought-prone village of Kujew, located in Central River Region of The Gambia. Still only 43, Ms Jallow says she's witnessed significant changes to rainfall patterns in her community, making it harder and harder to earn a living as a small-scale farmer – but that changed when her local government received funds for a series of locally led adaptation activities that have strengthened the community's resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Regular periods of drought, soil erosion and increasing heat waves are taking their toll on the smallholder farmers of Kujew, a village in Banni ward some 200 km from the capital Banjul. Since the completion of the water irrigation project and market garden in Kujew in 2020 supported by the UN, the mother of four, says she has sustained herself and her family living on the profits she makes from selling the produce from her garden, better enabling her to cover her children's school fees.

4000

Cockerels Distributed

761

Women trained on Business Administration

The UN continues to be a key partner towards the attainment of the zero-hunger goal of the SDGs. To ensure the availability and affordability of farming inputs, the FAO has supported the development of a National Fertilizer Policy (2023-2033). The policy envisages a competitive fertilizer subsector that sustainably provides high quality, affordable and accessible fertilizers. This will encourage farmers to adopt climate smart and environment-friendly practices to mitigate the impact of climate change. A National Animal Feed Policy (2022-2026) was developed to promote increased and sustainable production of high-quality feeds and forages. The Animal Feed Policy will support and to enhance year-round access, and improved livestock production. Farmers will realise increased incomes and better food, and nutrition security.

In addition to supporting the development of a Bio-fortification Strategy to improve nutrition and healthy diets, the FAO also facilitated a study tour for six staff members from the National Agriculture Research Institute (four), National Seed Secretariat (one), and Ministry of Agriculture (one) to the Crop Research Institute (CRI) and Soil Research Institute (SRI) of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Ghana. This allowed the staff to interact with renowned regional scientists and learn about novel technologies, agronomic practices, and innovations that could be adopted and replicated.

Furthermore, the FAO refurbished and equipped the laboratory of the Livestock Department, provided training on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) diagnosis, Risk-Based Surveillance, and disease identification and reporting to the staff, and supported the enhancement of market access by constructing nine feeder roads that link markets and community vegetable gardens. This will greatly ease the transportation of perishable and other vegetable produce to the market.

Additionally, over 1616 farmers and an expanded number of indirect beneficiaries benefited from the delivery of 20 Findi and Cassava processing machines for value addition in the communities.

On livelihood diversification, employment creation and income generation, FAO strengthened the capacities of 150 targeted farmers on poultry, traditional broiler and small ruminant on good production and and management practices of their businesses. A total of 4000 cockerels were distributed to 2000 beneficiaries with 10 poultry schemes established benefitting 1756 farmers (1,565 F and 191M). Households received 400 small ruminants for 100 (74F and 26F) beneficiaries in project intervention sites. 50 farmers were also trained on small ruminant farming to ensure sustainability of interventions.

On bee keeping and honey production, 10 new schemes were established, each scheme received 15 beehives with related tools and equipment as well as feed, medication and vaccination. This was complemented by training of 50 participants on honey production and management. Farmers will generate income and secure their livelihood.

Fishing communities of Brufut and Tanji were supported with FAO Thiaroye technology (FTTs). The technology is energy efficient, safe, economical and emits less smoke posing less health hazards and environmental pollution. It meets international sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards. The capacities of 51 fisher folks and fisheries extension staff were enhanced on operation and maintenance, and 125 fisher folks' capacities were strengthened on production, post-harvest handling, processing and marketing of fish for improved health and hygienic food.

On improved nutrition and healthy diets, FAO supported the strengthening of capacities of partners and institutions with lab equipment that can test micronutrient levels in fortified foods, and established a monitoring system (FORTIMAS) to record data on fortification elements. Three (3) FSQA staff were supported on a Study tour to Malawi to strengthen their knowledge and skills on operating the food testing laboratory equipment. Three (3) NARI staff also went on a study to Kenya to enhance their knowledge on bio-fortified production systems. A Bio-fortification strategy and food based dietary guidelines were developed for improved nutrition and healthy diets.

WFP completed the implementation of the project to strengthen community coping mechanisms against risks of climate induced conflicts and to mitigate gender related vulnerabilities and tensions in The Gambia. WFP developed the capacity of 60 women in fabricating eco-stoves to reduce greenhouse gasses emission and minimize deforestation as a result of less use of wood fuel. The women produced 30 traditional clay made eco-stoves and 30 modern metallic eco-stoves for use and training other members of the community on the fabrication process. WFP further supported the reclamation of 13 hectares of saline rice field by applying agricultural lime and gypsum, which increased the area under rice cultivation and contributed to reduce land conflict.

