



**THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN
CHILDREN AND SOCIAL WELFARE
(MOWCSW)**



**WOMEN'S BUREAU AND NATIONAL WOMEN
COUNCIL**

**NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING
DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION
(BPFA) +25**

(THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA)

JUNE 2019

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LIST OF ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AATG	Action Aid The Gambia
ACDHRS	African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies
ACHPR	African Charter on Human & People's Rights
ADB	African Development Bank
ADWAC	Association for Development of Women & Children
AFP	Association of Food Processors
AGSP	Ambassador's Girl's Scholarship Programme
AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
APWGA	Association for the Promotion of Women and Girls
AWE	Association of Women Entrepreneurs
BAFROW	Foundation for Women's Research and the Environment
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CDDP	Community Driven Development Project
CIWS	Core Indicator Welfare Survey
CPA	Child Protection Alliance
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CPD	Country Programme Document
CRC	Convention on the Rights of The Child
CRR	Central River Region
CSIP	Community Skills Improvement Project
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CST	Commercial Sex Tourism
DMC	Disaster Management Committee
DPO	Disabled Persons Organisations
EBF	Exclusive Breast Feeding
ECOWAS	Economic Commission of West African States
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECOFEPA	ECOWAS Female Parliamentarians Association
EDF	European Development Fund
EFA/FTI	Education for All/Fast Track Initiative
EMNCH	Emergency Maternal New born Child Health
EMOC	Emergency Obstetric Care
EMOP	Emergency Operations
ESSP	Education Sector Strategic Plan
EU	European Union
FAWEGAM	Forum for African Educationalist-Gambia Chapter
FIOH	Future in our Hands
FLAG	Female Lawyers Association of The Gambia
GAMCOTRAP	Gambia Association on Traditional Practices

GAMWORKS	Gambia Association for the Management of Public Works
GAWFA	Gambia Women's Finance Association
GBoS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
GEM	Gender Empowerment Model
GER	Gross Enrolment Rate
GFPA	Gambia Family Planning Association
GFSI	Girl Friendly School Initiative
GIG	The Gambia is Good
GRTS	Gambia Radio & Television Services
GTU	Gambia Teacher's Union
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HIV	Humano Immuno Deficiency Virus
ICPD	International Conference for Population & Development
IDD	Iodine Deficiency Disorder
ITN	Insecticides Treated Bed nets
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
IPT	Intermittent Preventive Treatment
ITN	Insecticide Treated Bednets
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes & Practices
KMA	Kanifing Municipal Authority
LGA	Local Government Authority
LLIN	Long Lasting Insecticide Nets
LRR	Lower River Region
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MoBSE	Ministry for Basic and Secondary Education
MTR	Mid Term Review
NACCUG	National Association of Credit Unions of The Gambia
NaNA	National Nutrition Agency
NAWFA	National Association of Women Farmers
NBR	North Bank Region
NEDI	National Enterprise Development Initiative
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NERICA	New Rice for Africa
NESPAWEP	NEPAD Spanish African Women's Empowerment Project
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NOWEPSCO	Network of Women in Peace and Security in the ECOWAS Space
NPAGW	National Policy for Advancement of Gambian Women
NSF	National Strategic Framework
NSGA	Nova Scotia Gambia Association
OVP	Office of the Vice President
PLHWHIV	People Living with HIV

PPTCT	Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PTA	Parent Teacher's Association
RCH	Reproductive Child Health
SDF	Social Development Fund
SMC	School Management Committee
SWAGAM	Society for Women Against Aids in Africa-Gambia Chapter
TANGO	The Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
TARUD	The Trust Agency for Rural Development
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
U5	Under 5 Mortality
UN	United Nation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Funds
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
URR	Upper River Region
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
VDC	Village Development Committee
VISACA	Village Savings and Credit Associations
WASDA	Wuli and Sandu Development Association
WDC	Ward Development Committee
WHO	World Health Organisation

Structure of the Report

The report is divided into three parts, the first part of the report provides, introduction, general information and the review methodology. The second part provides an overview of 20 years of implementation of the Platform for Action. The third part of the report also highlights progress in the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern. Part four contains emerging priorities and recommendations for accelerating the implementation of the plan of Action in the coming 5 years. The report concludes with presentation of gender statistics.

PART 1: BACKGROUND

Chapter 1: Introduction

This report gives an assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action for the Period 2015 to 2019. It highlights the Republic of The Gambia's efforts in promoting gender equality and enhancing the status of women. It also examines the strategies adopted in dealing with the critical areas of concern, the progress, legislative changes, programs and projects, gaps and challenges that The Gambia has undergone during this period, and the way forward with the aim of meeting the BPFA, the SDG targets and other international commitments. The review is based on the BPFA and highlights the progress made in each of the sectors relevant to the 12 (twelve) critical areas of concern. It provides an assessment of the current development situation, identifies gaps and challenges, and also focuses on emerging priority areas of intervention for The Gambia in line with the objectives of the BPFA. The General information below contains data on the geographical location of the Gambia, Size, Population, Language, Religion economy constitutional political and the legal regime.

Chapter 2: General Information

The Republic of The Gambia lies on the western coast of tropical Africa, occupying an area of 11,295 sq km (land: 10,000 sq km and water: 1,295 sq km), making it the smallest country in mainland Africa. It is a semi-enclave in Senegal. From north to south, The Gambia extends to a maximum of 48km, though the coastline, with its bays and promontories, is 80km in length. Moving inland from west to east, the country roughly follows the route of the River Gambia inland for 480km.

POPULATION

The island capital city of Banjul has a population of about 31,301 excluding its suburbs (2013 Population and Housing census), but is exceeded in size by both Brikama 699,704 (2013 Population and Housing Census) and Kanifing (382,096 inhabitants (2013 Population and Housing Census). The country is divided into seven administrative areas consisting of five regions, the City of Banjul and Kanifing Municipality. The five regions are the West Coast Region, Lower River

Region, Central River Region, Upper River Region and the North Bank Region. The population of The Gambia stands at 1,882,450 according to The Gambia Bureau of Statistics 2013 Population and Housing Census.

LANGUAGES

English is the official national language of The Gambia. However, a wide variety of ethnic groups live in The Gambia namely, Mandinka, Wolof, Fula, Jola, Sarahule, Serere, Manjago and Creole (krio), each preserving its own language and traditions. The Mandinka people form the largest group, followed by the Fula, Wolof, Jola and Serahule.

RELIGION

Muslims constitute 95% of the population. Christians and traditionalist account for the remainder. Gambians officially observe the holidays of both religions and there is a high degree of religious tolerance.

ECONOMY

After 22 years of autocratic rule, the new Government has inherited a dire economic and social situation and faces a daunting task of rebuilding the economy. Despite the efforts to fight poverty over the years. Poverty levels remain quite high (the percentage of households living below the poverty line of \$US1.25 /day was 48.4 per cent in 2010 and 48.65 per cent in 2015). The average GDP growth of 3 per cent per annum has barely kept up with population growth of 3.1 per cent. The Government is committed to economic reforms and the historic transition to democracy opens up many possibilities that could spur growth and restore the country's economic stability.

CONSTITUTIONAL,

The Gambia became independent on the 18th February 1965 and immediately embraced multi-party democracy until the military coup of July 1994 ended the democratically elected Government of Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara. After a two-year military rule, The Gambia returned to civilian rule in 1996 and a new Constitution (the 1997 Constitution) was promulgated, which came into force on the 12th of January 1997. The Constitution provides for participatory democracy, separation of powers, judicial independence and fundamental human rights.

The Gambia has a unicameral legislature with the National Assembly (Parliament) consisting of 58 members, 53 elected by universal suffrage, and 5 nominated by the President, for a five-year term. Section 7 of The Gambian Constitution stipulates The Gambia's laws to include Acts of the National Assembly and subsidiary legislation made under said Acts, decrees passed by the Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council, the common law and principles of equity, Customary law so far as concerns members of the communities to which it applies, the Sharia as regards matters of marriage, divorce and inheritance among members of the communities to which it applies.

Political

The Gambia gained independence in 1965. In 1994 there was a coup d'état and Lieutenant Jammeh took over power and ruled as a military leader for two years before transitioning to civilian rule in 1996. He continued to rule for 22 years until December 1st 2016 when he lost the

Presidential elections. He initially conceded the elections but later changed his mind, triggering a political impasse, followed by mediation by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the deployment of a military force to The Gambia to ensure that he leaves power peacefully. President Adama Barrow took over from Yahya Jammeh on the 19th of January 2017.

Since the present Government took office in January 2017, it has committed itself to the full realisation of the fundamental human rights of all persons in The Gambia. To this end, the Government is undertaking key constitutional and legal reforms to consolidate the democratic gains made by The Gambia.

Legal

The Gambian legal system is modelled on the English Legal system as it incorporates the Common Law, doctrines of equity and statute of General Application. In The Gambia, the Sharia is applicable to over 95% of the population as personal law in matters like marriage, divorce and inheritance. Therefore, Gambian Law and the Sharia are administered contemporaneously.

Chapter 3: The Gambia BPFA +25 Review Methodology

The review process took the form of consultations with relevant stakeholders and under the guidance and supervision of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, a technical working group was engaged for the review of the submissions and the report was prepared after conducting extensive consultations and meetings with stakeholders in relevant Ministries and Institutions to obtain information on the progress made and challenges being encountered in the implementation of the BPFA since the last report in 2014.

PART 2: OVERVIEW OF 25 YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Chapter 4: Achievements and Challenges in Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Since 1995

The Gambia is signatory to and has committed herself to the implementation of the International Conventions, agreements and declarations which are directly relevant to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration, namely, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, The African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equity in Africa, and several other human rights instruments.

Since the coming in to force of the Beijing Declaration in 1995, the Gambia took series of initiatives to harmonise and domesticate the twelve critical areas of concern of the declaration

and these included: The promulgation of the first Generation Policy known as the National Policy for the Advancement of Gambian Women (NPAGW) 1999-2009, the Gender and Women Empowerment Policy 2010-2020, The National Health Policy. “Health is Wealth” and the Health Master Plan 2008-2020; The Education Policy 2004-2015, Education Sector Strategic Plan 2013 – 2022: the Medium Term Plan 2006-2009, “Rethinking Education for Poverty Reduction” and the education Strategic plan 2016-2020; National Employment Strategic and Policy 2016 – 2025; Nation Nutrition Policy 2010 – 2020; National Plan of Action for Accelerated Abandonment/ Cutting of FGM in The Gambia; the Gambia’s development Strategy and Investment Programme for 2012 to 2015, National Policy on Non-Formal Education 2017 – 2021; National Population Policy 2016-2020; the National Social Protection Policy and Strategy 2016 – 2020; The Gender Mainstreaming and Women Empowerment Strategic Plan, 2010 – 2015; and National Plan of Action Against GBV 2013 – 2017.

While significant steps have been taken for the empowerment of women through several legislative acts, as well as vigorous efforts to ensure gender parity in primary education, the welfare of the Gambian women continues to lag significantly behind that of men. In its new development plan Government is determined to promote gender equity, equality and empowerment of women and girls for sustained socio-economic development. Key measures planned include gender mainstreaming; capacity development of women entrepreneurs; establishment of a fund to improve access to finance; legislative reforms and advocacy for enhanced representation and participation in decision making; gender based violence reduction programmes; and doing away with harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage.

