

**THE
GAMBIA
2019
2021
REPORT**



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Acknowledgement

UNDP The Gambia acknowledges the Government of The Gambia, our development partners, civil society, the private sector and implementing partners that play a key role in achieving the National Development Plan and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs by #2030. The support and collaborations made contribute towards the delivery of our programmatic interventions and the results captured in this report.

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Foreword

Aissata De
UNDP Resident Representative
The Gambia

2019, 2020 and 2021 were exceptional years for The Gambia and the world.

In 2019, The Gambia demonstrated strong determination to advance its nascent democracy and become a world leader in climate change. The Gambia was one of only two countries to have made commitments sufficient to limit temperature increases within the 1.5 degrees Celsius range by the end of the 21st century in compliance with the Paris Agreement (and 3 years later, in 2021, was the only country in the world to have kept this promise!). A new draft Constitution was released following extensive consultations, and the nation and world witnesses for the first time ever, confessions to serious crimes and human rights violations over 30 weeks of live streamed hearings by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.

However, with the emergence of COVID-19 globally, The Gambia was not spared. In 2020 and 2021, the pandemic had an unprecedented impact on people and the development landscape in a complex transition context with overlapping political reforms (Transitional Justice, Rule of Law, Human Rights, Elections, Security Sector Reform). COVID-19 created significant disruption across The Gambia, negatively impacting the communities, especially women and people with disabilities, as well as local and national economies and systems.

UNDP provided immediate support in all areas of the COVID-19 response through the crisis management team and the COVID-19 Accountability Framework. Direct cash transfers were provided to 6,427 seriously affected tourism workers, support was provided to MSMEs, the re-opening of marketplaces was facilitated, and diverse protective materials and equipment were provided amongst a myriad of other activities undertaken to protect the Gambian people. UNDP facilitated public-private partnerships on the rehabilitation of an admissions hospital, directly contributing to saving lives, even after the pandemic. On COVID-19 response, UNDP funded the development of a joint UN/Government Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in The Gambia and will continue to serve as the technical lead supporting the Resident Coordinator and the UN System in The Gambia.

With the fallout from the Russia-Ukraine war and new challenges in the horizon, UNDP remains steadfast in its commitment to support the Government to #BuildForwardBetter through the acceleration of recovery efforts centred on safeguarding people's lives and livelihoods.

The Gambia at a Glance



Aerial view of Banjul, capital city of The Gambia



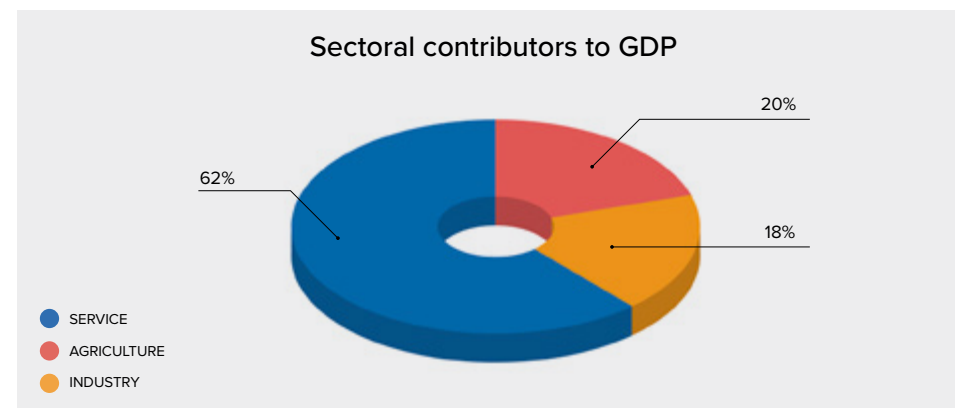
The Gambia is one of the smallest countries in mainland Africa. It became independent from the British in 1965. The country is 11,800sq KM in size and is divided into five rural regions and two urban municipalities. The current population density is 125 per km – one of the top five highest in Africa. The Gambia has a modest economy that relies primarily on tourism, rain-dependent agriculture, and remittances, making it vulnerable to external shocks. These shocks such as the drought in 2011, the sub-regional Ebola crisis in 2014, and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 have led to minimal and volatile economic growth over time that is lower than the targeted 7% growth for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) due to the undiversified nature of the economy.

The Gambian economy grew by 6.0% in 2019 compared to 6.5% in 2018 due to a decline in agricultural productivity because of late, inadequate rainfall. Growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is driven by tourism, trade, construction, and improvements in electricity provision. Economic growth averaged 5.6% between 2016 and 2019 but contracted to around -0.2% in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated impact on tourism and related sectors. Notwithstanding the impact of the various waves of the pandemic on economic activity, growth rebounded to 5.6 percent in 2021 primarily due to some recovery in the tourism sector and robust private construction. Inflation increased to 7.6 percent in December 2021 and accelerated further to 8.3

percent in February 2022. Fiscal performance weakened in 2021 as spending pressures mounted due primarily to additional health spending and election-related security spending.

In the area of agriculture and food security, most of the rural population depends on crops and livestock for their livelihood. The sector witnessed a slight revival in 2018 and grew by 0.9% compared to the sharp contraction of -4.4% in 2017. However, due to erratic rainfall in the 2018-2019 cropping season, agricultural production declined by about 23%. The country is therefore not on track to achieve food and nutritional security. This is being further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and as a result, the Government has provided food support to 84% of households. In addition, rural dwellers who are mainly subsistence farmers dependent on rain-fed agriculture, will require significant support for the next cropping season. The Agricultural sector is projected to register a growth of 4.5 percent in 2021, a significant decline from the 11.7 percent recorded in 2020. This is due to late rains resulting to an estimated decline in all agricultural sub-components except for livestock which had an estimated growth rate of 4.2 percent in 2021.

The tourism sector contributes between 14-20% of GDP to the economy, is the country's main foreign exchange earner and a significant source of employment. The number of tourists reached a record high and increased by 26% in 2018 compared to 2017. However, with the pandemic, the sector stands to lose USD 108.5 million – around 7% of The Gambia's GDP. Air chartered tourist arrivals declined by 86% between January and July 2020, and decreased year on year for the corresponding period from 136,659 to 73,347 arrivals. This was followed by zero arrivals from August to December highlighting the sector's vulnerability to external shocks. The partial rebound of the tourism sector with a 15% increase in tourist arrivals from 2020 to 2021 supported economic recovery efforts in country.

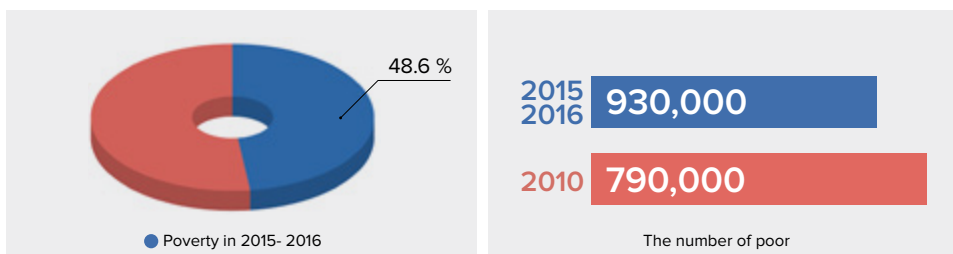


(1) Economist Intelligence Unit estimates.



Firewood is the main source of energy in poorer households in The Gambia.

The latest available data on poverty from 2015 shows that poverty remains a major challenge for The Gambia, with the proportion of the population living in poverty (based on the Gambia's National Poverty Line of GMD 1,503.3 per person per month) slightly increasing from 48.4 % in 2010 to 48.6 % in 2015/16. Due to a faster population growth rate, the number of poor increased from 790,000 in 2010 to 930,000 in 2015/16. Poverty is becoming more of a rural phenomenon, with 69.5 % of the rural population living in poverty – a 5.1 % increase from 64.2 % in 2010. Meanwhile, in the urban areas of Banjul and Kanifing (The Gambia's economic hub), poverty was only 17 percent, compared with 41 percent in other urban areas (IHS 2015/16). Recent World Bank estimates suggest that based on increased economic activities, poverty (based on the International Extreme Poverty Line of US\$1.90/day) fell modestly from 2015 to 2019 but with the emergence of COVID-19 declined marginally to 9.0 percent in 2021 despite a resurgence in economic growth. In essence, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a greater effect on the poorest and most vulnerable, and could push many more people into poverty, while deepening inequalities.