To reduce the gendered impacts of women working in the fish value chain, WFP continued to improve the working and sanitary conditions for 990 women fish mongers in the three selected fishing wharfs at Tanji, Brufut and Gunjur in West Coastal Region. The construction of storage facilities, bathrooms, toilets, and sun drying racks in all the three sites was completed. WFP trained 761 of the women in business management, financial literacy, and gender mainstreaming to enhance their managerial and business skills.



3.2

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

In order to promote sustainable and integrated natural resources, the UN Country Team continued to support stakeholders in sustainable resource management through improved food security and income generation.

31,000

SEEDLINGS PLANTED IN OVER 54 COMMUNITIES

Illegal fishing has negative impacts on the health of marine ecosystems. "There are days when we struggle to have a good catch because a lot of the good fish is taken by the big vessels, sometimes illegals" cried fisherman Modou Sarr. This results in the loss of social and economic opportunities and has negative impacts on the livelihoods of legitimate fishers and coastal communities around the globe, particularly in coastal developing countries like The Gambia.

The UN is supporting the government in reviewing legal fisheries regulations, initiate dialogue, and forge strong partnerships among stakeholders in the fisheries sector to combat IUU fishing activities in The Gambia. "The legal review of the Fisheries act and the fisheries regulation will identify the policy framework in place to prevent IUU fishing and propose recommendations based on best international practices" explains DPS Darboe of The Ministry of Fisheries and Water resources.



Sustainable natural resources management continues to be at the forefront of UN interventions in country. To realize the goal of SDG 13 and 15 through community participation, FAO have trained 54 communities on sustainable assisted natural resource regeneration and agroforestry management best practices, reducing bushfires, forest degradation and deforestation and planted 31,000 seedlings.

UNDP supported the training of 200 communities nationwide on the process of transferring forest ownership to communities. As a result of this training, 29 of these communities have embarked on the process of ownership transfer and are due to be awarded community management agreements to manage their forests by the first quarter of 2023. It has been recognized globally that forests under community ownership are better managed and thus reduce instances of deforestation, forest fires etc. In line with the above, FAO supported the gazetting of 29 community forests to transfer ownership to community members. This has led to improved management of the community forests. FAO further supported the training of over 600 forest Committee members (386 male & 214 female) on improved dryland forest management, Community Forest and Joint Forest Park Management (JFPM) procedures and processes. FAO supported the development and updating of 9 Joint Forest Management Plans and establishment of Data for 73 Community Forest.

To ensure effective forest restoration and conservation through the planting of new trees, 360 participants from 60 communities that are directly involved in the protection and management of Kiang West National Park, Baobolong National Park and Kunkilling Forest Park, were beneficiaries of critical training of trainer's sessions on tree nurseries supported by UNDP. Beneficiaries were trained in nursery development and management and the skills acquired were transferred to other community members. About 281.9 ha of agroforestry areas planted with seedlings and 100 agro-forestry farmers sensitized on the benefits of adopting agroforestry practices in their farming systems.

To ensure effective conservation and management, FAO and the UNDP continues to support efforts towards using improved cooking stoves. The UN supported the fabrication and distribution of 2920 improved metallic and energy efficient cook stoves for households as a mechanism to sustainably manage forest resources. The North Bank suffers from large-scale deforestation and usage of firewood and charcoal for cooking is a significant contributing factor. The energy efficient cook stoves provided have resulted in the use of less charcoal and reduced cooking time. It is estimated that the initiative is reducing emissions by 11.98-ton CO2 a month.

Nine local conventions were signed by LGA, chiefs and alkalos for sustainable management of rangeland resources and infrastructure (control bush fires, illegal cutting of trees, manage solar powered infrastructure and use of water, prevent overgrazing, etc.).

3.3

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

The UN led in providing technical and humanitarian support to ensure functional disaster management systems are in place at various levels in the country. It supported preparedness and response systems through a timely and effective response systems with government structures.

The torrential rains in late July 2022 resulted in the loss of lives and property, with the suburbs of urban settlements being mainly affected. Almost three-quarters of the total affected population were women and children under 5 years old. Families like Fatou's in Banjul were badly affected by the heavy rains during the rainy season, which destroyed their home and left them homeless and without food.