Anecdotal evidence shows that the fundamental challenges in Promoting Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Since 1995 in The Gambia is associated to patriarchy of the Gambia social settings which is characterized by male hegemony and other socio-cultural factors that interplay to influence the interactions between the gender roles and socialisation processes. These inequalities have resulted, in some cases, in the exclusion of women and girls, from actively participating in the development process of the country. Overall, there is slow progress in gender responsiveness in The Gambia. This is largely due to the inadequate capacity at both national and sector levels to mainstream gender and applies gender analysis skills to policy-making. It is also due to limited awareness of gender issues; and weak support, advocacy, awareness raising, coordination and monitoring on the part of other stakeholders.¹

Chapter 5: Legislative Framework Promoting Women Empowerment and Gender Equity and Equality

¹ ICPD report 2015

The 1997 Constitution is the basic law of the land. The Preamble states that “the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in this constitution will ensure for all time respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to ethnic consideration, gender, language or religion..”. Section 33(1) provides for the equality of all persons before the law and that no person shall be discriminated based on different grounds including gender. In terms specific legislations promulgated for the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls, The Gambia in 2010 enacted the Children’s Act of 2005, the Trafficking in Persons Act of 2007, the Tourism Offences Act of 2003, Women’s Act which was amended in 2015 to prohibit FGM/C in The Gambia, the Domestic Violence Act 2013 and the Sexual Offences Act 2013, and the Labour Act of 2007, the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission Act 2017 which have all been promulgated to address the human right violations of the 22 years of dictatorship.

Subsequently, in the advent of the third Republic, the National Development Plan 2018-2021 was formulated as successor of the Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE) 2013-2015. The plan take into consideration of ensuring that gender is fully integrated as a critical enabler in the Medium-term development policy framework for The Gambia. This for the first time the Beijing Platform of Action twelve critical areas of concerns including the Sustainable Development Goals are being implemented and monitored through the National Development Framework.

Access to justice and equal protection before the law for women and girls have been guaranteed under section 7 of the Women’s Act 2010 provides that every woman is entitled to equality and justice before the law and to equal protection of the law. Government is obligated to provide legal aid support; ensure law enforcement organs are equip to effectively interpret and enforce gender equality rights; ensure that women are equitably represented in the judiciary; and take adequate steps for reform discriminatory laws.

Gambia Government also took legal action to elimination all forms of discrimination against women, girls and persons with disability under section 14 of the Women’s Act 2010 also obligates government to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. The provision is quite comprehensive and calls on Government Departments and other public institutions to implement measures, policies and strategies to eliminate discrimination, including periodic training of personnel on gender and human rights, and mainstreaming gender perspective in planning and programming of all activities and initiatives.

Considering the slow progress in achieving gender equality Government to steps to initiate temporary special measures in favour of women in accordance to section 15 of the Women’s Act 2010, deals with temporary special measures to be adopted by every organ, body, public

institution, authority or private enterprise aimed at accelerating *de facto* equality between men and women. Under this section a distinction is made between *de facto* and *de jure* discrimination. Considering the social and cultural set up of The Gambia, there may be instances where even though the law does not create or cause any impediment for women, the social and cultural environment may not be conducive for the achievement of equality. In such an instance, Government and all private institutions are called upon to take positive steps to achieve genuine *de facto* equality.

The inheritance rights of a woman are determined by her personal law, as in The Gambia, inheritance is a matter for personal and customary law. The Sharia Law is applicable for Muslims, statutory law for Christians and customary law for persons who are traditionalist. This means that apart from a few mandatory exceptions contained in laws like the Women's Act, 2010 and the Children's Act, 2005, the applicable family law to the people of The Gambia is dependent on one's personal law.² The 1997 Constitution does not have a specific provision with regards to women's ownership of land. However, section 22 deals with the protection from deprivation of property. This section can invariably protect land ownership.

The Women's Act contains several provisions in relating to ownership to land, namely:

Section 41 states that a woman has the right to acquire her own property and administer and manage it freely.

- I. Section 43 guarantees women's equitable rights as men in case of separation, divorce or annulment of marriage.
- II. Section 33(4) goes on further to ensure equitable sharing of the joint property derived from the marriage.
- III. Section 44 protects widow's rights and provides that a widow has the right to an equitable share in the inheritance of the property of her husband.
- IV. Government is obligated under section 52(2) to take all appropriate measures to promote women's access to, and control over, productive resources such as land, and guarantee their right to property.

Even though significant progress has been made in enacting laws, formulating and adopting policies, Plans of Actions and strategies addressing women's human rights and welfare and developmental needs, the reality is far apart from these stated intentions. Cultural patterns, traditional roles, religious beliefs, patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes continue to prevent women from exercising the rights contained in these guarantees.

PART 3: PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERNS OF THE PLATFORM OF ACTION

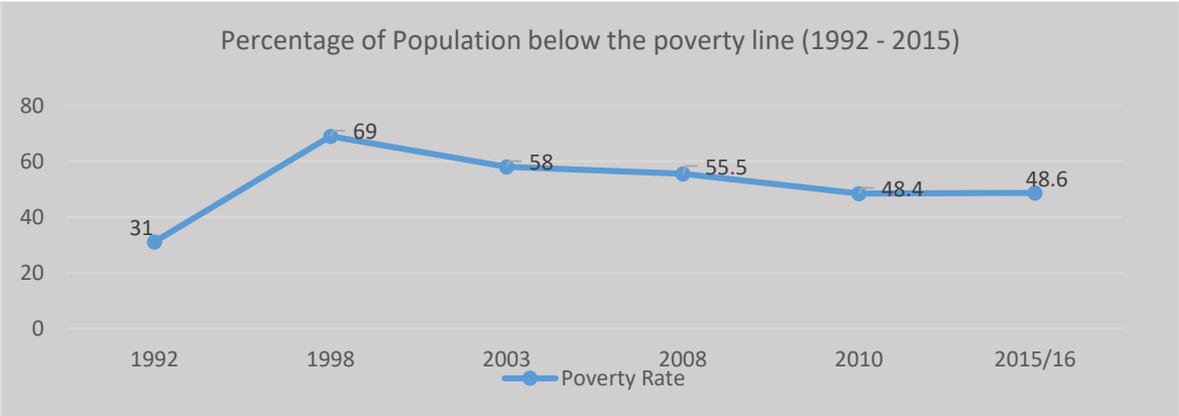
Chapter 6: Women and Poverty

² See sec 7 of the Constitution.

The Gambia has implemented programmes to reduce poverty since 1994, when it launched its first Strategy for Poverty Alleviation. Poverty had shown signs of decline in the past, with the proportion of people living in poverty decreasing slightly. In 2010, a Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) conducted as part of the 2010 Human Development Report used 10 indicators to measure poverty in three dimensions³: education, health and living standards. The index which reflects both the incidence of poverty and the average intensity of deprivation estimated that 34 per cent of the population live below the \$1.25/day poverty line and 57 per cent live below the \$2/day poverty line. It estimated the national poverty line at 61 per cent in 2010. However, the 2015/16 Integrated Household Survey indicated little progress in poverty decline overall; in fact, it shows a slight increase in rural areas⁴.

Achieving the SDG target of eradicating extreme poverty could be a big task for the country as almost half the population (48.6%) currently live below the poverty line. The new National Development Plan (NDP) just formulated and whose implementation will start at the beginning of 2018 is focused on the elimination of poverty and the reduction of inequality through job creation programmes as well as creating conducive conditions for entrepreneurship. The NDP has in place evidence-based policies, strategies and programmes to achieve the SDGs including inclusive structural transformation, access to land and resources, income diversification, decent jobs and gender equality as well as strategies to strengthen rural institutions and access to social protection for the rural poor.

In spite of a relatively high level of domestic inflation, the macro-economic situation is generally stable; the policy framework to enable a more effective productive sector is in place and private investment has begun to gain significance in the economy with opportunities for employment expansion, and significant payoffs resulting from major public investments in education and health. Education at all levels account for 22% of the national consolidated expenditure budget whilst health accounts for 7.1%⁵.



³ Human Development Report 2015

⁴ The Gambia SDG Report 2017

⁵ Approved National Budget 2019

Figure 1 Percentage of Population below the poverty line (1992 - 2015)

About 48.6% of the population lived below the international poverty line in 2015/16. There is hope for improvement in the living conditions of the Gambian, as the percentage trend of poverty is going down. In that vein the Government of The Gambia renews its commitment to eradicating poverty, made in the National Development Plan 2018- 2021.

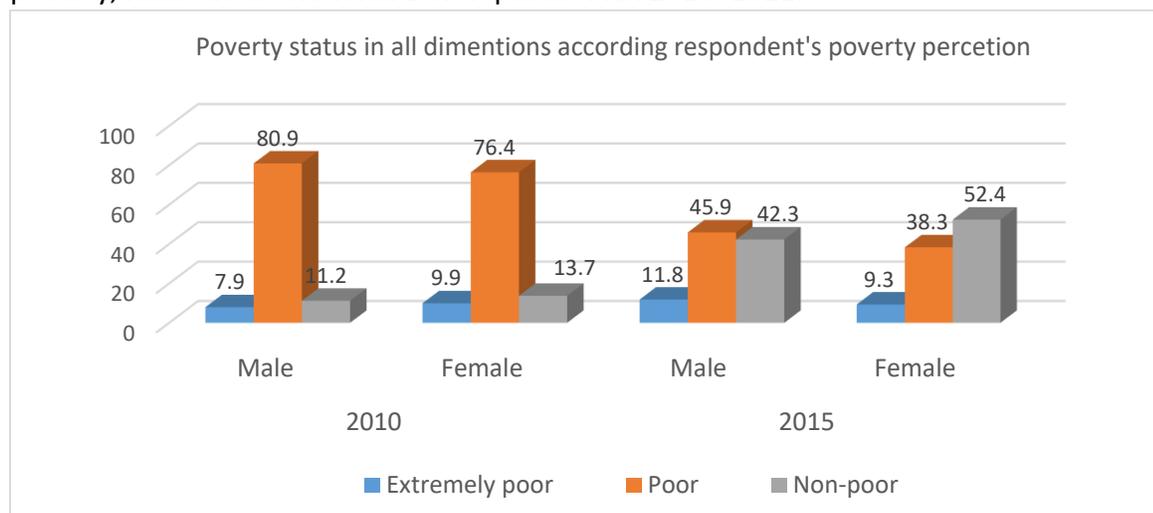


Figure 2: Poverty status in all dimensions according respondent's poverty perception

Respondents were asked a question on how often in the last 12 months did their household experience difficulties satisfying the following needs; food, school fees, health care, house rent, utility. Issues relating to house rent received the highest proportion of households (86.3%) that did not experience difficulties paying for, followed by utility (73.4%), school fees (70.4%) health care (63.5%) and food (57.4%). With reference to the above chart the 2015 perception rate has drop significantly for both male and female compared to 2010 reports.

Government is committed to improving the lives of the poorest and the most vulnerable by providing them with the requisite support and tools to improving their lives and making them productive members of society. A National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) 2015-2025 accompanied by a strategic plan and implementation plan was developed and approved by Cabinet. The policy defines a comprehensive and crosscutting social protection agenda and proposes a set of priority actions to guide the gradual establishment of an integrated and inclusive social protection system in The Gambia. The NSPP sets out in detail the Government's vision and commitment to modernize the social protection system, as well as the steps it will take to broaden coverage to those in need of support.

A social protection mapping has been done and there are plans to establish a social protection secretariat to coordinate all social protection programmes in the country. There are also plans to establish a single registry system for targeting to provide a single platform where common and

essential information across social protection programmes are stored, analyzed and reported for the benefit of the stakeholders. A study on the creation of fiscal space to determine how space can be created in the national budget for social protection as well as new and innovative way of financing social protection is underway and a cost-benefit analysis study for school meals done.