Key Human Development Indicators (latest year in brackets)









Human Development Index (Number (rank out of 189 countries) HDR 2020	0.466 (174) (2019)
Population (total in million) GBoS 2021 Estimates (https://gambia.opendataforafrica.org/nujcwtc/population#mcelink#)	2.3 (2021)
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (% of population) Gambia Integrated Household Survey 2015/2016 (GBoS)	48.6 (2016)
Gini index HDR 2020	35.9 (2018)
Unemployment, total (% of total labour force) Gambia Labour Force Survey 2018	32.5 (2018)
Literacy rate, adult total (% of people ages 15 and above) HDR 2018 Statistical Update	42 (2016)
Life expectancy at birth, total (years) HDR 2020	62.1 (2019)

Key Policy Indicators (latest year in brackets)

Corruption Perceptions Index (Value and ranking) Transparency International	Score: 37/100. Ranking 102/180 (2021)
Ease of Doing Business Index (Value and ranking) 2020 World Bank Report	Score: 50.3 155/190 (2019)
Democracy Index (value and ranking) Economist Intelligence Unit	Value 4.41/10, Ranking 101/167 (2021)
CPA transparency, accountability, and corruption in the public sector rating (1=low to 6=high); World Bank (2021)	2.5 (2021)

National Development Priorities

The Gambia's National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2021 identifies eight strategic priorities to transform the nation and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals:

<p>1 </p> <p>Restoring good governance, respect for human rights, the rule of law, and empowering citizens through decentralisation and local governance</p>	<p>2 </p> <p>Stabilising our economy, stimulating growth, and transforming the economy</p>
<p>3 </p> <p>Modernising our agriculture and fisheries for sustained economic growth, food and nutritional security, and poverty reduction</p>	<p>4 </p> <p>Investing in our people through improved education and health services, and building a caring society</p>
<p>5 </p> <p>Building our infrastructure and restoring energy services to power our economy</p>	<p>6 </p> <p>Promoting inclusive and culture-centric tourism for sustainable growth</p>
<p>7 </p> <p>Reaping the demographic dividend through an empowered youth</p>	<p>8 </p> <p>Making the private sector the engine of growth, transformation, and job creation</p>

The work of the UNDP in the country is in line with national development priorities aimed at safeguarding progress and supporting the post-COVID recovery.



Under the Poverty and Inclusive Growth cluster, support has been provided to the Songhai Initiative for young women and youth to engage in poultry farming

Strengthening the crucial role of MSMEs

MSMEs are the backbone of the country's economy and the engine of growth for inclusive and sustainable development. Over two-thirds (68%) of employed people work in the informal sector. Moreover, 71% of MSMEs operate in the informal sector and employ 95% of the informal sector workforce. The highest proportion of those employed in the informal sector have no education (46.4%), followed by 15.2% and 17.5% with lower and upper secondary education, respectively.

A 2018 MSME Mapping Study revealed that the informal sector of The Gambian economy encompasses around 115,000 registered MSMEs with a further 83,910 unregistered enterprises. The findings underline the crucial role that MSMEs play in The Gambian economy and reinforces the fact that this vital segment of the business landscape needs greater attention, prioritisation, and support amid the current COVID-19 pandemic. The effect of COVID-19 on the majority of MSMEs in the country included a combination loss of income, scaling down/shutting down of operations and job losses.

As part of its contribution to mitigate the effects of the pandemic due to the lockdown, UNDP supported the safe re-opening of all the weekly markets known as Lumos (30) in the country with PPEs to ensure that they continue to operate safely as they are a major centre of economic activity in rural areas. In partnership with the Government through the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, UNDP supports strengthening entrepreneurship and private sector development especially for women and youth with an emphasis on building strong MSMEs in line with national development priorities. This comes in the form of skills training and business advisory services, but UNDP has also conducted a study on the effects of AfCTA on MSMEs in The Gambia and supported a policy dialogue on employment and MSME formalization.



The new Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital Bakau Center.

Accelerating response to Covid-19 pandemic

In the social services sector, The Gambia recorded significant progress with respect to access to education, water, and nutrition outcomes. Gains were registered in relation to school enrolment and retention, the proportion of the population with access to improved water sources, and the prevalence of underweight, wasting and stunting in children under the age of five. Progress has been made in tackling undernourishment, and the proportion of women attended by skilled health personnel during delivery has increased. However, serious health challenges remain – with only 33.8 % of the population currently having access to safely managed drinking water (MICS 6, 2018).

In the health sector, however, there is an acute shortage of core health workers – only 5.17 per 10,000 population, well below the recommended 23 per 10,000 population. Furthermore, the distribution of core staff is unequal, with almost half the core staff stationed in West Coast Region (WCR1); which serves 38.5% of the population (HSA assessment report 2019). The same unequal distribution exists for medical personnel.

The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the need to strengthen the already fragile health system in The Gambia to ensure appropriate responses to COVID-19 and to treat other illnesses and diseases. In response, UNDP in collaboration with several UN agencies, the government, and the private sector intervened with the rehabilitation of an abandoned health clinic to increase admission bed space during the Pandemic. The new Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital (EFSTH) Bakau Center provided an additional 64 beds (from the 24 initially available). The Center seeks to become a Center of excellence for Health Science studies and a speciality hospital with further expansions planned.

Key Results



Production of 200,000 cloth facemasks as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for provision to vulnerable communities



Development of a Content Management System (CMS) Dashboard for UNCT to improve crisis-response coordination during COVID-19 Outbreak



Supported contract tracing training for 56 members of the National Youth Council (NYC) regional chapters to support national COVID relief effort



Completed pilot season of Digitalization for Business Continuity with tech show series with 13 episodes aired alongside six new adverts on SDG localization



Launch MyLumo App Digital Platform for informal economy market traders with voice call system



Supported Ministry of Health to develop COVID-19 Vaccine posters and messages for dissemination



Supported operation of first virtual courts through provision of equipment and internet connection, resulting in at least 218 virtual hearings in 2020 and 2021.



Decongestion of prisons through rehabilitation of 200 dormitories, as well as improved prison sanitation and safety

Building Resilience to Climate Change

UNDP Gambia has also accelerated strategic level support to Government in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation. With harsher weather conditions, a rising sea level and overall increase in temperature, The Gambia is becoming more and more vulnerable to climate change impacts. It is of utmost importance that the country builds resilience through climate change adaptation efforts whilst also promoting climate change mitigation to form a greener economy. In 2019, only The Gambia and Morocco were identified as making sufficient commitments through their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to limit temperature increases within the 1.5 degrees Celsius range by the end of the 21st century, as per the Paris Agreement. In 2021, The Gambia made it back into the international spotlight with the Climate Action Tracker identifying The Gambia as the country most compatible with the Paris Agreement.

Through the Climate Promise Initiative, UNDP supported the Government from 2020 to 2021 to update their globally recognised NDCs to better equip the country to deal with the rapidly changing climate and contribute realistically to global climate change mitigation actions. The update required several detailed assessments and collaborations with specialized institutions. The updated NDCs were submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat in September 2021 and contain more robust targets, as well as costed plans for mitigation and adaptation. The updated NDCs lay the foundation for meeting national climate change adaptation targets and climate change mitigation goals. As part of the NDC updating process, UNDP assisted Government in conducting a national Metabolic Assessment. This metabolic assessment outlines key opportunities for Government in the areas of green recovery and green economy and will serve as a key reference document for developmental plans and strategies moving forward which are generally becoming greener in nature.

In addition to this strategic level intervention, UNDP in The Gambia has also worked with Government, NGOs and CSOs to build resilience and mitigate climate change at community level.



Farmer showcasing harvest of climate change resilient cassava.

Reforms and Resilient Institutions for Sustainable Peace

The December 2021 Presidential election was historically significant as the first since the transition to democracy commenced in January 2017, following 22 years of autocratic rule. UNDP provided technical, including a Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) on Elections, and financial support to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), and funded intensive civic education activities to increase voter registration, which contributed to over 30% increase in votes since 2016, 56.68% of registered voters being women & 57.71% youth. UNDP also provided financial support to the Judiciary to establish revising courts, and overall, contributed towards a peaceful presidential election deemed free and fair by all national and international observers, including the AU and the EU.