As a result, the UN rolled out an emergency food assistance programme targeting 51,200 women, men and children affected by the worst flash floods the Gambia has experienced in nearly half a century. "Our situation could have been worse – we are without our home but with the intervention from the UN, we have sanitary items like soap, sanitary pads, detergents, and other items crucial to help us preserve our hygiene and dignity. "We also received monthly cash transfers from the UN for a period of three months to support us in feeding our families" Fatou explained.



WFP continued to support the government's risk transfer initiative by participating in the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Replica programme for the fourth year and provided macro parametric insurance coverage for drought related risks for the 2022/23 agricultural season, covering the whole country. This covered 49,902 potential drought affected persons with a \$ 2.74 million crop insurance policy. The report by the Department of Water Resources covering the period July-August-September, shows that the 2022 rainfall season underwent more variability than the 2021 season with events such as early to normal onset, late or normal withdrawal of rains and short to average dry spells. This was confirmed by the "Africa RiskView" report 2022/2023 that showed that the rainfall distribution within the sowing window of the 2022/2023 season was characterized by poor performance in parts of The Gambia that led to failure in planting. The planting failure affected a total of 153,902 people who are in need of food assistance. Consequently, ARC Ltd announced a payout of USD187,641 to WFP for the response, and the government will also receive a similar amount. WFP will use the payout for unconditional cash transfer, targeting selected vulnerable households in 2023 as per the approved WFP ARC Replica Operational plan.

The implementation of the 5-year project funded by the Climate Adaptation Fund "Rural Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience (RICAR)" started in March 2022. The targeting was conducted using a geospatial analysis and participatory approach and 57 villages within 28 Wards that are most vulnerable to drought and other natural shocks were selected.

WFP led the UN Inter-Agency Disaster Management Working Group to support the Government (NDMA) in coordinating different disaster response including the collaboration with the UN Disaster Assessment Team deployed during the rainy season.

As the country continues to battle with the effects of Climate Change and other hazards, the UN remains a key partner towards ensuring effective disaster risk management. In 2022, FAO supported the training of 62 national staff and extension workers on interpretation of climate information and communication methods to enhance adoption and usage of early warning information for decision making (FAO). The National Environment Agency's (NEA) Lab was equipped with Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GCMS) equipment to monitor and analyse the impact of climate change on natural resources and 8 staffs trained on its operations and maintenance.

In addition, IOM supported the training of 152 (101 M, 51 F) government & non state actors on climate-induced migration, green jobs, and nature-based solutions; and launched the first studies in The Gambia

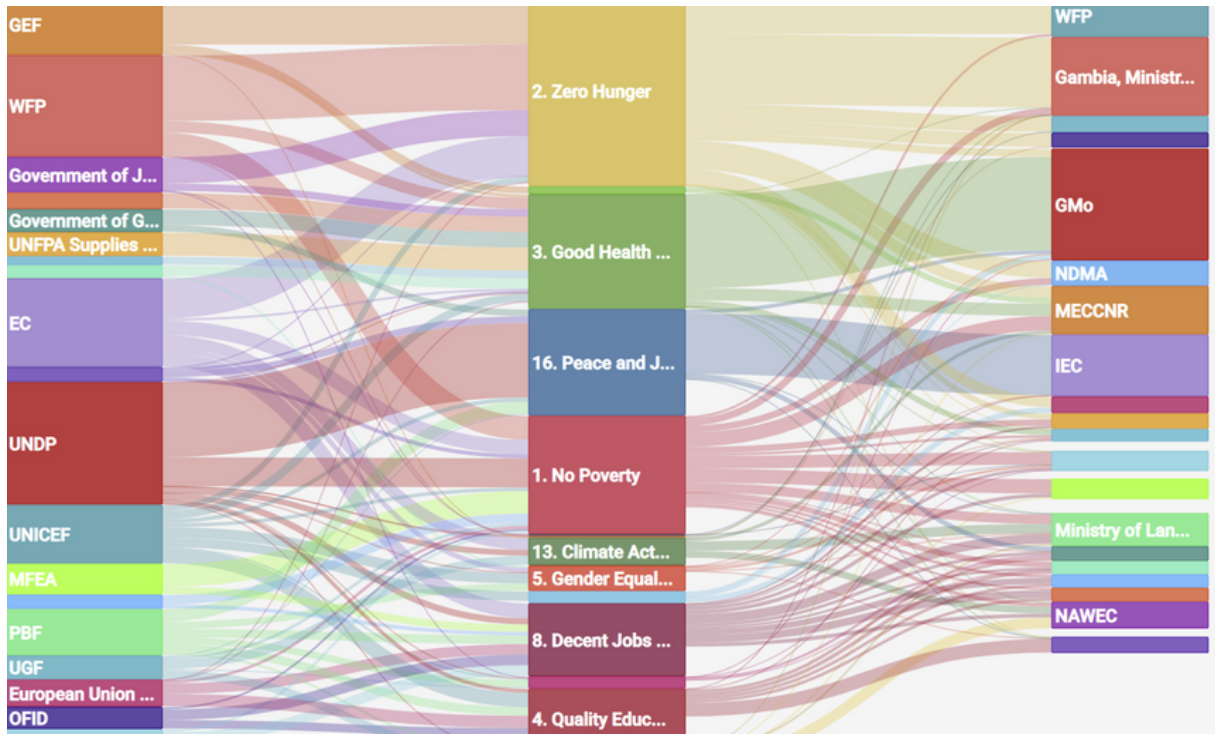
Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2022, the UNCT continued to forge strong partnerships with the government and at multinational and bilateral levels to ensure financing for the SDGs and the attainment of the national development priorities. The development of the Integrated Financing Framework (IFF) was initiated by the government in collaboration with the UN in 2022. However, the process was hindered by delays in the NDP process. Innovative partnerships forged by UN The Gambia helped to advance the SDGs and leverage financing to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A joint programme under the Joint SDG Fund has advanced several elements of domestic resource mobilization towards SDG Financing. The UN Resident Coordinator and the UK High Commissioner co-chair the Development Partners' Group (DPG), the country's main development partners' coordination forum. The DPG serves as a critical forum for development partners to discuss strategic issues important to the Gambia, such as Security Sector Reform, Democracy and Strengthening Good Governance amongst others.