The Maternal and Child Nutrition and Health Results Project (MCNHRP) using the Results Based Financing (RBF) approach, the Building Resilience through Social Transfers (BRST) of which 2,400 vulnerable households and 6,000 women with children 0-2 in food insecure districts respectively are benefiting. The unconditional cash transfers known as “NAFA” program will also be initiated soon targeting 6,000 vulnerable households so as to increase the coverage of social assistance for the extreme poor. The World Bank has approved \$30 Million for the strengthening of the Social Protection System in The Gambia. In 2019 the Gambia Government committed 5 Million Dalasi and the European Union provides 3 Million Euro budget support for the establishment of a Women Enterprise Development Fund.

The implementation of this fund may likely be challenge with low financial literacy of women; limited employable skills, capital, and access to market opportunities and ownership of land due mainly to inherent socio-cultural and traditional barriers continue to impede women getting out of the poverty. The high interest rates ranging from 8% to 50% in the formal sector does not allow wealth creating investment borrowing by women. To address these challenges a strong set of social protection guiding documents was developed by the Government of the Gambia with the support of development partners through a participatory process. These includes the:- National Social Protection Policy (2015-25) and the Social Protection Implementation Plan (2015-2020), Social Protection Fiscal Space Analysis, Functional review of the social protection system, Social Protection Mapping, Design of the social protection and social registry as well as the National Cash Transfer Programme (NCTP).

Chapter 8: Education and Training of Women

The Gambia made significant advances in realizing the Beijing Platform for Action notably in the field of education and training of Women and girls in the fields of Vocational Skills, Science and technology but significant challenges remain. Under the new National Development Plan, government will prioritize further investments to develop the country’s human capital through ensuring quality health and education, and making basic social services accessible and affordable to all and improving social and child protection systems for the most vulnerable. This includes (i) enhancing access to early childhood education, (ii) improving quality learning, with special emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Health, Agriculture and special needs at the basic, post-secondary/tertiary and higher education levels, promote TVET and other skills enhancing initiatives to match the job market; and (iii) take measures to enhance access to non-formal education in order to build a more skilled and productive work force.

Through affirmative action, girls' education is tuition-free in the public schools up to Grade 9. Further support through scholarship packages is provided through the Girls' Scholarship Trust Fund, the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre Scholarship for Girls and other scholarship packages provided by development and bilateral partners. The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education also provides donkeys and donkey carts to feeder villages within two to three kilometers to schools in their communities. This is done for easy access and safety for students especially the girls. Over the past eight years, about one thousand, seven hundred girls and five hundred boys were re-entered back to school. Most of them are now in tertiary institutions.

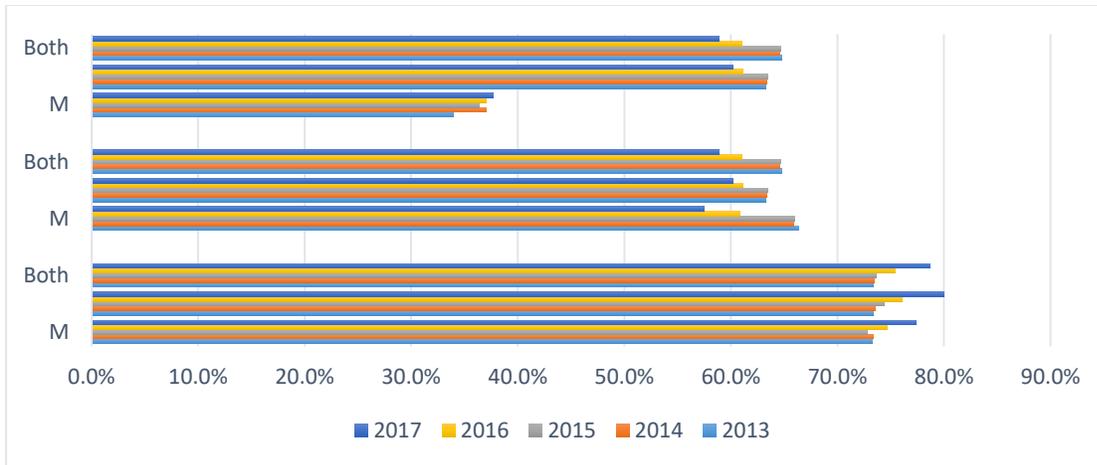
The School Improvement Grant (SIG) initiated in 2018, is to covered school fees, book rental and the development fee up to senior secondary level for both boys and girls in school. This programme is being implemented to improve re-enter of students out of school due to pregnancy. This re-entry program had provided educational opportunities for out-of-school children and youths to attain basic education, lifelong learning and livelihood skills. The Ministry also established tutorial centres which are evenly spread across the country, from regions 1 to 6. The objectives of the centres is to give every school going age the opportunity to have access to educational facilities regardless of gender, age, ethnic, culture and religion.

Table 1 Percentage of children in the population who completed Grades 6, 9 and 12 by gender

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Grade 6								
M	73.3%	71.2%	73.8%	73.3%	73.3%	72.8%	74.7%	77.4%
F	73.9%	70.5%	71.1%	73.4%	73.6%	74.4%	76.0%	80.0%
Both	73.6%	70.9%	72.4%	73.4%	73.4%	73.6%	75.4%	78.7%
Grade 9								
M	62.7%	64.7%	65.1%	66.3%	66.0%	66.0%	60.8%	57.5%
F	56.3%	62.0%	64.2%	63.2%	63.3%	63.5%	61.2%	60.2%
Both	59.5%	63.3%	64.7%	64.8%	64.6%	64.7%	61.0%	58.9%
Grade 12								
M	31.4%	32.1%	34.1%	33.9%	37.0%	36.4%	37.1%	37.7%
F	56.3%	62.0%	64.2%	63.2%	63.3%	63.5%	61.2%	60.2%
Both	59.5%	63.3%	64.7%	64.8%	64.6%	64.7%	61.0%	58.9%

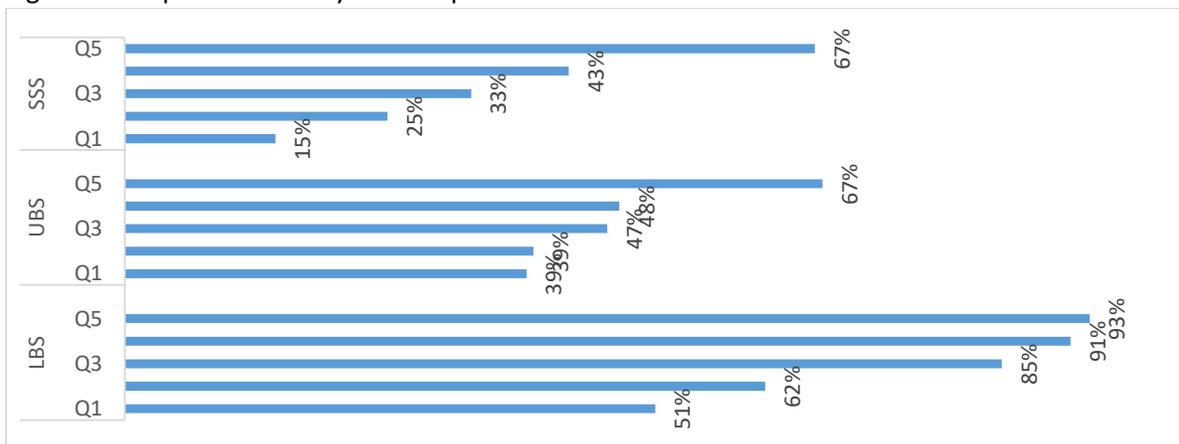
Figure:4

Percentage of children in the population who completed Grades 6, 9 and 12 by gender



The Grade 6 completion rates for the period 2010 to 2017 were about 80% for both males and females. The completion rates, however, decrease as the children move to higher grades, with only 58.9% of children completing Grade 12 in 2017. Nonetheless, the trend for completion rates for all grades is upward. Generally, more females than males completed grades 6, 9 and 12.

Figure 4 Completion rates by wealth quintile and level of education



In terms of completion rates by wealth quintile and level of education. The completion rates for the poorest decrease as they move to higher grades, with only 15% of the poor children completing Grade 12 in against 67% (more than two-third) in 2015. However, the more than half of the poor (51%) complete grade 6. Generally, completion rates are lower for poor quintiles compared to rich quintiles at all levels of education.

Chapter 9: Women and Health

Although The Gambia registered significant achievements of improved access to basic health services across the country, Primary Health Care (PHC) substantially deteriorated overtime and is no longer adequately serving the population. There is considerable growth in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), high Out of Pocket Expenditures for healthcare, serious challenges relating to maternal and women’s health, and skilled health personnel are inadequate.

To address these issues and other challenges, government will make major efforts to revitalize the Primary Health Care system, by building, re-orienting and re-aligning the health system in the Gambia towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC), with an emphasis on PHC, and maintaining effective systems to ensure improved financial protection and affordability for the most vulnerable populations, including women, children and the youth while intensifying focus on quality and equity. Four main outcomes are to be achieved during the next 4 years focusing on reducing maternal, new born mortality, reducing the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, and ensuring that the country has appropriately skilled health personnel in place. The weak health governance and partnership framework will also be addressed, as well as enhanced nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) outcomes.

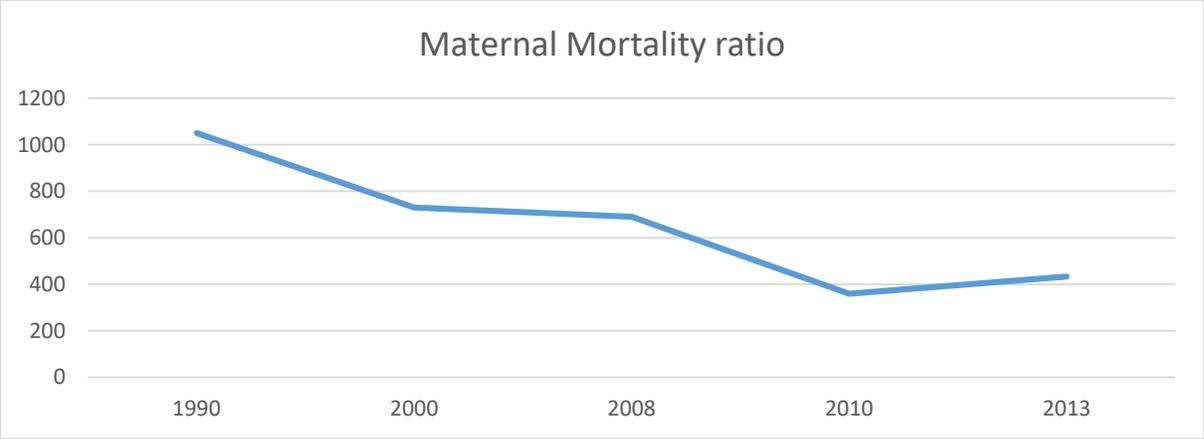
The implementation of the National Health Policy Framework (NHPR) (2007-2020) will improve and ensures equity in access and affordability of quality health services. The NHPF has targeted twelve major achievement indicators, including the following, which have gendered significance and are in conformity with MDG targets: Reduce the maternal mortality ratio from 730 per 100,000 births to 150 per 100,000 by 2015; Increase life expectancy for women from 65 years to 70 years by 2015; Increase life expectancy of men from 62.4 years to 68 years by 2015; reduce HIV AND AIDS prevalence rates: HIV 1 from 1.1% to 0.5% and HIV 2 from 0.7% to 0.2% by 2015; reduce the total fertility rate from 5.4 to 4.6 by 2015. The achievement of the indicators is hampered by high attrition of senior and trained staffs, who are lured away by the more lucrative incentives in local private sector and international health facilities.

Table 4 Proportion of births attended by health personnel

Year	1990	2000	2005	2008	2010	2013
Proportion of births attended by health personnel	42	54.6	56.8	64.5	56.6	63

Births attended to by skilled health personnel has fluctuated during the last 10 years; reaching its peak in 2008 and declining sharply in 2010 but however seems to be on an upward trend again as the latest figures (2013) show.