UNDP also supported the Government to embark on and consolidate the gains of critical reforms, on national security, democratic governance, rule of law, transitional justice, and constitutional matters.



TRRC Chairman, Dr. Sise, presenting TRRC Final Report to H.E. President Adama Barrow.

On transitional justice, the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) held 22 public hearings lasting 3-4 weeks since January 2019, heard live testimonies from 393 witnesses (315 men and 78 women, 80 confessed perpetrators or adversely mentioned persons, 229 victims, 6 expert witnesses and 36 virtual testimonies over Skype). The TRRC also collected the statements of 2599 persons and approximately 50,000 Gambians were engaged directly through its nationwide outreach programmes. On reparations, the TRRC finalized its policy and working documents, a Victim's Reparations Fund was established with government and public contributions, and interim reparations provided for 144 persons (111 men, 33 women, and 7 overseas treatments), as well as 76 children (40 boys and 36 girls). The Commission submitted its final report to the President in November 2021, and one month later, the Government published the full report on the Ministry of Justice's website (available for download). The final report comprises of 17 volumes and contains 427 findings and 218 recommendations. UNDP continues to support the Government in its efforts to implement the recommendations of the TRRC, in a comprehensive, inclusive, transparent, and participatory manner.

On Security Sector Reforms, a National Security Reform Policy was developed and launched, and a National Security Strategy and Security Sector Reform Strategy drafted. The first Minister of Defence was appointed, and an Office of the National Security Advisor was included in the draft new constitution, as a means of professionalising security management.



Televised debate of Constitutional Bill 2020

The Constitutional Review Commission embarked on extension consultations with local Gambians and Gambians in the diaspora and invited position papers from national and international organizations and institutions on the formulation of a new constitution. The draft constitution was submitted to President Barrow and tabled for debate at the National Assembly in September 2020, although it was rejected after failing to meet the absolute majority threshold. 23 National Assembly Members voted for the draft to be promulgated, 31 voted against and 3 Members were absent. UNDP continues to support the Government in its efforts to revive the constitutional review process.

On Rule of Law, UNDP supported the review of the Sexual Offenses Act 2013, Alternative Dispute Resolution Act 2005, Evidence Act 1997 and the Legal Practitioners Act 2016, to meet international standard, as well as the development of 5-year institutional strategic plans for the Judiciary and the Gambia Bar Association, aimed at aligning expectations from these institutions with the current Gambian transitional justice context and greater public demands on effective and efficient public institutions.

Our Support: 2019-2021

The UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) provides the framework within which programmes and projects have been formulated in coordination with national and global partners. Its three major pillars are:



Currently, UNDP is implementing 16 projects under the CPD:



Environment and Resilience Development

Improving waste management

With waste management identified as a key national challenge, UNDP supported the Kanifing Municipality Council (KMC) in its waste management efforts. KMC is home to the country's largest dumpsite which has been deemed environmentally problematic as it is located in a residential area with little to no formal management mechanisms in place. The site is currently filled beyond its capacity with waste not only from KMC but two other municipalities, including Banjul, the country's capital. In 2019, UNDP supported KMC in conducting a feasibility study on the dumpsite's safe closure and relocation. The feasibility study outlined several recommendations focusing on how the current dumpsite can be safely closed and converted into a sorting station and the setting up of a new site to serve as a sanitary landfill. The study also detailed short-term/immediate recommendations on how the current dumpsite can be better managed in the short term, prior to its successful closure. Now that the study is complete and recommendations set, the council is using the document as a blueprint for garnering support from donors and development partners to better manage and eventually close the existing dumpsite. To date, several donors have contributed to implementation of the study's short-term recommendations. Such recommendations include the fencing of the dumpsite and the set-up of Green Zones and establishment of water access points to better manage fires. UNDP also procured 5 solar powered tricycles for KMC, to support in the collection of organic waste from markets. In 2022, UNDP and KMC will take this market initiative one step further by establishing a composting site where the organic waste can be gathered and composted.






Solar powered water system at horticultural garden

Reducing emissions whilst achieving developmental objectives with renewable energy

To assist the Government in meeting its current carbon reduction targets and objectives under the Electricity Roadmap, UNDP, the National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC), Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR) and Ministry of Petroleum and Energy have officially begun implementation of the NAMA Support Project (funded through the NAMA Facility), which aims to introduce 10.5KW of renewable energy to rural Gambia. UNDP, UNCDF and the Government successfully completed the tendering processes for identifying a suitable private sector actor for the project. The identified private sector actor, also known as the Independent Power Producer (IPP), will build, own, and operate the project's two solar plants in Farafenni and Basse, and will engage NAWEC as the off taker of the solar energy supplied. The project will not only replace Heavy Fuel Oil generated electricity with solar, but it will also provide the communities of Basse and Farafenni (end users) with more affordable and sustainable electricity long-term.

UNDP has also supported smaller green energy initiatives, such as, the provision of home solar systems for 15 off-grid households in Chamen Ballangar. This initiative provided a small community with electricity for the first time. This intervention will assist in improving the quality of life of the beneficiaries who will no longer have to travel long distances to access electricity services. With support from UNDP, the Mbolu Association trained a team of young women in solar installation. These young women have gone on to install a solar generation system for the Medical Research Council (MRC), which is currently the largest solar installation in the country with a capacity of 65 kilowatts per hour. The installation is expected to reduce the medical facility's carbon emissions by 800,000 kg of CO₂ per annum thus contributing to climate change mitigation efforts on a national scale.

<p>9</p> <p>Automatic Weather Stations</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Transmitters and a tower</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Communities</p> 
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Preparing and responding to an ever-changing climate

There have been several interventions made to improve response and preparedness of communities to climate related hazards and disasters. Under the Early Warning Systems project, there have been 9 Automatic Weather Stations and an automated Lightning Detector Systems installed at the Banjul International Airport to facilitate weather information gathering and distribution to relevant stakeholders, such as, farmers during the rainy season and fisherpersons all year-round. 2 Transmitters and a tower have been procured for the Gambia Radio and Television Service to increase their coverage countrywide for early warning message dissemination and equipment procured for 6 communities to allow their active participation in the Early Warning Message dissemination. Finally, the Hydrological Headquarters in Bansang was inaugurated. With The Gambia being particularly vulnerable to the increasing frequency and severity of droughts, floods, windstorms and other climate events, the headquarters in Basse will serve as the coordinating hub for all other sub-hydrological and meteorological stations in the country due to its central location. It plays a central role in monitoring surface water quality in the country. Prior to this project's intervention, this site was in a severe state of disrepair. Today, the complex is unrecognizable with the construction of new offices, accommodations, research rooms and a state-of-the-art conference room.

Further to the above, UNDP Gambia has also assisted in the building of regional climate resilience by supporting the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to update the regional contingency plans for Lower River Region and Central River Region. UNDP also worked with NDMA to update the national Hazard Profile which is a key reference document for national contingency planning.



Connecting livelihoods, nature protection and sustainable land use

One of UNDP's flagship projects, the Protected Areas Network Project – funded by The Global Environment Fund (GEF) – ended in 2020. In its final year of implementation, the project finalised the expansion of three Protected Areas (PAs), increasing PA coverage in the country to 7.4% (88,289.41 ha), complementing the Government's ongoing efforts to protect and preserve precious natural resources across the country. Furthermore, the project provided support to 15 model farmers in communities surrounding key PAs through the provision of farmer packages. Surrounding communities are often found to exploit natural resources within PAs to support their livelihood activities (selling of firewood, fruits, wildlife, livestock etc). By strengthening the livelihoods of community farmers in the surrounding areas of key PAs, the project has helped to reduce the likelihood of community farmers turning to the PAs to sustain their livelihoods. The farmer packages were designed to promote sustainable farming practises while ensuring increased yields. One of the support items provided through the packages were solar powered boreholes.

UNDP also supported the establishment of a 100 sqm horticultural garden and construction of a solar powered fish market facility at the Kartong fish landing site complete with cold storage facilities. The horticultural garden, equipped with a solar powered watering system has 30 direct beneficiaries and the Kartong fish market facility will benefit the entire Kartong fishing community. The fish landing site construction features solar powered cooling facilities to improve preservation of seabass thus adding value to the supply chain of local fisherpersons, and a water desalination installation to allow for the conversion of surrounding salt water into potable drinking water.