One of The key highlights has been collaboration among UNCT members to implement projects in the spirit of delivering as one. The UN in The Gambia Joint programs have been able to secure funding to promote the UN agenda. UN agencies collaborated to implement The “Strengthening Sustainable and Holistic Reintegration of Returnees in The Gambia”.

This project is implemented to provide the requisite support to returnees, so they receive the need psychosocial and entrepreneurial support to rebuild their lives and positively reintegrate in their communities. A total of \$18.2 million was acquired for joint programming through the peace building fund and other funding frameworks. The UNCT continued to work closely with partners like the IMF and The World Bank to support The country's national development priorities and sustainable development goals.

Figure 1: Linking Investments, Partners and the Sustainable Development Goals in Gambia



This graphic shows how investments are contributing to the work of different agencies and partners to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. The width of the lines represents the relative number of resources being contributed.

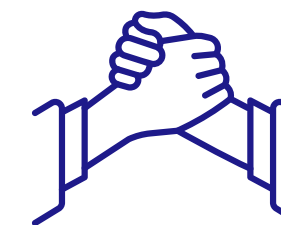
Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency

UN Communications Group (UNCG) used different channels to disseminate the UN's contributions to The development of The Gambia as guided by the UNSDCF. Strong media engagements led by UNCG helped to shape the narrative on the COVID19 pandemic in the country, this includes a campaign highlighting UN's contribution to the shipment, deployment and promotion of COVID-19 vaccines and countering vaccine misinformation. The UNCG also supported important international observances including 16days of activism against GBV, Climate friendly initiatives & the promotion of peace and countering hate speech during and after elections. The 2022 UN Day Commemorations involved a strategic engagement with development partners and the Government, and an all-staff event. The UNCG supported the implementation of the social media plan for the day, organization of the high-level cocktail with government and providing visibility of flagship UN Gambia initiatives across the country.

Operations Management Team (OMT) - Implemented the Business Operation Strategy in 2022, with a majority of agencies actively participating in the identified common areas. As a result of this, the UNCT implemented a business operating strategy that was in line with the efficiency agenda, and the UN in The Gambia successfully migrated to the BOS online platform. This was further cemented with a training of focal persons in different agencies.

Gender Technical Group - The GTG was active throughout the year, regularly meeting every month to discuss issues and implement activities together. The GTG supported the roll out of the UNCT SWAP Gender scorecard & produced the related report and established the interagency task team responsible for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations. The group successfully led the implementation of activities aimed at breaking the biases against women throughout the year. This includes the 16days of activism against GBV, women's day and other related commemorations to highlight the plights of women whilst calling for the creation and development of policies and initiatives that promote their growth, holistic development, and protection.