Figure 4 Maternal Mortality ratio



The number of women who died as a result of complications during pregnancy or childbearing decreased from 1050 per 100 000 in 1990 to 433 per 100 000 in 2013.

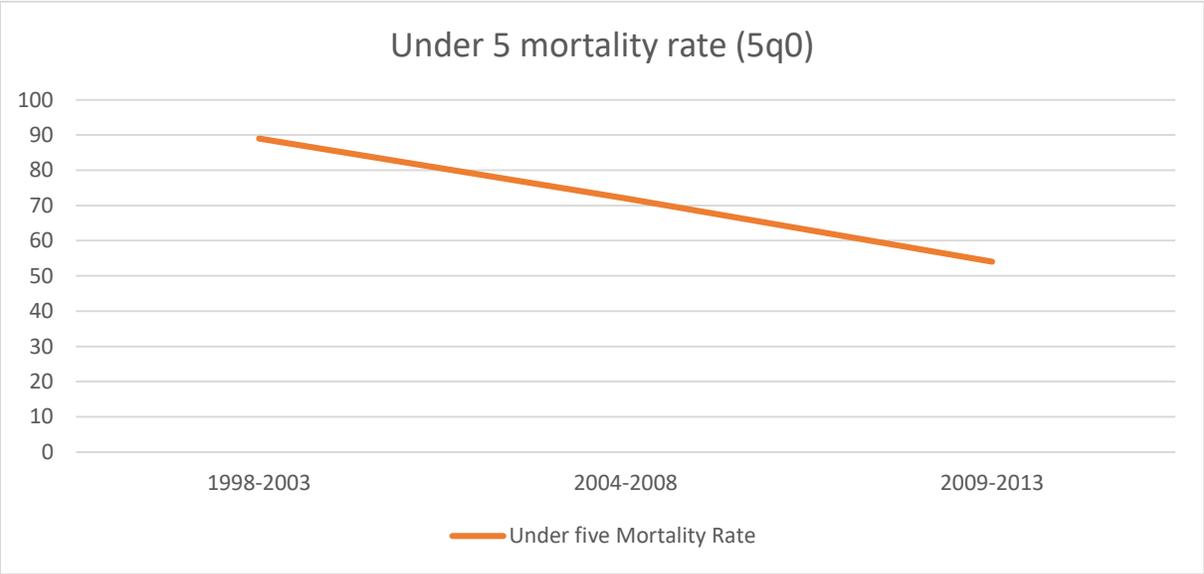
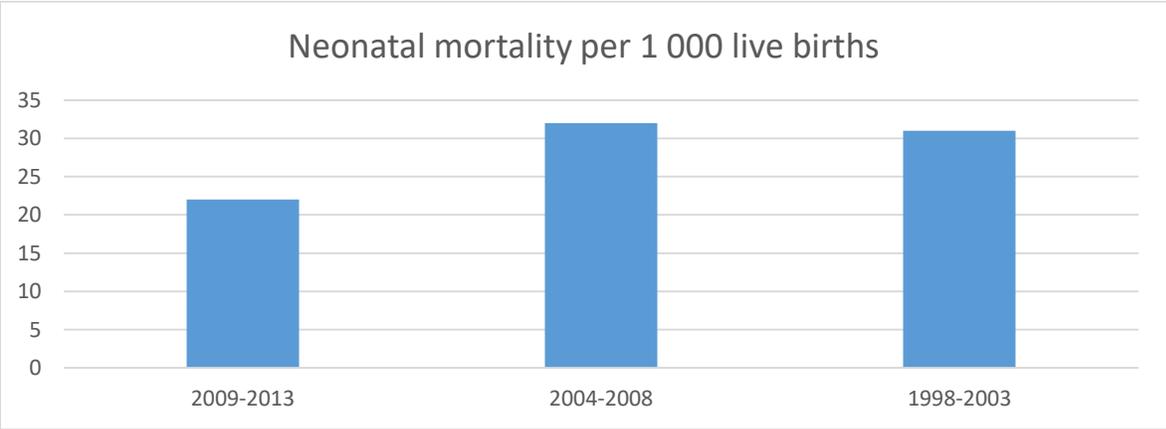


Figure 1 Under 5 mortality rate (5q0)



The number of children who died before reaching their 5th birthday decreased from 89 per 1 000 live births to 54 per 1 000 live births in 2009-2013. From the figures provided, in comparison with other countries in the sub-Saharan region, childhood mortality is relatively low in The Gambia. Under-5 mortality for the period 0-4 years before the 2013 GDHS survey, which corresponds approximately to the calendar years 2009-2013, is 54 deaths per 1,000 births.

Following the usual pattern, most of the early childhood mortality occurs in the first year of life; the infant mortality is 34 deaths per 1,000 births, while mortality between the first and the fifth birthday is 20 deaths per 1,000. As expected, neonatal mortality (mortality during the first month) is higher than post neonatal mortality (22 deaths per 1,000 compared with 12 deaths per 1,000), representing 65 per cent of the overall infant mortality. Data from Registration of Birth and Death Unit shows that, infant mortality rate is at 1.95% and the maternal mortality rate is 21.38%⁶.

Prevalence of HIV infections by sex, age and key populations

Characteristics		Female	Male	Total
Age	15-19	0.4	0.3	0.4
	20-24	0.3	0	0.1
	25-29	2.5	0.6	1.7
	30-34	2.5	3.9	3.1
	35-39	5.9	5.9	5.9
	40-44	4.9	3.2	4.1
	45-49	3.4	2.7	3.1
	50-59	na	3.3	na
Overall		2.1	1.7	1.9
Urban		2.4	1.3	1.9
Rural		1.8	2.3	2

The Government of The Gambia continue to undertake gender sensitive initiatives that address sexual transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and Sexual and Reproductive Health Issues such as the free maternal health care services across the country. The expansion health care services and facilities had significant impact evident in the low prevalence rate of HIV as well as the decline of infant and maternal mortality rate cumulated with effective, efficient, accessible and affordable reproductive health services. The World Bank continues to provide funding for the health human resources development strategies under the Global Fund, to support malaria, HIV AND AIDS and tuberculosis prevention and care. These are three major areas from which both Gambian women (the main victims) and men could continue to benefit directly, today, while they resonate into future gains.⁷

⁶ HMIS 2018

⁷The Gambia SDG Report 2017.

The National AIDS Secretariat (NAS) is responsible for the overall coordination and management of the national HIV response. The National AIDS Secretariat continues to deliver on its mandate of coordination and monitoring of the national response, in addition to fulfilling its responsibility as a Principal Recipient (PR) for the Global Fund (GF) Round 8 HIV Grant and Government is providing counterpart funding equivalent to over D2.5 million per quarter towards the operational cost of the Secretariat as condition precedent for Global Fund Grant. Total Grant funding for the period 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2020 for HIV/TB/RSSH) amounts to Twelve Million, Two Hundred and Seventy Dollars, and Two Hundred and Eight Dollars (USD 12,270,208)

Programmes to support women living and affected with HIV are not stand-alone but integrated in the comprehensive HIV interventions and in Sexual and Reproductive Health Services. NAS has updated both the National HIV Policy and National Strategic Plan (NSP) for the period 2015-2019, with an overall goal: To achieve zero new HIV infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero stigma and discrimination in The Gambia.

Currently, implementation of the National Health Policy Framework (NHPF) 2007-2020 is ongoing. The Policy seeks to 'promote equity (both gender and territorial) in access and affordability of quality health services, maintain ethics and standards, promote health system reforms and improve staff retention and client satisfaction.' Other health sector policies currently being implemented include the National Reproductive Health Policy, National HIV/AIDS Policy, the National Nutrition Policy and the National Population Policy and Plan of Action.

The National Nutrition Agency is mandated by the Act to coordinate and implement community based nutritional programmes to protect, promote and improve the nutritional status of the people notably women and children. This programme targeted the promotion of salt iodization, vitamin A supplementation and included the baby friendly hospital initiative, integrated anaemia pilot program and the baby friendly community initiative across all the regions.

According to the most recent National Sentinel Surveillance (NSS) study conducted among 6120 antenatal women in 12 health facilities (3 hospitals and 9 health centres) in 2017, the prevalence of HIV-1 is estimated at 1.67% and HIV-2 at 0.07%.⁸ The National AIDS Secretariat promulgated a HIV/ AID Act 2015 which has mandated the agency to coordinate and provide policy adviser to the Government on issues relating to HIV/AIDS and other critical health matters. The agency also provides Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT), Anti-retroviral therapy (ART), services for prevention of parent to child (PPTCT), and treatment for infections are offered free of charge. As of 2017, the number of HIV counseling and testing has increased to 52 and 48 PMTCT sites have been established. 78,267 people tested and all received their results in 2017 and 86% of HIV

⁸ HMIS 2018.

positive pregnant women received ARV prophylaxis for PMTCT by 2017. In addition, there has been a scaling up of the ART centers from 8 in 2015 to 15 in 2017 established at least one in each District Health Centres, Hospitals and Community Reproductive Health Clinics to increase access.

In terms of Public Private Partnership in Health Service Delivery the participation of Non- state actors is critical in complementing Government effort in addressing the health coverage and accessibility. In 2017, the Women's Bureau in partnership with the ECOWAS Centre for Development and BAFROW conducted fistula surgical operations and rehabilitation to 35 women. The Gambia National Association of AIDS Support Societies (GAMNASS), the umbrella body organization gives support to people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHIV) also conducted series of public awareness and sensitisation forum on HIV/AIDS.

Home based care services continues to be provided by CSOs such as Hands on Care, GRCS and organisations of PLWHA such as Santa Yalla, Nyanaiyikiling and Mutapola (a network of women and girls living with HIV AND AIDS). HIV AND AIDS prevention activities are carried out by), Nova Scotia Gambia Association (NSGA), TANGO, Lend A Hand Society (LAHS), Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS), The Trust Agency for Rural Development (TARUD), NASSO, Soul Talk and Concern Universal. Action Aid the Gambia (AATG) as a principal recipient of the Global Fund HIV AND AIDS project provided nutritional and educational support to 7,876 and 683 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) respectively. A total of 1400 PLHIVs were also provided with Home Based Care (HBC) services. Peer Education activities continues to be implemented by NGOs such as the Nova Scotia Gambia Association [NSGA], GAMCOTRAP, BAFROW, The Gambia Girl's Guides Association, Think Young Women, Girls Agenda, Girls Generation among others.

Socio-cultural beliefs continue to prevent people especially women from making use of available health facilities, attitude and Behaviour Change is required to curb the situation. Stigma and discrimination against PLHIV have negative consequences on the intervention. HIV related stigma and discrimination has been manifested in many settings with long-term negative impacts on women living with HIV. Disclosure of their HIV status has resulted in blame, abuse and divorce. A key outcome of the Abuja Declaration is that Heads of State pledge to set aside at least 15 per cent of their national budget to the improvement of the health sector. According to the 2012 National budget, health was allocated 12.7%. This is indeed a significant allocation. However, The Gambia is still unable to fulfil this obligation. There is need for increased budgetary allocation to address the resource needs of the MoH with particularly attention to the reproductive health services funding.