The Kartong intervention in particular is a key model for the intersection between promoting food security, providing energy access and improving livelihoods.

To reduce emissions and deforestation at community level, UNDP supported a clean cooking initiative in 11 communities over 3 regions. With women in the selected communities of intervention heavily reliant on firewood, surrounding forests fall victim to deforestation. The smoke from the firewood also has an impact on the health of the women. Furthermore, the burning of firewood contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. The provision of 725 energy efficient cookstoves has helped to improve the health of beneficiaries, reduce their cooking time and cost of cooking significantly (as the energy efficient cookstoves require less charcoal than regular ones). In addition to this, the provision of these stoves has reduced the demand for firewood thus reducing the rate of deforestation and emissions by eliminating the direct burning of firewood.





supporting informal agro-entrepreneurs to sell their products

Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Poverty Eradication

Nurturing Entrepreneurism, Reducing Inequality and Poverty

Several initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen capacities of institutions responsible for economic management while also supporting advancement of a more favourable space for entrepreneurship and private sector development to boost employment, enhance socio-economic growth and accelerate poverty reduction. Support was provided to the ongoing Integrated Household Survey data collection, the strengthening of the National Aid Information Management System and building capacities for the implementation of the Public Financial Management Act at the decentralised level. Transformation in The Gambia's tax regime has been registered through the review and update of relevant policies and regulations with the aim of streamlining the tax system and enhancing revenue collection. Numerous policies, acts and strategies were formulated, reviewed, or revised that led to greater public financial management and evidence-based policy formulation and implementation.

UNDP's contribution to The Gambia-Songhai Initiative's Youth Agricultural Skills programme is helping to facilitate the training of 80 youths (50% women) every year, looking to address the challenge of youth unemployment whilst boosting agricultural production at the same time. Along the same lines, the EMPRETEC programme has trained 435 entrepreneurs and provided business advisory services to over 150 businesses. In all, the Songhai and EMPRETEC initiatives along with natural resource management activities created 565 jobs and supported 1,245 livelihoods, mainly in the poorest rural areas and are fine examples of The Gambia benefitting from innovative South-South technical cooperation to further national development.



A little girl quenching her thirst from the tap water through one of the boreholes provided to the rural community by the PACD Project.

In 2020, the Government entrusted UNDP with \$5,712,867.15 to implement its flagship Programme for Accelerated Community Development (PACD) pilot project. The aim of the project is to bridge the rural-urban gap/disparities in terms of access to basic socio-economic resources for development, including water and energy. PACD is targeting 73 rural communities and 539,540 people in five (5) regions of The Gambia.

A direct budgetary allocation of GMD 8 million was made by central government to Local Governments for the first time, following the completion of Strategic Plans for all Eight Local Governments; this was a key first step towards strengthening local governments and decentralisation, identified as a strategic Government priority in the NDP. The first Annual Progress Review of 61 outcomes of the NDP showed that only 3 % of outcomes had limited/no progress, while 48 % were on track. Almost half (49 %) of the outcomes registered constrained progress, especially in youth empowerment and agriculture.

UNDP also contributed in the response to the impacts of COVID-19 and recognized the need of social protection. Through the UNDP Rapid Response Facility, several communities have benefitted from livelihood support in the form of capacity building, skills training and enterprise development support carried out by local NGOs to women formerly relying on tourism-related activities that lost livelihoods and incomes due to the pandemic. Women in three communities have also been provided with livestock to serve as social protection.



Key Achievements



Provision of virtual soft skills 'job-market entry' training program to 200 tertiary institution graduates in the 2021 cohorts including students within the People with Disabilities (PwDs) community



Portable water supply including 322 tap heads for 31 villages through the construction of 16 metal steel boreholes



On grid electricity supply for 10 communities



Distribution of 19 tractors and associated accessories to 19 communities to support agricultural labor load, time, and cost for improved productivity



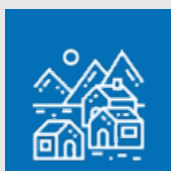
Distribution of 19 assorted labor-saving devices including threshers, milling machines, decorticators etc. to 19 communities to support reduce agricultural drudgery, post-harvest losses and increase productivity especially for women and girls



Water management training for 194 beneficiaries in 31 communities



Tractor operators training for 19 beneficiaries in 19 communities



Village Development Committee's (VDC) roles and responsibilities training for 583 beneficiaries in 31 communities



5 hectares land fencing to support the dairy livestock farming and grazing



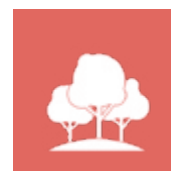
Refurbishment of a 23.66-meter x 7.28-meter animal shed at the West African Livestock Innovation Centre (WALIC) to support dairy farming



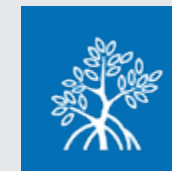
Construction of a 12.2-meter x 8.87-meter calving shed



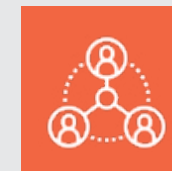
Construction of a 7.24-meter x 5.19-meter sick bay to support dairy farming



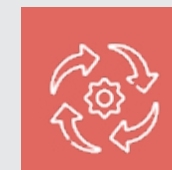
8,600 upland trees planting for environmental conservation



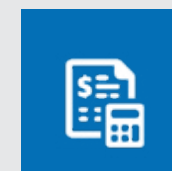
1,000,000 mangrove propagules planting for wetland conservation



Stakeholder mapping and analysis for assets revenue generation



Production of an Assets Management Plan (AMP) to support revenue generations and sustainability of assets



Production of Financial Management Plan to support grassroots financial management

Democratic Governance and Human Rights



Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Dawda A. Jallow.

Rule of Law

UNDP works in close partnership with the Judiciary, Police force, Prison service, Ministry of Justice, National Agency for Legal Aid (NALA), The Gambia Bar Association (GBA), the Alternative Dispute Resolution Secretariat (ADRS) and the Center for Legal Support (CLS) to enhance justice service delivery. UNDP encouraged justice service providers to use data and evidence to develop policies and strategies, identify gaps, build institutional and personnel capacities and to plan for medium and long-term results, which has resulted in the development of a 5-year Rule of Law Roadmap- a benchmark that will guide the sector towards the achievement of shared goals, address cross-cutting challenges and better coordinate the justice chain.



Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of The Gambia and Head of the Judiciary, Hassan B. Jallow

Turning chance into change: driving public-private partnerships and digital development

Relying on its partnerships, including with the private sector, UNDP turned challenges posed by COVID-19 into opportunities to innovate- for enhanced access to justice and more efficient justice sector service delivery.



Establishment of the first ever Virtual Courts in partnership with AccLabGM, the Judiciary and justice sector



Digital modernization of the Police Case Management System through the development of a Mobile Data Collection App.



Discussions between UNDP Africa Borderland Centre and IGP on community policing

Increase Access to justice and Security

UNDP through the support of the Peacebuilding Funds (PBF), reinforced the Mobile Legal Aid Clinics (MLACs) and the Prison Legal Aid Desks (PLADs) thereby increasing access to justice for all with special attention to the vulnerable population. In partnership with government implementing partners, CSOs and UNICEF, the MLACs serviced four regions in the urban, peri-urban, and remote areas, and provided free legal, mediation and social services to 240 persons (127 male, 113 female), including 39 children. In addition, 50 inmates were granted bail, 6 convicted, 3 acquitted and 2 dismissed out of the 116 inmates who received free legal aid through the PLADs. 70% of women in detention received judgment, as well as 100% (48) of children in conflict with the law, which contributed to the decongestion of the prison facilities and mitigated the spread of COVID-19.

In addition, UNDP through PBF funding, supported The Gambia Police Force in establishing Community Policing (CP) to foster trust between the right holders and duty bearers using a phased approach in four critical areas with high security concerns at the regional level. To ensure effective and efficient implementation of the CP initiative, UNDP provided technical and financial support to develop knowledge products such as CP Implementation and Strategic Plans, Community Policing Volunteer Guideline, District Plan, CP training manual, the Dissemination Plan, as a roadmap to developmental partners on CP initiative. Also, UNDP upscaled the capacity of 93 officers (70 male, 23 female) and 200 community volunteers and engaged with key stakeholders to improve social cohesion and enhance conflict resolution.