Disability Group (DG) - The UN in the Gambia funded by the UNPRPD MPTF currently has a dedicated project on advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, in The Gambia. The Government domesticated the CRPD through the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act. Part III of the Act demands the establishment of the National Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities, a council mandated to, amongst other things, promote the implementation and the equal access to opportunities for persons with disabilities. The establishment of the Council is in line with UPR recommendations calling for the establishment of bodies mandated to advocate for, monitor and implement activities geared towards protection and promotion of Disability rights. In 2022, the UN supported the establishment of this crucial council which is key to the promotion and fulfilment of the rights of Persons with Disabilities in The Gambia.





Evaluations and Lessons Learned

The UNCT in the Gambia conducted an evaluation of the UNDAF in 2022. The objectives was to assess the level of progress in the implementation of the UNDAF and as well highlight key challenges and lessons learned during its implementation. Evaluation findings reveal that:

Overall, UNDAF 2017-2023 was found to be highly relevant given the country context in 2017 and has remained relevant in guiding the UNs intervention in the country. Despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the UNDAF remained flexible in galvanizing the needed support to address the immediate and long-term impact of the pandemic.

·The findings revealed that the absence of a robust TOC has affected the attribution of UN intervention to the changes in outcomes. The results matrix is at outcome level with weak linkage with UN's programmatic interventions.

·There is lack of harmonization in the UN support. There is some evidence of lapses in terms of delineation of responsibilities across agencies. This has led to duplication of efforts in some instances where agencies get into activities which are core mandates of other agencies without using the joint programme approach.

UNDAF implementation structures were adequate and timely constituted with well-defined TORs to guide their activities and operations. However, some of the coordination structures were much more effective than others in terms of membership, participation, and functionality.

The UNDAF has been a powerful instrument for convening and galvanizing needed support during times of crises. The UNCT in The Gambia had played a crucial role in convening, planning and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The same can be said of the timely response UNCT provides during climate related crises such as floods, windstorms etc.

The UNs approach of implementation using joint programmes has been effective in The Gambia. Through joint programming, the UN has played a crucial role in the promoting the country's transitional justice agenda. This is evident through the support provided to the TRRC and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. Thus, there is the need to further strengthen joint programming.

During the UNDAF implementation, the UN has forged strong partnerships with the government as the main implementing partner, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and Civil society organizations. ·The UNDAF was successful in establishing the relevant coordination structures, with government as key members. However, the participation of Civil Society and senior government officials could be enhanced. Thus, the general coordination structures of the UNDAF should be aligned with the NDP to avoid multiplicity of committees, especially at higher level representation.

The UNDAF did not adequately do a risk analysis of risks and mitigation measures. As a result, implementation was affected by both climate related shocks as well as the COVID-19 pandemic. The Gambian economy is increasingly vulnerable to weather related shocks that should be adequately catered for in subsequent planning frameworks. ·Issues on gender mainstreaming and vulnerable populations were not adequately captured in the UNDAF. Thus, the indicators were generally not gender disaggregated.

Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

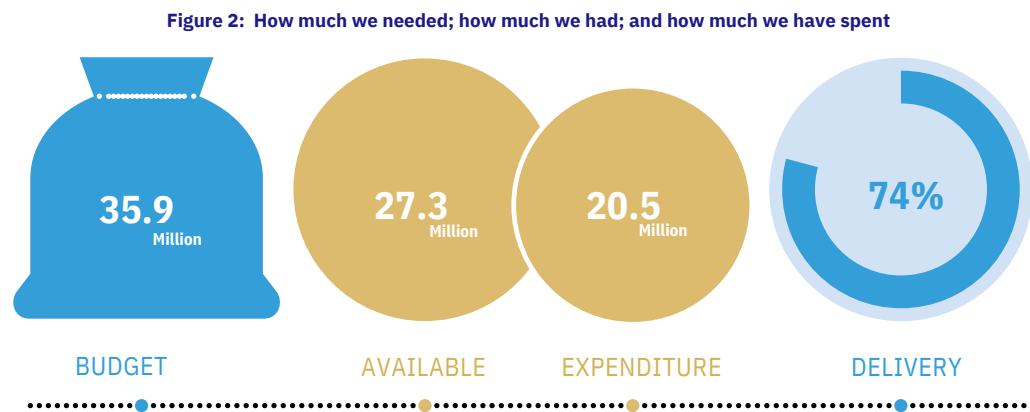


Figure 3: Allocation of available resources across each of the Sustainable Development Goals