Figure Confirmed uncomplicated malaria per 1 000

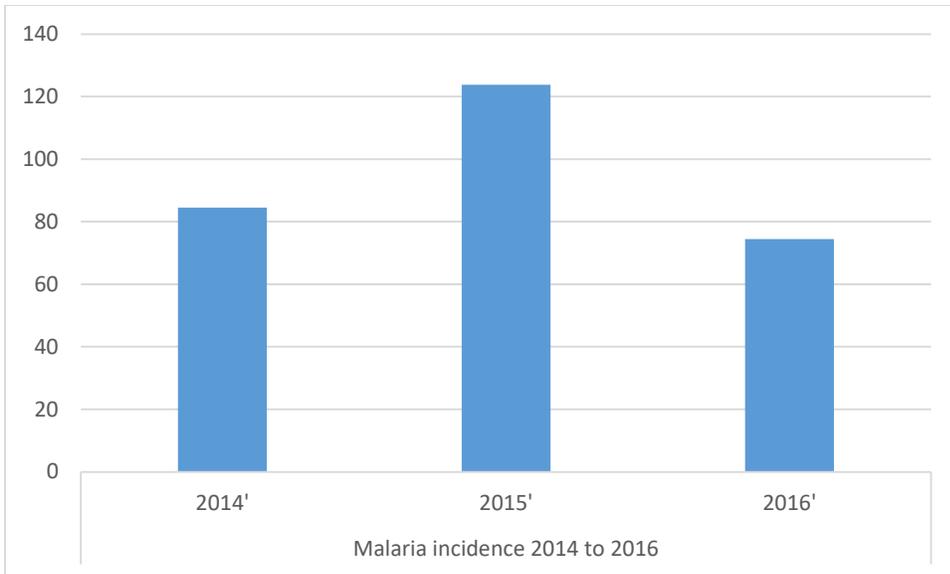
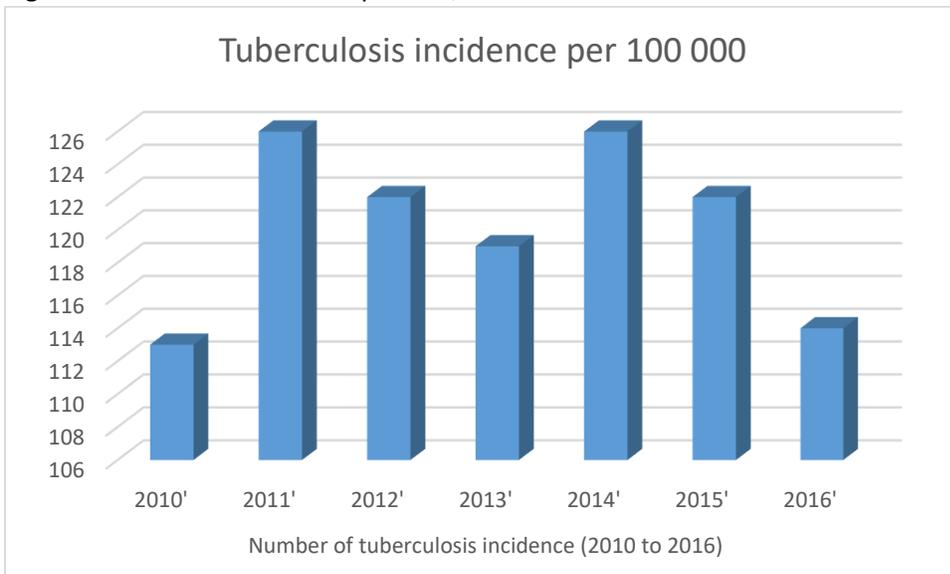


Figure Tuberculosis incidence per 100, 000



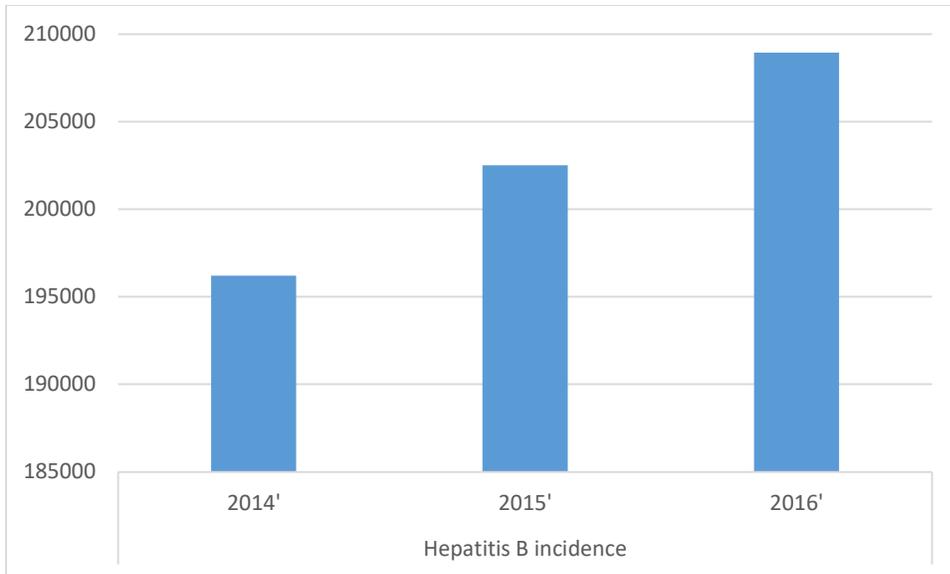


Figure Hepatitis B incidence per 100 000

Chapter 10: Violence against Women

Series of research have been conducted on Violence Against Women (VAW) as indicated in the Gambia Beijing+ 20 Report. Following the enactment of the Sexual Offences Act 2013 and the Domestic Violence Act 2013, the multi sectorial National Steering Committee on Gender Based Violence continue to provide the platform for sharing of best practices on addressing Violence Against Women. The GBV Secretariat and Advisory Committee are yet to be established as stated in section 5 of the Domestic Violence Act 2013. Since the enactment of these Acts, consultations have been undertaken by state and non state actors to raise awareness of the Acts, ensure compliance and effective implementation. As a result the Act is currently being applied throughout the country, however it is recognised that there is need to improve on the enforcement of the Acts. The Women's Bureau in partnership with Action Aid The Gambia and The Network Against Gender Based Violence is currently developing Regulations for the Sexual Offences 2013.

The creation of database remains a challenge to the government however with the on going reform agenda of the government measures to enhance the criminal justice system are being explored with a view to adopting practices that improves the system and protects victims. Currently, The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare recently launched a pilot scheme of the Gender Management Information System portal (GMIS) in identified police stations with the sole aim of tracking cases to generate statistical data on GBV cases in The Gambia. Currently the Department of Social Welfare is the only government providing psychological rehabilitation

and reintegration for women victims of violence. However due to financial and resource limitations these services are limited and at times not available to all those who need it.

The Women's Bureau in partnership with UNFPA developed Training Manual on Gender- based violence and Violence against Women for The Gambia Police Force and its integration in the Gambia Police Force Training Curriculum in 2016. Over the years sensitization training workshops have been held for Security Units in different part of the country to address Gender- based violence. The outcomes of such trainings include recommendations to include Gender- based violence as a module for recruits as they get into the service. The trainings revealed the relationship between people in service and their cultural identities and it was discovered that while communities are changing and taking steps to protect their girls, the relevant institutions have to be equipped with the relevant knowledge and skills to complement and support the communities they are serving.

In complementing Government efforts in addressing violence against women and girls through the UNICEF/ UNFPA Joint Programme for Accelerating the Abandonment of FGM/C and Child Marriage CSOs and NGOs such as the Think Young Women, Safe Hands for Girls, Girls Agenda, Girls Generation, Foundation for Research on Women's Reproductive Health Productivity and Environment (BAFROW) and Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices (GAMCOTRAP) have developed and implemented programmes to address GBV and other harmful traditional practices. Activities included trainings of community based facilitators, community and religious leaders, women leaders, young people, as well as capacity building on Alternative Employment Opportunity for circumcisers from Central River Region (CRR) North.

In 2019, UNFPA supported Government to develop training manual on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) for integration in school nursing and midwifery curriculum and use by all stakeholders. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare is also working with GAMTEL/GAMCEL and private GSM companies to establish a hotline for reporting of GBV cases. The One –Stop Centre has been expanded to Bansang Hospital in Central River Region. The provision of counseling and psychosocial support remains a challenge since the establishment of the centers. This calls for capacity building of more social workers and psychologist to be able to address the human capital gap in these fields of the health system.

The Female lawyers Association The Gambia (FLAG) continue to provide legal services, such as legal aid and paralegals, capacity building mad human rights awareness trainings. FLAG has recently trained rural women as paralegals as well as conduct sensitisation workshop for National Assembly Members on the Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Acts of 2013. Other target groups include religious leaders, community and traditional leaders, journalists, women and girls.

Gender Based Violence continues to hamper the growth, health and development of women and children in The Gambia. The major forms of violence perpetuated to women are domestic and sexual violence, child marriage, forced marriage, and Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting. The MICS6 Report 2018 indicated that 8.6 per cent of women married before they were 15 years, while 46.5 per cent were married before 18 years. It is not uncommon to hear of stories of young girls being taken out of school and forced into marriage by their family. In the Gambia, the prevalence of FGM still remains as high as 78.3% although recent MICS study indicate a reduction with a new prevalence of 64 percent.⁹

GBV DATA COLLECTED BY WOMEN'S BUREAU

YEAR	BEFORE VERIFICATION	AFTER VERIFICATION
2013 (October – December)	12	12
2014 (January -December)	458	382
2015(January – December)	462	366
2016 (January – December)	473	403
2017 (January – December)	375	334
2018 (January – December)		
Total	1,780	1,497

2013 = 3 sexual violence cases

2014 = 92 sexual violence cases

2015 = 203 sexual violence cases

2016 = 153 sexual violence cases

2017 (Jan-Sept) = 138 sexual violence cases

Total = 589 cases of sexual violence recorded from 2013 to 2017 third quarter.

Chapter 11: Women and Armed Conflict

The Gambia was one of the ECOWAS Member States that had developed National Action Plan on the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 in 2012 since its adoption in 2000. Despite the fact that the Gambia has not experienced any major conflict since 1981, it is situated within a region that has witnessed conflicts within the past decades. Although recently experiencing transformation from 22 years of dictatorship, bad governance to democracy and transitional justice. The Gambia is a fragile state as it experiences a political impasse, resulting from the December 1 election that President Jammeh initially accepted defeat and later retracted his concession. The ECOWAS mediation Team led by Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari and Military intervention by the ECOWAS Standby Force led to Jammeh's exile to Equatorial Guinea. The new Government is undertaking reforms to strengthen social cohesion and peace among Gambians this includes:- the transitional justice reform, constitutional reform, judicial reform, security sector reform, the Truth Reconciliation and Reparation Commission (TRRC) among others.

⁹ The Gambia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 6) 2018 not published

The Gambia is a party to UNSCR 1325 which calls on peace keeping operations to incorporate a gender perspective in all their work and the maintenance of gender equality at all levels of the entire mission. In line with this obligation, Gambian women security personnel have participated in a number of peace-keeping missions both in and outside the region. The findings of the review of the implementation of the Gambia UNSCR1325 NAP revealed that there are:

- Proliferation of CSOs, NGOs, and professional groups operating in the area of women's human rights and women's empowerment – a growing women's movement and the formation of the Gender Action Team (GAT) a coalition/platform of over 20 such organisations;
- Women in parliament remains at less than 10%;
- Raising of the voices of women and promoting women's leadership and involvement in decision making, participation and representation seen marked increase;
- Formation of the Female Lawyers of the Gambia (Flag) providing much needed legal support to the movement;

The second generation National Action Plan will focus on the following priorities: -

- Sensitization on and popularization of women's human rights and promotion of peace, including UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions targeting decision makers; various sectors; women and men at all levels; educational and academic institutions as well as opinion, religious and traditional leaders, and other stakeholders to appreciate gender equality and to know what provisions are available;
- Capacity strengthening of partner organisations on gender, women, peace and security to systematically build the foundation of the ripple down effect need to reach a broader constituency of the population and to enhance strategic partnerships;
- Strengthening the early warning mechanism to avoid internal conflict;
- Implement the recommendations of research directed at enhancing participation and representation of women;
- Exchange visits with neighbouring countries to enhance partnerships, learning and sharing on good practices;

The West African Network for Peace Building (WANEP) – Gambia Chapter which was established in 2003 continues to be instrumental in conflict prevention initiatives for sustainable peace and development. It has a membership of 40 civil society organizations and maintains focal points in each of the 5 regions. It provides tailor-made training programmes for government stakeholders, security forces, and civil society including grassroots communities. WANEP-The Gambia has been providing capacity on peace education, early warning and early response and peace building monitoring and evaluation.