Classroom at Jeshwang Prison

Judicial expediency and decongestion of prisons

UNDP supported the decongestion of the overcrowded remand wing of the prison facilities to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus in collaboration with the Judiciary and other key justice stakeholders. To address the persistent problem of case backlog, UNDP also supported the establishment of the first ever virtual court hearings in The Gambia. In this regard, UNDP supported the procurement of 27 laptops and 27 internet dongles with subscriptions, and 62-inch television, bluetooth speakers and microphones were procured and installed in 5 courts to comply with the Constitutional requirements for public hearings. 7 laptops and 7 internet dongles were also procured for NALA to enable its participation in the VCs and provide remote legal aid to prisoners. UNDP also completed the installation of a cell tower to provide internet access to the Mile 2 Central Prison and the Prison Service Headquarters. Since the inception of the VCs, 218 cases have been heard virtually.



Mobile Data Collection App for Police

Digitalization of the justice and security sector

In The Gambia, the justice and security sector case files, as well as administrative systems are paper based, which cause a considerable delay in the administration of justice, leading to a persistent case backlog. UNDP with PBF support, is using a phased approach to support the digitalization of the justice and security sector to address the case backlog. In 2020, UNDP provided technical and financial support in the development of a Mobile Data Collection App (MDCA) incorporated in the digitalized case management system, including upscaling 24 police officers for effective and efficient use of the systems for data storage, analysis, and real-time reporting of crimes on daily and quarterly basis. Also, UNDP, through a grant agreement with the National Youth Council, supported the GIS (Geographical Information Systems) mapping of all the Police stations in the Gambia. This will coordinate and provide The Gambia Police Force with real-time assets, personnel for deployment, and strategic decisions in addressing security issues.

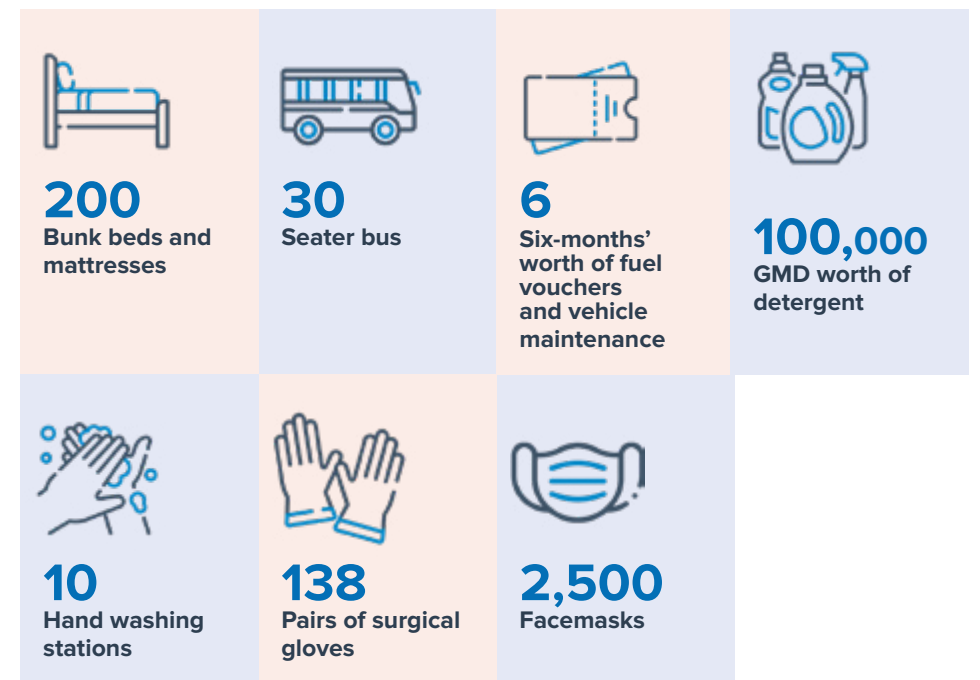
In addition, to quickly adjudicate court cases and minimize case backlog, UNDP provided technical support and procured CATS (Court Automated Transcript System) in five courts, transforming the courts from paper based to digital.



Public private partnership resulting in rehabilitation of prison facilities

Improving prison conditions and safety of prisoners

UNDP collaborated with the private sector through the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) to decongest prisons. Refurbished the sanitation facilities in the remand wing and personnel quarters at Mile 2 Prison, completed 200 capacity dormitories to house 200 inmates, and raised the low perimeter fence to allow greater freedom of movement for detainees. Also, the kitchen and medical facilities at Mile 2 and Jeshwang Prison were rehabilitated. Today, the GCCCI has become a strong development partner advocating for Prison reforms. GCCCI, provided the following safety, hygiene and other material to the Prison Service to mitigate the spread of the virus through it partnership with UNDP:



Human Rights



With funding from the Peacebuilding Funds (PBF), and in partnership with OHCHR, UNDP has provided dedicated support to victims of human rights violations and abuse, to civil society organizations, the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC), the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Ministry of Justice and the National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights and Constitutional Matters.

Key achievements



Development of the National Human Rights Policy and Action Plan



Preparation of TRRC reparations framework, including Policy, Regulations and Guidance Note



Significant technical and financial support to the TRRC and NHRC, ensuring that both institutions are operational and that the TRRC is effectively fulfilling its mandate in an inclusive and participatory manner



Support to at least 2000 victims of human rights violations and their immediate family members; tailored support to 198 SGBV survivors



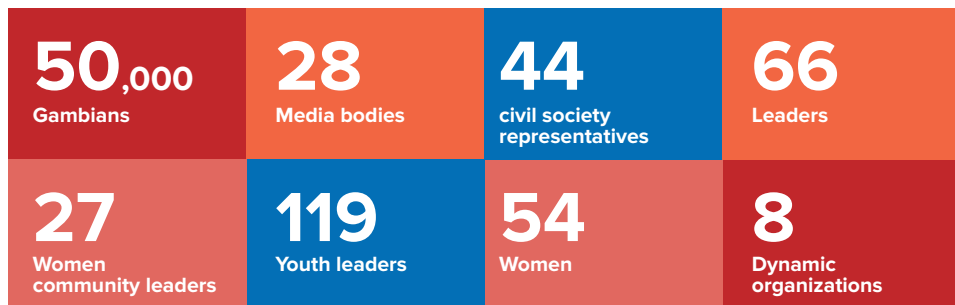
Enhanced and coordinated participation of local CSOs in transitional justice and human rights process



Award from TRRC to UNDP, OHCHR and PBF

Promoting inclusive participation

UNDP in partnership with OHCHR and with PBF funding, has significantly strengthened civil society’s capacities to fully participate in the TRRC and other human rights and governance processes. Over 50,000 Gambians have directly engaged with the TRRC and NHRC during regional and other outreach activities, through radio programme series, posters and billboards ultimately aimed at empowering and educating citizens to exercise their rights and hold institutions accountable. 28 media bodies and 44 civil society representatives were engaged on transitional justice and reporting on truth commissions, including women and children’s rights organisations, organisations for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), and victims’ associations. 66 regional, religious, and traditional leaders, 27 of whom were women community leaders were sensitised on their role in reconciliation initiatives. 119 youth leaders, 54 of whom were women, participated in TRRC youth forums and small value grants were provided to 2 victims’ associations and Responsible Party Agreements signed between UNDP and 8 dynamic, local youth and women-led organizations—all in a bid to enhance their capacities to actively mobilize and sensitize the population on transitional justice and human rights.



Survivors of the 2009 witch-hunt campaign

Support to victims

UNDP has supported victim centred transitional justice and human rights processes in The Gambia and is committed to supporting the needs and calls of victims of human rights violations. It is estimated by the TRRC that approximately 3,000 Gambians and other nationals fell victim to human rights violations and abuses committed by the Jammeh administration between 1994 and 2016, with public hearings having disclosed cases of torture, unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, sexual violence, rape, and the kidnapping and forceful intoxication of hundreds of mostly elderly persons accused of being witches. Most of the 168 victims and survivors who have been assessed by the TRRC exhibit physical ailment, or mild to severe symptoms of trauma.