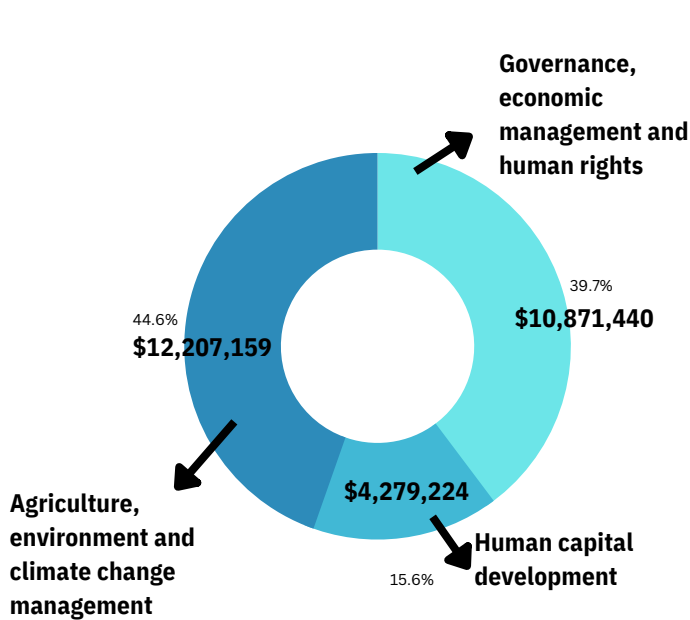
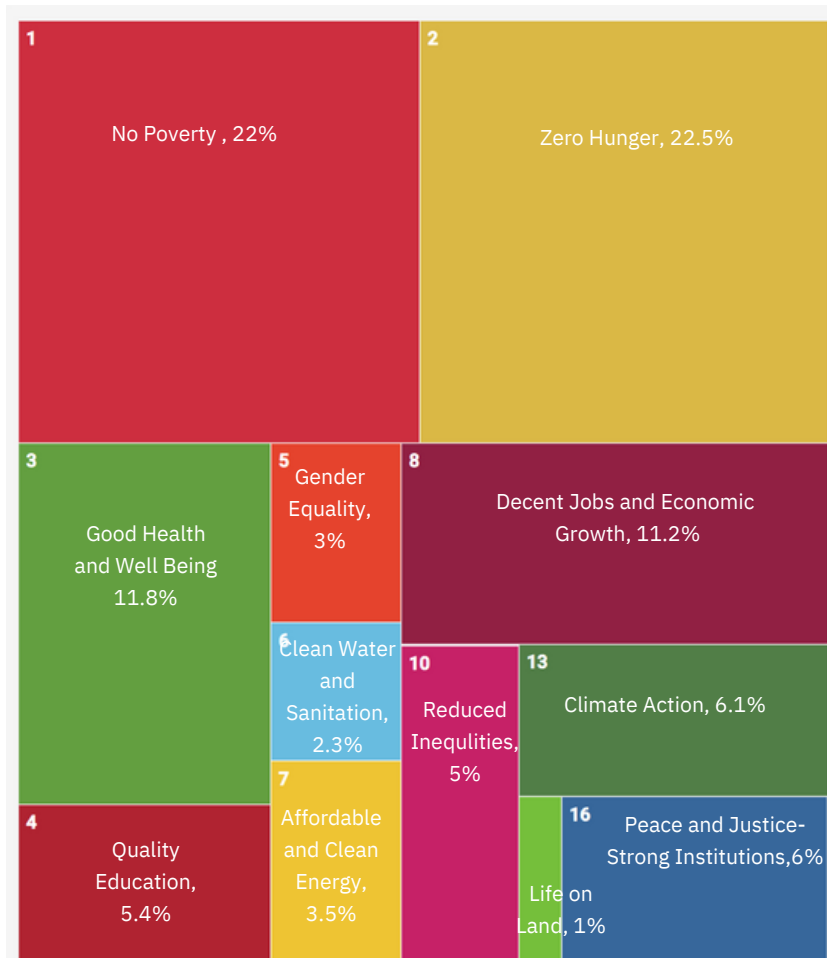


Figure 4: Total Available Resources by Priority Area

The UNCT in The Gambia continued to use the UN INFO platform for planning, monitoring, and reporting of its Joint Work Plan in 2022, to ensure accountability and transparency of results as well as coherence in delivery.

The report of the funding framework has shown that total required resources for the 2022 JWP was USD 35,963,09 out of which USD 27,357,823 was mobilized, leaving a funding gap of USD 8,605,268 for the JWP. Total expenditure across all strategic priorities was USD 20,544,631, representing a 74% delivery rate.