WANEP leads the consortium of Civil Society Organisations on election monitoring. This consortium has monitored the 2016 and 2018 Presidential, National Assembly and Local Authority elections countrywide and has presented their reports to the Independent Electoral

Commission (IEC). The monitoring enhanced civil society participation and contributes to ensuring free and fair elections.

Chapter 12: Women and the Economy

The Gambia experienced prolonged periods of macroeconomic instability during the past decades couple with high unemployment and increased vulnerability of women and girls to risk this has been recognised under the critical enablers of the National Development Plan 2018-2021 “ Enhance Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls”. Therefore, government will undertake major reforms in a bid to *enhance macroeconomic management for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction*.

This will be achieved through prudent fiscal management, debt sustainability measures, broadening the tax base and improving tax efficiency, as well as implementing Public Finance Management reforms. Government will design and implement sound monetary and flexible exchange rate policies for price and exchange rate stability while also strengthening the State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), as well as financial governance institutions such as the Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG). Government will also strengthen and deepen Gambia’s financial sector to ensure that barriers in access to finance to the private sector, including for agriculture, women and youth are eliminated.

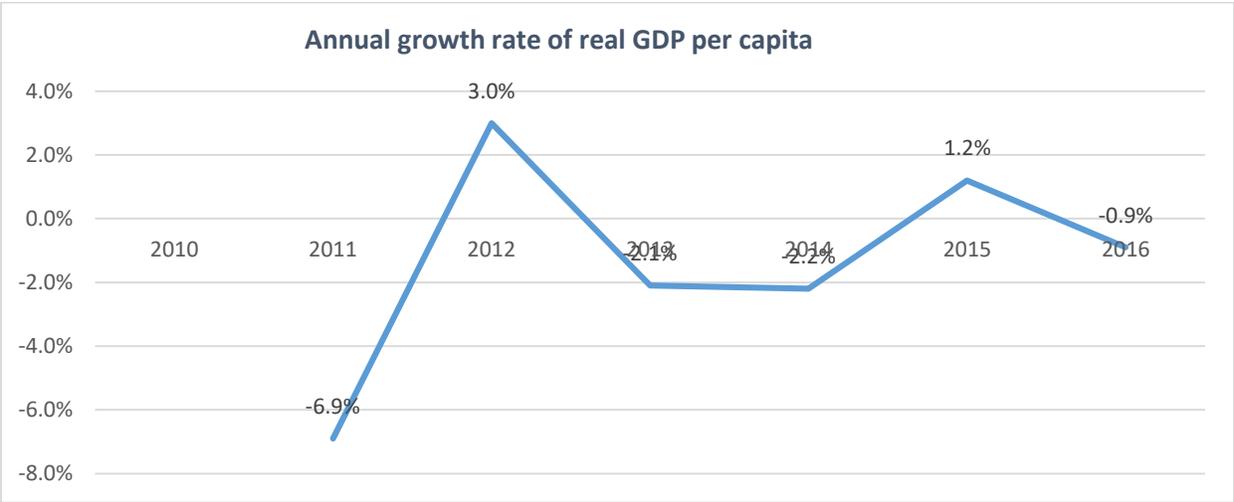


Figure Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

The graph above shows the erratic nature of the annual growth rate of per capita income in The Gambia. This may be attributed to the various supply shocks (mainly weather shocks) that the economy is exposed to.

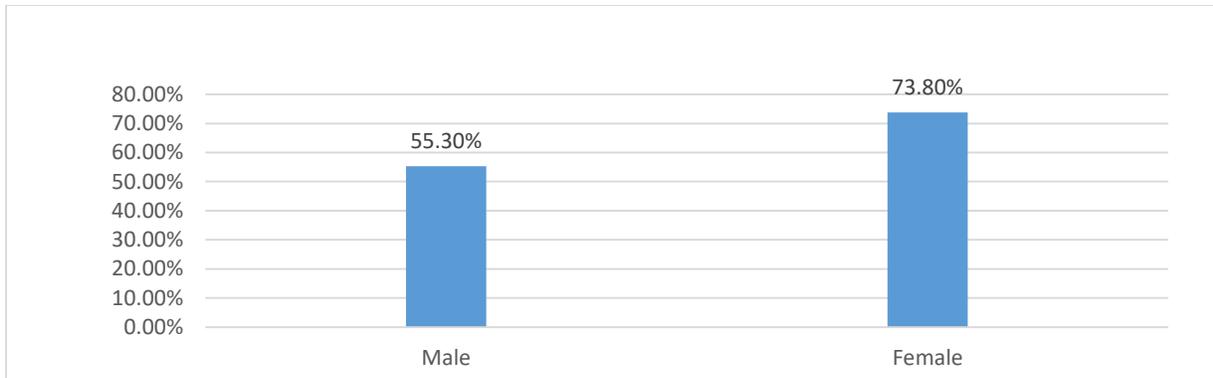


Figure Informal Employment in non-agricultural employment

In general, the informal employment rate for the country was 62.8 percent. However, if the informal employment rate was based on those employed in non-agricultural sector and includes those in household activities (ISIC4 code 98). This gives an informal employment rate of 62.8 percent. Males and females constituted informal employment rates of 55.3 percent and 73.8 percent. This shows a greater participation of females in the informal sector compared to males. In contrast with informal employment rate based on total employment, the informal sector rate in rural areas (77.0 percent), was significantly higher compared to urban areas (56.2 percent). This shows that most of non-agricultural informal employment was in rural areas

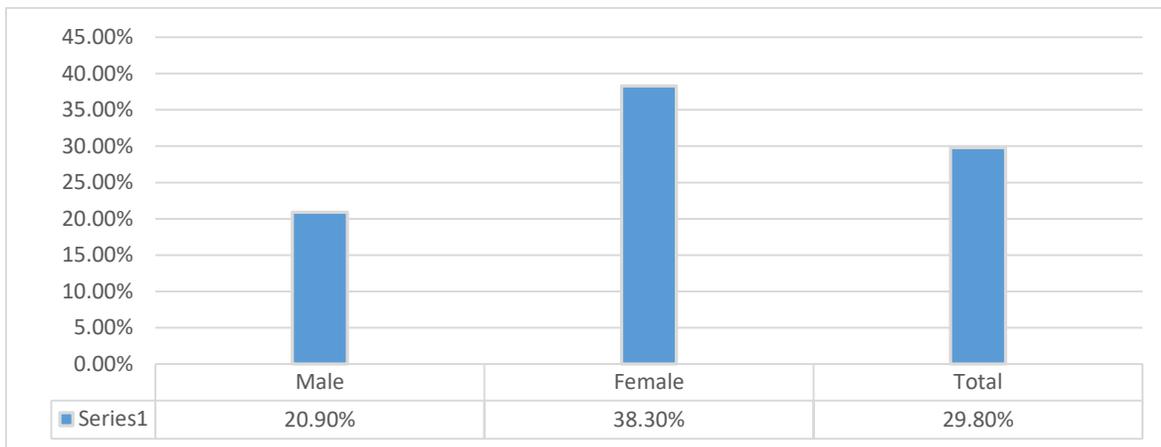


Figure Unemployment Rate

The European Union is a principal partner in this effort, in 2019 the EU in partnership Action Aid supported microfinance institutions linked with women to provide them credit and other services for women. 120 women groups exposed to credit union concept and most of them are saving with the credit union. 1,500 women have been adequately informed on microfinance products and services. A total number of 78 plots of land have been officially registered for 78 women groups. They now have landed property lease documents with them to authenticate their ownership and possibly access some grants from other projects that use land lease document as

a condition for any support. 3 vegetable gardens established with a fence, water supply, waiting shades and toilets. Over 200 women are benefiting from these gardens. A total number of 6 women are now members of the District tribunals in CRR/South and have received legal and leadership training to make them useful and proactive in their new assignment.

A total of 4,340 women from 140 women groups spread across the three Districts of Niamina East, West and Dankunku were trained and the key output from these trainings is that women are more informed and knowledgeable about their rights to access economic resources, how to better manage their businesses and how to engage with micro finance institutions. With regards to employment, 15 girls from CRR and 5 girls from NBR are undergoing training at Fandema (MBOLO) on solar installation and management, food processing and business management. These girls will be deployed back in their various communities to serve their people. The poultry farmers association for CRR/S are also supported with a cooling house to facilitate storage for their chicken.

In 2019, (10) women were provided with 15, 000 each to expand on their tie/dye and batik after training them intensively on the skill. In promoting marketing and creating new markets for women produce and products, the women have been supported to participate in trade fairs for past 5 years this has strengthen women economic initiatives and building their resilience, 53 women were supported with small ruminant, 22 with poultry production and 35 women with farm inputs and implements. 45 women trained on improve vegetable production and 60 on poultry management and feed preparation.

Chapter 13: Women in Power and Decision Making

The extent of women's participation and representation in politics is a key indicator of the National Development Plan 2018-2021, under the critical enablers, i.e. ensuring gender and women empowerment for sustainable development. Gender parity in political is to be seen in the context of whether women are in the place to make or power public decisions on the same balance as men. The 1995 Beijing Platform provides that fairness in decision-making is integral to the progression of women's rights and that women's balanced participation in decision-making is not only a question of simple justice or democracy but also an essential condition for women's interests to be engaged into account.

The Women's Bureau in partnership with the UN Peace Building Fund, UNFPA and UN Women Regional Office for West and Central African conducted a Women Leadership Training for 40 potential candidates, female governors, female Village Heads (Alkalolos), lady councillors and

political party leaders across the country were exposed to the Normative framework, What is quota/Temporary Special measures (TSM). The legal framework related to women’s political participation and electoral systems, Violence against women in politics, creating a message, Public speaking and Electoral Campaign.

Gambia women constitute 56%¹⁰ of the electorates and are less than 15% represented in cabinet and less than 10% in national assembly. In cabinet out of the 19 Ministers only 2 are women as of September 2018 compared to 4 Ministers including the Vice President in 2016. This means there is a significant percentage reduction in cabinet portfolio occupied by women from 21.0% to 10.5%. This means, The Gambia is unable to attain 30 % target of the CEDAW on women representation at the level of cabinet. In the top hierarchy of the civil service, no woman has ever occupies the positions of secretary general, 4 permanent secretaries, 1 CEOs of Parastatals and 3 directors and 2 deputy head of commissions TRRC and the Constitutional Review Commission respectively.

The 2012 local council elections report show that there were 115 contestants of who 20 were women and of these 15 won. In 2018, councillorship elections out of 409 contestants 362 are male 47 female of which, a total of 128 ward councilors elected within the 8 LGAs, only 8 female and 120 male elected, representing 93.75% male councilors and 6.25% female councilors, despite the fact that women form over 50% of the population in the LGAs. Women’s involvement in governance structures and their participation in decision making at the regional level is negligible partly due to the fact there persist high illiteracy rates amongst women. Additional factors that contribute to the limited women’s involvement of in decision-making processes are cultural and traditional factors; some women do not possess the confidence to attempt governance or decision making¹¹.

Table Number of local elected representative by gender and region (Local councilors Statistics).