On its reparations mandate, UNDP in partnership with OHCHR through PBF funding, supported the development of the TRRC reparations framework in 2020, which includes a policy, regulations and a public guidance note. UNDP also supported the establishment of the Victim Participation Support Fund at the TRRC in 2019 and provided financial support, which resulted in the provision of wide range of basic, yet essential support to over 2000 direct victims that interfaced with the TRRC, addressing mobility, medical and psycho-social needs, as well as welfare support at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and witness protection.



A culture of human rights

UNDP in partnership with OHCHR, funded by PBF, provided strategic support to the Government to articulate a National Human Rights Policy and Action Plan for 2021-2025 and continues to support the establishment of a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up (NMRF). The National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights also received technical support from UNDP and OHCHR, particularly in its legislative review processes, with 16 bills presented to the National Assembly in 2020. Furthermore, the preparation of a Strategic Plan for 2020-2022, as well as facilitating visits to all prisons and detention centres in the country was provided to the Standing Committee, in a bid to strengthen its oversight role on human rights and constitutional matters.

As the first permanent, independent national human rights institution, UNDP enhanced its support to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to strengthen its institutional and technical capacities. Despite COVID-19 restrictions and pressures, in 2020 and 2021, the NHRC resolved 108 complaints of human rights violations received from the public, conducted visits to 3 prisons and 9 detention centres across the country, and frequently advised the Government of its human rights obligations. Similarly, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and in partnership with UNDP, OHCHR, UNICEF and WHO, the NHRC conducted trainings for the Police on its human rights obligations during a state of emergency, which was eventually declared by the President and resulted in restrictions on people's freedom of movement.

As detailed in its vibrant Annual Report 2020, the NHRC was supported by UNDP to successfully resource mobilize \$100,000 under the Tripartite Partnership Agreement between UNDP, OHCHR and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), which provided for the completion of its 5-year Strategic Plan, including Operational and Resource Mobilization Plans, as well as a series of specialized trainings.



Today, the NHRC is a household name in urban Gambia, and increasingly in other regions too, largely due to its active exercise of its mandate, and relentless advocacy on sensitive issues that challenge societal norms and harmful traditional practices, especially towards women, children and marginalized groups.



Consolidating Democratic Governance

In preparation for elections, UNDP provided support to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) the Inter-party Committee (with PBF funding) in promoting credible, transparent and sustainable electoral processes and political engagement, and inter and intra-party dialogues; the National Assembly to promote participatory democracy; and the Ministry of Interior in collaboration with WANEP in establishing an Infrastructure for Peace (I4P) to facilitate conflict prevention and peacebuilding mechanisms. This approach continues to bolster the capacity of national governance institutions and civil society to instil the principles of accountability and participation which were conspicuously absent for over 22 years.

Key achievements



Open-Government Initiative was established to facilitate interaction between duty bearers and rights holders to enhance free flow of information in the governance process



Election's project approval and support to IEC on election preparedness commenced



The TANGO 1983 Constitution was reviewed, and Strategic Plan 2022-2026 developed to ensure effective coordination and collaboration amongst CSOs, as well as TANGO's realignment with The Gambia's strategic priorities in the transitional context.



Signing of Code of Conduct by all political parties



Finger marked in ink prior to voting

Election preparedness

UNDP committed its core resources for electoral processes through the approval of a 2020-2022 Elections Project and supported the IEC with the complete rehabilitation of 4 IEC regional offices, equipped with furniture and equipment, corporate email addresses and internet connectivity to strengthen strategic communication. Furthermore, support was provided to the IEC and National Council for Civic Education (NCCE) to undertake civic and voter education ahead of local by-elections. UNDP also facilitated the formulation of the CSO Coalition on Elections 2021-2023 Strategic Plan in partnership with the International Republican Institute (IRI).

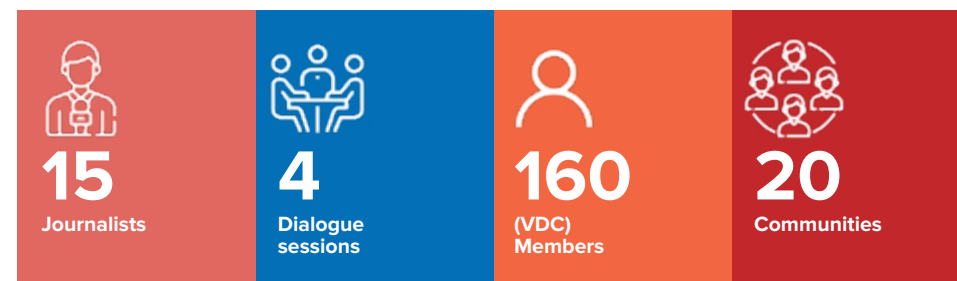


National Assembly of The Gambia

Accountability, participation and representation

UNDP supported the National Assembly to perform core functions for improved accountability, participation and representation, through the formulation of its Strategic Investment Plan, and capacity building initiative for government ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) on Parliamentary Rules of Procedure (Standing Orders), and 15 journalists from print and broadcast media on parliamentary reporting. The National Assembly's Hansard Department was strengthened with a digital device to produce transcripts of parliamentary debates.

Frameworks were also developed for accountability, transparency, and effective engagement of civil society in national development. The Open-Government Initiative was established with PBF funding, to facilitate interaction between duty bearers and rights holders to enhance free flow of information in the governance process, and 4 media town hall dialogue sessions convened. Furthermore, UNDP supported 160 Village Development Committee (VDC) members in 20 communities with orientation on governance and group management approaches as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which culminated in the development of 20 Community Action Plans.



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation

UNDP continued to support government in the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals which has been effectively mainstreamed into the NDP. UNDP supported the development of a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the NDP/SDGs and supported annual review of the implementation of the NDP, which was very consultative and inclusive.

Strengthening capacities at all levels of society

UNDP continued to support the Government in prioritising and implementing SDGs. Three cluster groups of SDGs composed of government officials, the private sector, UN Agencies, and CSOs were set up to discuss and prioritise SDGs relating to the economic, social, and environmental pillars. UNDP used the opportunity to provide technical support in the mainstreaming of SDGs into the Government's national development agenda. The UN System with UNDP as the integrator led the way in advocating for the SDGs in The Gambia raising awareness at the national, regional, and local level. In this regard, the UN collaborated with the Government to conduct a series of capacity building workshops involving key stakeholders from the government, private sector, civil society, development partners and the media.

Setting milestones, tracking progress

In follow-up to the 2017 MAPS Mission, UNDP continued to provide programme support, ensuring the mainstreaming of the SDGs into the monitoring of NDP. With support from UNDP, an Annual Progress Review of the NDP was conducted to track the progress and achievement of the SDGs in The Gambia.

Following the SDG awareness-raising exercise with the National Assembly, which highlighted the need for SDG financing and the alignment of the budget to the SDGs, Parliamentary SDG champions were established in the National Assembly. 28 National Assembly Members (NAMs) underwent Training of Trainers (ToT) on the role of Parliamentarians in SDG implementation. The Members were also guided through budget alignment with the SDGs during their pre-budget session.

Global goals, local focus

The Gambia conducted its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2020, with UNDP providing technical support to the VNR coordination structures. An SDG Status Report was compiled to measure SDG progress over time to inform the VNR. The virtual presentation at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) highlighted The Gambia's achievements in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the challenges that need to be overcome to accelerate SDG achievement going forward. A post-VNR sensitisation exercise was undertaken to drive awareness amongst stakeholders, take the pulse on NDP and SDG implementation, and define priorities for recovery from COVID-19.

A Regional Workshop on Localisation of the SDGs and Building on What Works was held in Banjul, with representatives from eight African countries sharing experiences and lessons learned in SDG localisation. UNDP supported the framing of the dialogue, engaged four national SDG Champions to highlight community level stories of SDG acceleration and supported post-conference follow-up actions for SDG localisation in the country. Projects are in development to support SDG Localisation moving forward.

1

NO POVERTY



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

2

ZERO HUNGER



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

4

QUALITY EDUCATION



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

5

GENDER EQUALITY



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

7

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

10

REDUCE INEQUALITIES



Reduce inequality within and among countries

11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

13

CLIMATE ACTION



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

14

LIFE BELOW WATER



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

15

LIFE ON LAND



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

16

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

17

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS



Strengthen the means of implementation & revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



Advancing Gender Equality

The Gambia UNDP's Gender Strategy (2017-2021) sets out concrete strategies to promote gender equality and women empowerment.