As part of its resource mobilization efforts, the UNCT continued to work closely with partners to mobilize the needed resources to continue the vaccine rollout as part of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Other resources mobilized were directed at supporting the country in addressing climate change-related disasters such as the flooding in July 2022.

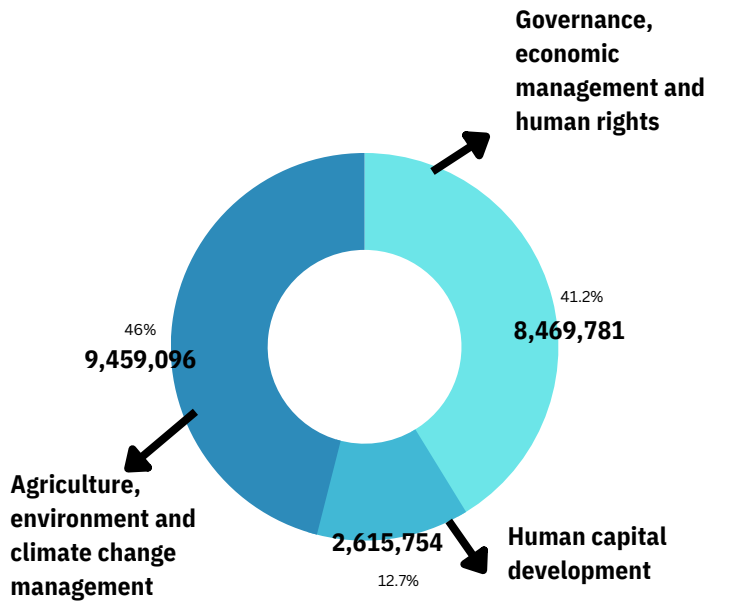


Figure 5: Total Expenditure by Priority Area

Overall, the analysis of the funding framework by strategic priority indicates that the UN priority spending area (46%) in 2022 was on agriculture and food security, environment and climate change and disaster risk management. This is followed by spending on poverty reduction and provision economic opportunity for the youth and women which accounts for 41.2%.