Region/ Council	Indicator	Sex		Both Sex
		Male	Female	
Banjul	Elected	8	1	9
	Nominated	2	1	3
Total		10	2	12
Kanifing	Elected	17	-	17
	Nominated	4	2	6

¹⁰ UNDP Election Support Project implemented by IEC and Stakeholders

¹¹ Monographs on Women Political Participation in The Gambia, 2018

Total		21	2	23
Brikama	Elected	24	4	28
	Nominated	4	1	5
Total		21	7	33
Kerewan	Elected	16	0	16
	Nominated	4	1	5
Total		20	1	21
Mansakonko	Elected	11	1	12
	Nominated	2	2	4
Total		13	3	16
Janjangbureh	Elected	12	0	12
	Nominated	2	1	3
Total		14	1	15
Kuntaur	Elected	9	1	10
	Nominated	2	1	3
Total		11	2	13
Basse	Elected	14	0	14
	Nominated	2	1	3
Total		16	1	17

As indicated on table 4.5: The 2018 Local Councils Elections has witnessed a significant improvement on women participation in politics and a total of 409 candidates contested for the 128 local council seats out of which 362 are male candidates constitution (89 %) while 47 (11%) are female candidates. However, Brikama and Kanifing had the highest female candidates 18 and 12 respectively.

Table: Women participation in politics by sex (Local Council Election of 2018)

Region/Council	Number of Candidates	Male candidates	Female candidates	Elected female candidates
Banjul	35	33	2	1
Kanifing	77	65	12	1
Brikama	87	69	18	4
Kerewan	52	48	4	0
Mansakonko	33	30	3	1
Janjangbureh	44	42	2	0
Kuntaur	39	34	5	1

Basse	42	41	1	0
TOTAL	409	362	47	8

Source: Monographs on Women Political Participation in The Gambia, 2018

Table Number of elected NAMs

National Assembly	Indicator	Sex		TOTAL
	Number of NAMs	Male	Female	
Number of elected NAMs	Elected	50	3	53
	Nominated	3	2	5
TOTAL				58

As indicated in the table 4.13 above, total number of elected representatives of the National Assembly is 53 and this constitutes 50 (94%) male and 3 (6%) female. The findings of the study also reveals that 6 women are in the office of the National Assembly and out of the 19 standing and select committees, 2 are chaired by women such as the Women Caucus and members of these committee are 52 male and 6 female. The number of National Assembly Members by political party is seen in table below:

Table Representation of Women in commissions

Commissions	Indicator	Sex		TOTAL
		Male	Female	
Representation of Women in commissions	Public Service Commission	4	1	5
	Commission of Enquiry (Janneh Commission)	2	1	4
	Human Right Commission	n/a	n/a	n/a
	TRRC	21	8	29
	Land Reform Commission	4	1	5
	Anti-Corruption Commission	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Faraba Incidence Commission	1	4	5
	Law Reform Commission	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Constitutional Review Commission	6	5	11
	Independent Electoral Commission	5	1	6
	Judicial Service Commission	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table Representation of Women in the Civil Service

Civil Service	Indicator	Sex		TOTAL
		Male	Female	

Representation of Women in the Civil Service	Minister	17	2	19
	Secretary General	1	0	1
	Permanent Secretary	25	11	36
	Deputy Permanent Secretary	27	15	42
	Director General	4	0	4
	Executive Directors/ Directors	31	7	38
	Managing Directors (Parastatals)	0	0	0
	Executive Directors of Agencies	3	1	4

Table Number of Women in high state institution

State Institution of Justice	Judiciary	Sex		TOTAL
		Male	Female	
Number of Women in high state institution	High Court Judges	5	4	9
	Supreme Court Judges	6	1	7
	Appeal Court Judges	3	2	5
	Magistrates	20	22	42
	Cadis			
	Economic and Social Council	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Heads of District tribunals	48	0	48

Government has made major strides in realizing this right but more still needs to be done because women are still in the minority in parliament and other public offices and need to be encouraged. The proposal in the Gender Position Paper submitted to the Constitutional Review Commission as per recommendation for 30% constitutional or political party voluntary quota representation of women in political and decision-making position. The trend of excluding females from decision making positions is a reflection of the low status of women and other groups in Gambian society. There is need for the promotion of girls' and women's participation in politics so that they come forward in their numbers to vie for political office.

Socio-cultural beliefs and practices, like patriarchy continue to hinder the full acceptance of women and their participation in leadership positions. Cultural phenomena have created the stereotype 'impression that men are superior and women are inferior' and a 'socialization process [that] has also led men and women to perceive men as leaders and women as supporters.' These perceptions are alleged to "put women in the *private* sphere as wives, mothers and daughters and men in the public domain of decision-making", as well as the economic and political arena¹²

¹² Monographs on Women Political Participation in The Gambia, 2018

Chapter 14: Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of Women

In January 2019, a new Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare was established mandated by Cabinet Resolution to be responsible for coordination of the affairs of Women, Children and Social Welfare . Having the Ministry will go a long way in addressing weak coordination, capacity and under resourced national machinery for the advancement of women and girls. The Ministry recognized the slow progress registered so far in the implementation of the Gender and Women Empowerment Policy 2010-2020.

Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare will secure the services consultant to conduct capacity need assessment of the Ministry and its line Departments and also developed a comprehensive strategic plan that will spelt out the overall capacity need, institutional mandate with defined roles and responsibilities. Gender Machinery includes the National Women Council, the Gender Focal Point Networks

The Women’s Act, 2010 under section 57 provides for the establishment and composition of the National Women’s Council. Section 66 of the Act gives a detailed list of functions of the Council all geared towards ensuring gender equality and the full and effective participation of women in all aspects of socio- economic development. Section 66 (1)(a) provides that the Council “develop methods for the integration and implementation of gender and women’s rights initiatives in all areas of Government activities” while Section 66 (1) (h) (iii) provides that the Council will advise the Government "on proper measures to be taken in mobilising and integrating women as equal partners in the economic, social and cultural development of The Gambia."

The National Women’s Bureau is the executive or administrative arm of the council and is charged with its day-to-day administration, and the implementation of policy decision made by the Council. The Bureau is established under section 70 of the Women’s Act 2010. The Council and Bureau, with the support of, and in collaboration with related institutional structures and civil society organization strive to create an enabling environment for the full realization of women’s rights. The institutional set up of the national gender machinery is clearly set out in Figure 1 below.

Table: National Gender Machinery¹³

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Roles and responsibilities</i>
The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible for the overall coordination and harmonization of efforts by all stakeholders.

¹³Adapted from the National Gender Policy and the Women Empowerment 2010-2020

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish appropriate mechanism for coordinating Gender Mainstreaming at all levels. • Lobby, advocate and mobilize resource for the implementation of the Gender policy • Provide support to gender units and focal points
Women’s Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical support on gender mainstreaming to ministries, institutions, organizations, local governments bodies, civil society organizations and private sector. • Coordinate , Monitor and Evaluate the implementation process of the Gender Policy • Provide back stopping support in critical areas • Lobby, advocate and coordinate the sensitization process of all stakeholders on gender • Act as the Secretariat for the National Council for Gender and Women’s Empowerment • Set standards, develop guidelines and disseminate and monitor their operations
National Women’s Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise Government on Gender Issues • Oversee the implementation of the Gender Policy at Decentralized level • Lobby and advocate for policy reviews and enactment of laws. • Sensitize and advocate on gender issues at grassroots level
Government Ministries and Parastatals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translate the National Gender Policy (NGP) into institutional specific policies, strategies and programmes. • Assess the needs of their respective ministries in the field of gender responsive planning, programming, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation and make appropriate recommendations for capacity building • Support the gender units and focal persons by building their capacity in gender analysis , planning and provide budget lines for their operations • Monitor, evaluate and provide disaggregate data on sector programmes and their impact on gender equity • Institute and implement affirmative action on short term basis to bridge the existing gender gaps

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with the Ministry of Women’s affairs and Gender and the Gender Bureau on matters of Gender mainstreaming. • Mobilize , allocate and release resources for gender mainstreaming • Ensure institutional policies and programmes are gender sensitive and benefit women and men.
CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translate the National Gender Policy (NGP) into institutional specific policies, strategies and programmes • Develop and implement programmes that address key NGP intervention areas • Participate in the implementation committee • Monitor the implementation of NGP • Share information of institutional programmes with Ministry of Women’s Affairs and Gender through the Women and Gender Focal Point Network
Development Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize and use The Gambia Gender Policy in development cooperation partnerships • Collaborate with Ministry of Women’s Affairs and Gender, Gender Bureau and National Women’s Council on matters of gender mainstreaming • Establish mechanisms for ensuring gender responsiveness of development cooperation • Provide financial and technical support for promoting Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Development Cooperation. • Develop/ set-up capacity building incentives for promoting gender equity and women’s empowerment in development cooperation
The Gambia’s Women’s Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilizing women and men to advocate for and promote gender equality and women empowerment • Serve as platform for networking and sharing of information among women and female youth • Advocate for the effective implementation of adequate women empowerment projects/programmes for the advancement of women and girls • Implement key economic empowerment project and support capacity enhancement of women organizations, groups and associations (particularly in training, provision of credit and financing,

	<p>appropriate technology for labour saving, value adding, storage and preservation; market opportunities and infrastructure, housing, land and property, water facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support women in decision-making • Lobbying and advocating for the ratification, domestication and implementation of international instruments related to gender equality, women and children’s rights • Sensitizing, educating and training civil society on human and legal rights, particularly women’s rights, in order to address and change gender stereotypes
<p>Gender Policy Implementation Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify priority gender issues • Plan for relevant sector interventions • Review progress in implementation of the policy • Advise national machineries on key issues and strategies to attain Policy objectives • Support of the monitoring and implementation of the policy

Chapter 15: Human Right of Women

Government has formulated and enacted the Women’s Act of 2010 on the 12th of April 2010. The passage of this Act is quite historic and commendable for The Gambia as a nation. The Women’s Act incorporated and domesticated both the CEDAW and the Protocol and also provides the legal basis for the realisation of the critical areas of concerned identified in the Beijing Platform for Action. The passage of the Act went through a very wide and comprehensive consultative process that involved all stakeholders including the legal profession, the judiciary, parliamentarians, senior government officials and policy makers, religious and traditional leaders, grass roots women, community leaders, and civil society organizations. The Act is comprehensive and innovative and it signals The Gambia’s fulfilment of its legal and legislative commitments enshrined in the Solemn Declaration. It recognises and gives legal effect and force to The Gambia’s international legal obligations and commitments made towards upholding the legal status of Women.

1997 Constitution of the Gambia

The 1997 Constitution is the basic law of the land. The Preamble states that “the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in this constitution will ensure for all time respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to ethnic consideration, gender, language or religion.....”. Section 33(1) provides for the equality of all persons before the law and that no person shall be discriminated based on different grounds including gender. |In spite of this Constitutional provision, Section 33(5) (c) and (d) provide exceptions for the non-application of the non-discriminatory clause in matters of personal law as it relates to adoption, marriage, divorce, burial and devolution of property on death or other matters as well as customary law in respect of any matter for persons to whom personal and customary law are applicable in so far as it relates to discrimination. Section 28 states that women shall *be accorded full and equal dignity of person with men* and shall be treated equally with men including *equal opportunities in political, economic and social activities*. This constitutional provision recognises the equality of men and women and the right to equal opportunities in all spheres. It is also in line with the CEDAW, the African Protocol, and the Declaration, as it seeks to eliminate discrimination against women. Due to the patriarchal nature of the society, women are not treated equally with men in all areas of their lives. A lot of efforts have been made on trainings and advocacy by the National Gender Machinery and various civil society organisations. Section 26 states that every Gambian citizen of full age and capacity has the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, to vote and be voted for in public office and to have equal access to public service without unreasonable restrictions. Though the phrase "unreasonable restrictions" have not been defined by the Constitution, it should be construed in such a way that will be discriminatory and discouraging to women. A person who alleges that any of these provisions has been, is being, or is likely to be contravened in relation to himself or herself by any person; he or she may apply to the High Court for redress.