Committing to Gender Equality

Through the implementation of the Gender Equality Seal, UNDP Gambia strengthened its accountability for gender equality standards including:



Enhancing the space for women's political participation

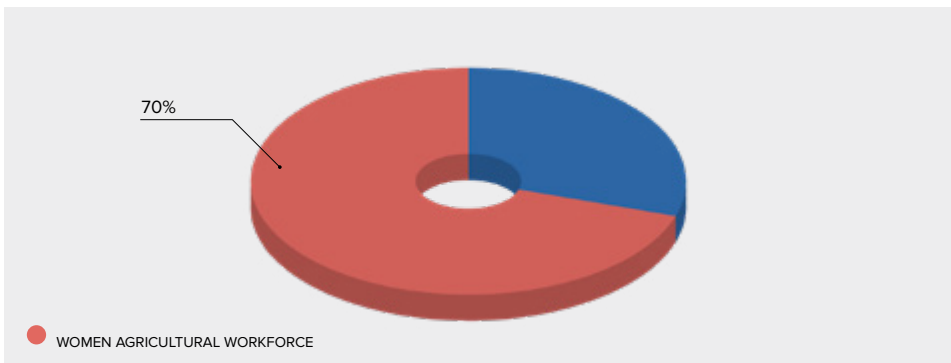
UNDP supported the inclusion and political participation of women & youth through technical and financial support for the establishment of the Women Branch of Inter-Party Committee (WOBIPC), which is now of strategic importance to IPC & partners. The WOBIPC has been instrumental in encouraging women to vote in the presidential election and play a critical role in mobilizing women to contest for parliamentary seats and advocates for equal representation in executive branches. In the 2021 presidential elections, 545,318 (56.68%) of registered voters were women, as compared to 416,839 men (43.32%).

The Banjul City Council and UNDP also collaborated to address women's participation in governance. Support was provided to REFELA – a network of locally elected female representatives to sensitise the public and inspire women's participation in politics, especially at the local government level in the run-up to Elections held in April 9th 2022 .



Sustainable support for women and youth

In The Gambia, women make up 70% of the agricultural workforce often growing lower-value subsistence crops – as opposed to men who commonly manage cash crops. Women depend on these crops for their livelihoods and the sustenance of their families. Due to the lack of access to appropriate technologies and finance, women farmers are not equipped to deal with the changing climate and are thus extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts. UNDP Gambia has worked with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources as well as National Environment Agency (NEA) to equip women-led gardens with tools and knowledge to combat the impacts of climate change. This has been done by providing better access to water and the provision of climate resilient seedlings and training in value addition for seasonal crops.



Furthermore:



UNDP supported the ministries of Youth, Agriculture, and the Women’s Bureau to collaborate on piloting the “Songhai Model” for employment creation, inclusive green growth, and sustainable land use. The project demonstrated the potential of green livelihoods and technologies in enhancing household incomes especially for youth and women and reducing the disproportionate burden of unpaid “care” work in the household on women.

700

 ENTREPRENEURS

A total of 700 entrepreneurs, including women farmer groups and youths benefitted from the EMPRETEC Model of Enterprise Support Programme for the promotion of entrepreneurship and business development.



UNDP built upon the technical capacity of the inter-party women’s caucus in the National Assembly to develop a strategic plan and engage in debates targeted at increasing support for women.



Under the Pilot Solar PV Lighting Empowerment Project, UNDP invested in the adoption of renewable energy technologies, creating jobs for young women and men, as agents for installing and maintaining solar systems, and marketing the service in their communities, through local NGO, FANDEMA Mbolo Association. The young women trained under this initiative have gone on to install solar facilities, such as, the one at the MRC. The solar installation at the MRC alone will eliminate the need to use 320,000 liters of diesel per annum for electricity generation, translating to a reduction of 800,000 kg of CO2 emissions.



A total of 700 entrepreneurs, including women farmer groups and youths, benefitted from the EMPRETEC Model of Enterprise Support Programme for the promotion of entrepreneurship and business development. This programme, in conjunction with the Songhai Model on Low-Carbon Agriculture and the Pilot Solar PV Lighting Empowerment Project, contributed to public and policy discourses on economic empowerment for women in The Gambia.



Women political representatives

Listening to women's voices

- In collaboration with UNFPA, UNDP invested in institutional strengthening for the new Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCWSW) and propelled the development of a new strategic plan for the Ministry. Policy-advice and technical support were provided to the new Ministry in relation to the visibility of The Gambia's gender commitments and achievements through international platforms, which reports on global gender targets, such as the Beijing +20 review, the Annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), and the localisation of the Africa Gender and Development Index (AGDI). A partnership with the MoWCWSW also elevated Women, Youth, Peace and Security (WYPS) issues on the agenda and has led to the formation of a women's steering committee on WYPS.
- UNDP supported local initiatives to increase the participation of women, youth, and other marginalized groups to participate in the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC). Through partner organisations – including the Gender Platform, the Center for Victims of Human Rights Violations, the Gambia Transitional Justice Working Group, the West African Network for Peacebuilding, Gambia Press Union, Gambia Christian Council, and the National Council for Civic Education – UNDP supported an inclusive national transitional justice process to ensure a progressive reform agenda.



Woman traffic police officer

Promoting Gender Equality Reforms

- Through a partnership with the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCl), UNDP The Gambia is one of the first Country Offices in Africa to spearhead adoption of the Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme for Private Enterprises across Africa. Seven companies have signed up to the pilot of the private sector seal.
- UNDP also signed an MOU with the University of The Gambia (UTG) to implement elements of the seal amongst other initiatives.
- UNDP's programmes have enabled women to make in-roads into The Gambia's security sector. Women in uniform have participated in caravan tours across the country to demonstrate the inclusive approach taken by the new security sector reforms while inspiring other women to join the police and army.
- In collaboration with International Republican Institute (IRI), UNDP provided support to the Gambia Federation of the Disabled (GFD), based on the principle of 'leaving no one behind'. The goal was to strengthen the organisation's governance structure, through the coordination of an Annual General Meeting and the development of a new constitution. Training on women's rights was provided for its newly constituted board members, as well as for women with disabilities, with particular emphasis on the UNCRC Treaty, and tackling sexual and gender-based violence.



A nurse at the forefront of fighting the COVID19 pandemic

Understanding the gendered dimensions of COVID-19

- Understanding the gendered dimensions of the pandemic is crucial in the prevention of costly reversals in the progress achieved towards gender equality as well as to inform policy actions. UNDP supported national efforts for evidence-based decision making by investing in quality gender responsive research on potential impacts of and responses to COVID-19.
- In collaboration with UNFPA, UNDP conducted a thorough assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on gender dynamics. Both the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) and Assessment on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) revealed that COVID-19 impacted women and vulnerable groups in numerous ways and intensified gender-based violence across the country. The studies highlighted issues relating to economic hardship faced by women in the informal sectors of tourism and agriculture, women in airline services, female sex workers, as well as increased domestic work burden on women because of school closures.

Innovations and Initiatives

Thinking outside of the box

The UNDP Gambia Accelerator Lab (AccLabGM) contributes to the localisation of the SDGs and the realisation of the overall UN Development Assistance Framework in The Gambia while complementing the government's implementation of the NDP. AccLabGM spotlights unconventional methods and approaches to development to better understand home-grown solutions through community outreach and engagement. Solutions mapping, and local partnership building at the grassroots level are helping us better understand evolving complex challenges. This is placing greater emphasis on multi-stakeholder problem-solving efforts to build a systems-thinking approach to development, largely through experimentation.