Figure 6: Delivery Rate by Strategic Area

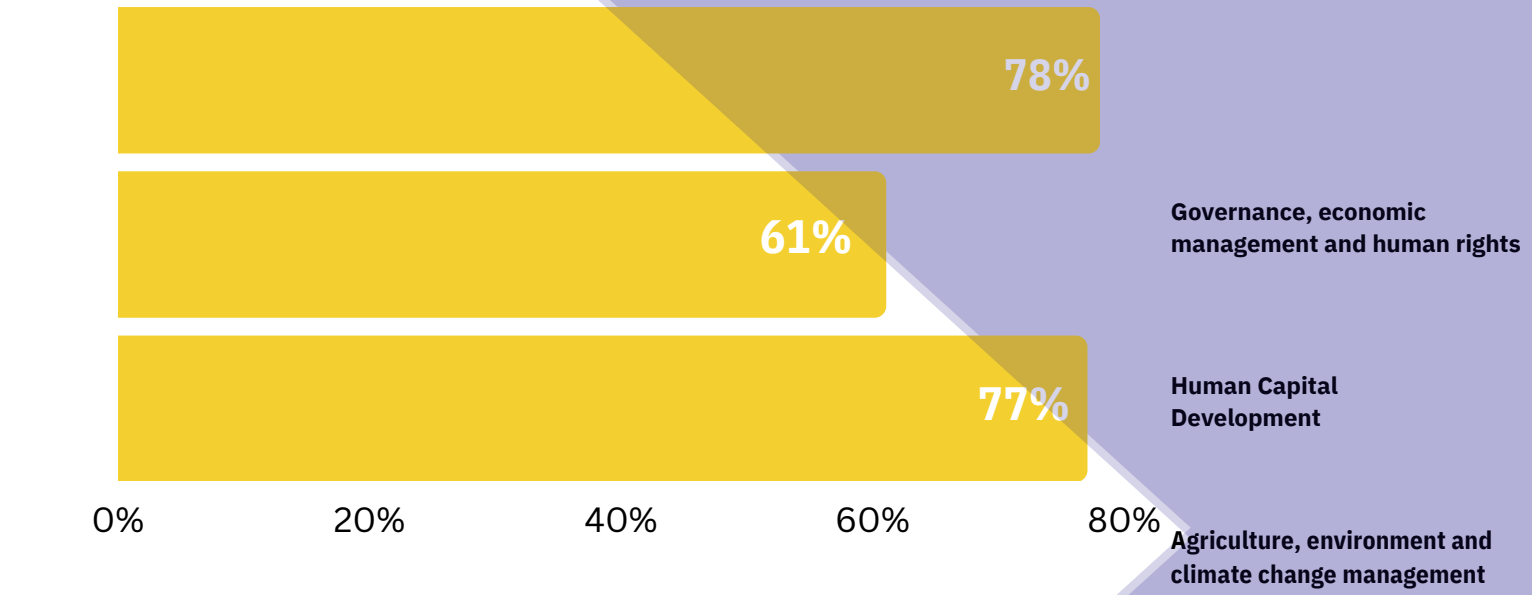


Table 1: Financial overview by outcome

Outcome	Required Resources (US\$)	Available Resources (US\$)	Expenditure (US\$)	% Delivery (a/e)
Economic Management	8,803,706	8,659,815	6,686,207	77%
Governance & Human Rights	4,935,025	2,211,625	1,783,574	81%
Education	1,985,000	1,173,029	1,007,148	86%
Health	2,993,705	2,465,311	1,402,039	57%
Nutrition	7,540,193	4,339,274	4,019,023	93%
Social Protection	1,262,618	674,618	330,369	49%
Youth & Gender	694,295	694,295	604,227	87%
Agriculture & Food Security	5,260,004	4,800,311	2,938,242	61%
Natural Resources & Environment Management	1,339,564	1,193,564	1,027,360	86%
Disaster Risk Management	1,148,981	1,145,981	746,442	65%











	Required Resources (US\$)	Available Resources (US\$)	Expenditure (US\$)
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	5,002,335	5,046,069	2,894,204
 International Labour Organization	135,000	135,000	135,000
 IOM UN MIGRATION	1,255,334	1,260,334	1,063,561
 International Trade Centre	348,000	348,000	348,000
 UN DP	9,906,415	5,783,282	5,496,491
 UN CDF	1,973,425	3,023,767	2,500,670
 UNFPA	1,488,185	1,488,185	1,305,241
 unicef	3,506,225	2,814,831	1,437,054
 WFP World Food Programme	9,923,622	5,279,305	4,915,360
 UNODC	951,550	920,050	750,050

Figure 6: Delivery Rate by Strategic Area

*Financial information captured in this section represents activities that are aligned to the UNDAF 2017-2022 as at March , 2023

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UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2023



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Programming and SDG implementation

The key priorities of the UN in The Gambia in implementing the final year of the UNDAF will focus recovery efforts related to COVID-19 including focusing on inclusive economic and democratic governance, enhancing resilient food and nutrition security as well as promoting youth and women empowerment, employability, and entrepreneurship.

New Cooperation Framework

The new CF 2024-2028 which is currently being developed will be finalized and signed jointly with the government in 2023. As we develop the CF, we will support the national government in formulating a Green Recovery-focused National Development Plan (2023- 2027) and a Long-Term Development Vision (Vision 2050) (RF-NDP and LTDV). The RF-NDP which is as a successor to the NDP will serve as the vehicle through which the short- and medium-term needs of the country will be comprehensively addressed while the LTDV will chart the long-term trajectory of the country's development and transformation.



Strategic Financing and Partnerships

The UNCT under the leadership of The RC will continue to play a strong convening role in helping to facilitate incentives and an enabling environment for private sector investments in the SDGs. A joint resource mobilization strategy will be developed to raise resources from key partners including government, private sector and development partners for the advancement of The SDGs. Finance is crucial to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable. Given that the UN is currently developing the CF, the new CF will be accompanied by a robust resource mobilization and communication strategy. As part of the financing framework, The UNCT will also develop an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) in collaboration with government and other partners to advance the SDGs and Agenda 2030.



Leaving No One behind, Human Rights and Gender Equality

The UN System in The Gambia will continue to support government in strengthening capacities to deliver quality services to everyone while ensuring no one is left behind in the process. Gender equality, prevention, social inclusion, and a human rights-based approach will continue to be mainstreamed in all UN programs to ensure that the UN programming principles are enshrined in all our activities. The UN will continue to advocate for increased accountability and equality. We will continue to assist those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in their socioeconomic recovery, while also strengthening health and disaster preparedness systems through the development of effective systems.

In addition, UN thematic groups – Gender, Youth and Disability inclusion will continue to engage with women, youth and persons living with disability through various platforms. The UN will ensure that the most vulnerable people are empowered as change agents to innovate and build a better future whilst being independent and their rights fully respected.





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