Key achievements

<p>1</p> <p>Selection of The Gambia Country Office as one of four winning Country Offices for implementation of the UNDP Smart Cities Pilot Project with support from the Global Center for Technology, Innovation, and Sustainable Development (GC-TISD)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Representation of the Country Office AccLab as one of six RBA AccLabs to attend the UNDP – UKRI Knowledge Partnership Workshop at UNDP Head Office</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Presentation of AccLabGM to UNDP Global Board</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Hosted inaugural UNDP-UTG SDG Lecture Series</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Collaborate with national government partners to launch beta version of e-government platform</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Successfully prototyped the first Interactive Voice Recorder System in The Gambia</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Launched a Crisis Risk Dashboard for the UN System in The Gambia in supporting coordination and response to potential crises and emergencies</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Improved civic awareness of PwDs through sign language interpretation of night news briefs during the presidential election</p>

Experimentation Gallery



Hackathon Participants



MAKE3D **3D** **PRINTING HACKATHON**

UNDP Accelerator Lab Network

RECYCLING, UPCYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Making economically viable environmental friendly solutions using 3D printing

Venue: Disruptive Lab, Atlantic Boulevard, Fajara
Date: 9 - 11 January 2020

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Project Billboard Showcased at a Popular Transit Point



Lessons Learnt

Navigating the New Normal

2020 and 2021 were unprecedented years. The pandemic infused all aspects of daily life, bringing with it challenges and opportunities. The restrictions implemented during the year meant thinking on our feet and rapidly adapting our usual modes of operation. The pandemic also brought about new dynamics and innovative ways of doing things. With COVID-19 being a global pandemic, much was learnt about the internationalisation and globalisation of diverse issues, particularly diseases.

- The Gambia, like most countries, needs to plan and implement measures early enough to mitigate the ongoing negative impact of both COVID-19 and similar emergencies that may occur in the future. There is a need for better planning and risk assessment by all. Early planning would lead to greater implementation and achievement of results.
- Most planned activities during 2020 involved bringing many people together so the COVID-19 restrictions and measures, made it impossible to undertake such activities. Thus, a programme criticality assessment was undertaken to reprogramme funds and to find effective ways to engage stakeholders remotely.
- The use of Zoom was not only innovative, but addressed the challenges encountered around holding meetings at the beginning of the pandemic. UNDP provided over 100 partners with Zoom services to facilitate their work and the delivery of the planned programme.



Group photo with Resident Representative, delegation from the Africa Borderlands Centre, the IGP and senior police officials

Accelerating Delivery

- With health being the priority during the pandemic, national counterparts faced challenges in funding most of their programme commitments and therefore in most cases, UNDP stepped in to undertake most activities. A key lesson learnt is to ensure adequate resource mobilization from both national counterparts and UNDP.
- Working with CSOs accelerated delivery, coverage and overall impact. Furthermore, forming strategic collaborative partnerships with internal NGOs has enhanced entry points and impact, as well as upscaling interventions.
- There is a need for stakeholder engagement and consultation in decision-making, as a critical ingredient for the successful implementation of planned activities and programmes, and the achievement of greater results and impact.
- Supporting the national statistical system has had a highly beneficial effect, since without evidence-based data, planning, policy and budgeting could not be properly prioritized to assist the most vulnerable. The Country Office supported the Integrated Household Poverty survey, which provides useful information on the nature, status and dynamics of poverty at regional, district, household and individual levels.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of national development objectives is essential. The NDP has substantially increased, and in tandem, so has the need for data production, particularly data aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda for 2063. UNDP supported the development of an Information Management System to strengthen the National Statistical System (NSS). Institutions covered include: The Gambia Bureau of Statistics, Gambia Fires and Rescue Services, Gambia Prisons Services, Gambia Police Force, and the Gambia Civil Aviation Authority.



Sunset on the River Gambia

Inward Reflections

- The country programme needs to be less project based and compartmentalized in silos. There is a need for greater collaboration and coordination among different programme areas to build on synergies for greater impact and results to be obtained.
- As over 70% of UNDP delivery is procurement related, the procurement unit needs to be strengthened as does the close collaboration between the unit and the programme unit. Thus, early preparation of procurement plans, increased and efficient use of capacity, as well as constant engagement through a tracking system are beneficial mechanisms.
- Strengthening monitoring and evaluation capacity of programme implementation is key, as the demand for reports of results is high from all constituencies.
- UNDP's leading role in governance within the UN, has provided an excellent platform, particularly the Governance Development Partners' Group for mobilizing development partners around key transition reforms.



Resident Representative greets President Adama Barrow

Partnerships

As UNDP endeavours to support The Gambia address its efforts to achieve the SDGs and the African Union Agenda for 2063, it recognizes that increasingly, interrelated development challenges require going beyond business-as-usual responses. Instead, they call for interdisciplinary approaches and non-linear solutions that require the collective efforts of a variety of partners. Thus, UNDP Gambia's overall partnership goal is to position itself as the strategic and innovative facilitator connecting multiple stakeholders and mobilising support to fulfil its commitments detailed in the UNDAF and CPD 2017 – 2021. Specifically, UNDP in The Gambia aimed to:

- Leverage UNDP's strong technical expertise in inclusive and sustainable development, as well as its leadership role in the localisation of SDGs to mobilise funding from the private sector (BP Oil, QCell and SCB-Gambia) and foundations (TAF Foundation), and to diversify its funding base.
- Build on its technical expertise role as integrator to further enhance UNDP as a thought leader in youth empowerment and the SDGs in The Gambia.
- Strengthen UNDP's engagement with donors, resident in Dakar, Germany, Belgium, Japan, Sweden, Norway, Italy, and South Korea, and establish new partnerships with at least two new and emerging donors (Qatar and Turkey, etc.).
- Leverage UNDP's increased engagement with the IsDB, WB, European Union and Global Fund at corporate level and enhance UNDP's strong operational presence and technical expertise in The Gambia to establish UNDP as the partner of choice for IFIs in The Gambia.
- Ensure the mobilisation of adequate and predictable resources for UNDP's programme through a systematic and innovative approach to partnership.

Key Achievements with Select Partners



A citizen's review of the draft constitution was enabled in partnership with IRI and International IDEA (political parties, CSOs, parliament, and persons with disabilities).



UNDP, in partnership with OHCHR, through PBF funding, supported human rights protection through training and facilitated engagements with CSOs to build national expertise for effective participation in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. This strong partnership also resulted in a \$5million contribution from the PBF to UNDP and OHCHR towards the implementation of TRRC recommendations, with dedicated mental health and psychosocial support to SGBV survivors, commencing 2022.



A learning exchange in collaboration with UNDP and the Government of Senegal (South-South & Triangular Cooperation) in relation to their successful implementation of the Programme for Accelerated Community Development (PACD) model. As a result, a feasibility study was conducted to develop a model for The Gambia. The Government of The Gambia is in partnership with UNDP on the initiative and committed US\$ 5 million in funds to the PACD, as a result of UNDP advocacy.



An MOU was signed between the University of The Gambia and UNDP to enhance development activities, to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the seventeen SDGs.



UNDP and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) supported the development of an AfCFTA National Implementation Strategy. UNDP also facilitated the first Senegambia Economic Forum in collaboration with the private sector to identify opportunities to leverage the potential benefits of the AfCFTA.



In support of the viability of the tourism sector, and in collaboration with the UN World Tourism Organization, UNDP supported a Tourism Establishment Survey, which provided relevant tourism statistics and data that informed the mitigation plan after the collapse of Thomas Cook.



Renewable energy is expected to contribute almost 30% to the NDC target for 2030 as the second biggest NDC measure for The Gambia. The approved €10.6 million, 10.5-kilowatt utility-scale solar power project with UNDP, UNCDF, the National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC) and the Ministry of Energy & Petroleum working in partnership, will contribute directly to this NDC target while providing more sustainable and affordable, clean electricity to constituents of rural Gambia. The flagship project is funded by the NAMA Facility.



UNDP worked in partnership with the UN System in response to COVID-19 as part of the Crisis Management Team and within the COVID-19 Accountability Framework. The team worked with the Government, the private sector, civil society organisations, international financial institutions, international development partners, academia, and the media to implement activities to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic in The Gambia and to protect the poorest and most vulnerable.



UNDP successfully mobilized \$275,000 from the Government of Ireland, to provide dedicated protection and support services to SGBV survivors and increase their participation in initiatives by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC). 98 survivors directly benefitted from these funds, from capacity building initiatives, including self-defence trainings, to the provision of a safe house to hold private support or grouped psychosocial support sessions. 19 survivors also received livelihood support to start small businesses.



UNDP also was successful in mobilizing \$91,000 from the Government of Italy to support early warning mechanisms for monitoring and information sharing, as well as early response to electoral tensions.



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