A directive principle under section 214(4) states “in the composition of Government, women shall be fairly represented”. This section is under the chapter relating to the directive principles of state policy which only serves as policy guidelines and is not enforceable. Government has made some strides in realising this provision by appointing women to the positions of Vice President, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Minister for Education, Minister for Tourism and Culture, Minister of Justice and Attorney General; Minister of Environment amongst others. However, more needs to be done considering the low number of women in Cabinet, Parliament, Local Government and other public offices.

The Women’s Act 2010

The Women’s Act, 2010 is the most comprehensive legislation on the rights of women which is also applicable to the girl child. The Act requires review of government policy on women with a

view to bringing it in line with international best practices relating to the protection and enhancement of the rights of women. It also requires all public and private institutions to be guided by the national gender policies, in the formulation and implementation of any policies, initiatives and programmes within their institutions or bodies.

Access to justice and equal protection before the law

Section 7 of the Act provides that every woman is entitled to equality and justice before the law and to equal protection of the law. Government is obligated to provide legal aid support; ensure law enforcement organs are equip to effectively interpret and enforce gender equality rights; ensure that women are equitably represented in the judiciary; and take adequate steps for reform discriminatory laws.

Elimination all forms of discrimination

Section 14 of the Act obligates government to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. The provision is quite comprehensive and calls on Government Departments and other public institutions to implement measures, policies and strategies to eliminate discrimination, including periodic training of personnel on gender and human rights, and mainstreaming gender perspective in planning and programming of all activities and initiatives.

Temporary special measures in favour of women

Section 15 deals with temporary special measures to be adopted by every organ, body, public institution, authority or private enterprise aimed at accelerating *de facto* equality between men and women. Under this section a distinction is made between *de facto* and *de jure* discrimination. Considering the social and cultural set up of The Gambia, there may be instances where even though the law does not create or cause any impediment for women, the social and cultural environment may not be conducive for the achievement of equality. In such an instance, Government and all private institutions are called upon to take positive steps to achieve genuine *de facto* equality.

The Local Government Amendment Act 2007

The Local Government Act, 2007 provides for Municipalities and Area Councils, which complement the central government authorities including the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Governors. Section 193 provides the legal basis for decentralization of power through the establishment of local government administration. The Local Government Authorities which is made up of City Councils, Municipalities and Area Councils are determined by the IEC. Members

of the LGAs are elected every four years. The residents of the area within the LGA elect the members of the councils and Mayors. Additional representation is through nomination of representatives of different sections of the society namely women, youth, private/business sector, as well as the district chiefs. The LGAs Chairpersons are now elected. There are no specific provisions in the Act to promote affirmative action for women political participation and representation.

The Election Act 2015

The Election Act, Cap: 3:01 laws of The *Gambia* 2009 established an Independent Electoral Commission which was provided for under Article. On 28 February 2017, the National Assembly passed the Elections (Amendment) Act 2017 “to encourage the widespread participation of the ordinary citizenry in the new democratization dispensation.” The President assented to the Act on 8 March, 2017. The amendment was a response to the major shrinking of the political space during Jammeh’s era. In July 2015, the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2015 was passed and signed by Jammeh on 20 July 2015. Candidates for President were required to pay D 500,000 (approximately USD 12,500) raised from D 10,000 (approximately USD 250); the fee for candidates for the National Assembly was increased from D 5,000 (approximately USD 125) to D 50,000 (approximately USD 1,000) and candidates for local council office were to pay D 10,000 (about USD 200). Opposition political parties not only regarded the increases as unreasonably high but also as a ploy by the government to drastically limit the participation of the opposition in elections. C Following the 2017 amendment the exorbitant fees back to their initial amounts: President D10, 000; National Assembly D5, 000; Mayor D 2,500; and Local Council D1, 250.

The Gambia is a signatory to series of international instruments and regional protocols that promote and protect the rights of women and girls. Efforts have been also made in harmonization of these conventions, protocols in to national policy and legislative frameworks and these include:-

Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR)

The participation of women in political decision-making positions was recognized as a political right after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. UDHR Articles 2 and 21 stipulate equal enjoyment of political rights without discrimination by one’s sex or any other ground. In 1966, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) reaffirmed the UDHR principle of the right to partake in public and political life without discrimination.

Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948 recognizes the right of all persons to equality and non-discrimination. The UDHR also recognizes the right of all persons to life, access to information, education and to an adequate standard of living for its part, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) of 1966 recognizes the right of all persons to equality and non-discrimination.

The Covenant on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

The road to CEDAW was set in motion by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)⁵⁴ which began work on the draft Convention in 1976 and culminated in the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1979. The Convention entered into force on September 3, 1981 and constituted the climax of United Nations efforts to comprehensively codify the body of international legal norms applicable for the full promotion and protection of the rights of women.⁵⁵ The Convention was ratified by The Gambia in 1992. CEDAW was ratified by Gambia in 1992 and calls for equality between men and women in politics and at all levels of government. It goes on to urge state parties to take appropriate measures to remove obstacles in the way of women's participation. Article 8 also further states that legislative instruments and temporary special measures should be instituted for its realization.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

The ICCPR contains a number of important safeguards of relevance to the women's political participation. Like the UDHR, it guarantees the rights to non-discrimination,⁴⁹ equality,⁵⁰ life⁵¹ and privacy;⁵² as well as the freedom of thought, conscience and religion.⁵³ Article 25 provides for the right of every citizen without reasonable restrictions to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives; to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections; and to have access, on general terms of equality, to public service.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (PFA)

The Beijing Declaration and Plan for Action (PFA) were developed by consensus at the end of a UN convened Conference on Women that took place in Beijing, China in 1995. A total of 185 governments and more than 5,000 representatives from 2,100 non-governmental organizations participated in the conference. Following upon the consensus generated at the ICPD, states reiterated the equality and inherent dignity of women and committed themselves to ensure the full implementation of the human rights of women and girls as an integral part of universal human rights. The declaration noted that the explicit recognition and reaffirmation of women's

political participation right. Although the objectives of the Beijing Platform of Action are very clear and specific, there is no particular mention made of the right to equality in relation to politics. The Platform also does not make specific reference to the political empowerment of women, but merely refers to the full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life at the national,

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

The African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of the Women also focused on the equal participation of women and men in decision making processes to achieve sustainable development. It states that initially 30% female representation should be aimed at by states who should work towards equal representation. The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing calls for “Measures to ensure women’s equal access to, and full participation in, power structures and decision – making and increase women’s capacity to participate in decision making and leadership.”

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

The African Women’s Protocol was adopted in July 2003 and came into force on 25 November 2005. This year marked the 10th anniversary since it came into force. As of September 2013, the Protocol has been ratified by 36 of the 54 member states of the AU with the newest member state, South Sudan yet to sign and ratify the Protocol. The Protocol’s emergence was largely to bridge the gap in the African Charter which did not have elaborate provisions for the women’s rights. Article 18(3) of the African Charter requires state parties to ‘ensure the elimination of discrimination against

Article 9 provides for the right to participation in political and decision- making process. It obliges State Parties to take specific positive actions to promote participative governance and equal participation of women in the political life of their countries, through an affirmative action, enabling national legislation and other measures to ensure that: Women participate without any discrimination in all elections; Women are represented equally at all levels with men in all electoral processes; Women are equal partners with men at all levels of development and implementation of State policies and development programmes. States Parties shall ensure increased and effective representation and participation of women at all levels of decision-making.

The African Youth Charter

The African Youth Charter was adopted at the seventh Ordinary Session of the African Union on July 2, 2006 in Banjul, The Gambia and entered into force on August 8, 2009. Under the Charter, states undertake to guarantee to all youth⁸⁵ the enjoyment of rights and freedoms recognized in the Charter without discrimination on any ground, including sex. States also recognize and guarantee the rights of young people to privacy and to free consent to marriage as well as their freedoms of expression including the right to receive 'information and ideas of all kinds...through any media of the young person's choice'; and thought, conscience and religion.

African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG)

The ACDEG is an overt commitment of the AU to promote universal values and principles of democracy, good governance, human rights and development.⁹³ It further seeks to entrench in the Continent a culture of change of power based on the holding of regular, free, fair and transparent elections conducted by competent, independent and impartial national electoral bodies.⁹⁴ It is an instrument aimed at promoting both human rights and democracy, which are a sine qua non for development

The African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality

The Gambia is a signatory to the African Union (AU) Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (Declaration) which was adopted by the heads of states of the AU in July 2004. In the Declaration, the Heads of States reaffirmed their commitment to gender equality as enshrined in Article 4(1) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union as well as other existing commitments, principles and obligations set out in the various regional, continental and international human rights instruments, particularly those addressing women's rights. The Heads of State made eight solemn commitments in the Declaration. Commitment 5 of the Declaration specifically calls for the promotion of 'The Gender Parity Principle at National and local Levels'. This commitment calls for concerted effort to promote parity at all levels. The essence of this commitment is that there must be a deliberate and concerted effort to promote the parity principle on an incremental basis.

ECOWAS Protocol on Good Governance and Democracy

At its inception, the objective of ECOWAS, just like most regional economic bodies, was economic integration, acceleration of social development and the improvement of the standards of living in the bloc. ⁹⁵ With time however, principles such as the protection of human rights,

consolidation of democracy and the rule of law have gradually gained importance alongside the initial aim of economic integration. By 2005, the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice had extended its jurisdiction to matters regarding human rights violations in member states.⁹⁶ Additionally, with the realization of the importance of principles such as popular participation, accession to power through free and fair elections and strict adherence to democratic values, ECOWAS consequently adopted the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance which entered into force in 2008.

The Protocol contains eight constitutional convergence principles shared by all 15 member states including independence of the judiciary, zero tolerance of power obtained by unconstitutional means and strengthening of national parliaments. The Protocol in its preamble recalled that women's rights have been recognised and guaranteed in all international human rights instruments and regional human rights instruments. It further provides that provides, that ECOWAS states party to the protocol shall ensure '[p]opular participation in decision making, strict adherence to democratic principles and decentralisation of power at all levels of governance'.

Article 2(3) of the Protocol obliges Member States to 'take all appropriate measures to ensure that women have equal rights with men to vote and be voted for in elections, to participate in the formulation of government policies and the implementation thereof and to hold public offices and perform public functions at all levels of governance.' Article 40 recognises that the 'development and promotion of the welfare of women are essential factors for development, progress and peace in the society.

Women right promotion and protection over the past decade had faced the flowing bottlenecks and this includes:-

- The limitations in the Constitution act as a stumbling block in the realization of the full enjoyment of human rights for women.
- A sustained sensitization and awareness raising campaign is needed to ensure a change in behavior and attitude of both men and women to ensure that women enjoy their full fundamental human rights and freedoms.
- There should be a comprehensive review of all the laws and policies of the Gambia to ensure compliance with all international and regional instruments that guarantee the full enjoyment and protection of the human rights of women.¹⁴

- Only a minority of the women are familiar with the human rights instruments. These need to be disseminated as widely as possible so that women know when their rights are being violated and what to do under such circumstances.
- Women would rather use informal forms of mediation so the Alternate Dispute Mechanisms and the Office of the Ombudsman are institutions that improve women's access to justice.
- The Constitutional provision sanctioning the application of customary laws continues to provide justification for proponents and practitioners of harmful traditional practices.
- Inadequate resources for implementation of the Women Act 2010 and other relevant legislations addressing women's human rights.

Chapter 16: Women and the Media

The Ministry of Information Communication Infrastructure has been mandated with the responsibility to create and sustain the enabling environment within which a professional and committed press will inform, educate and entertain the people of The Gambia and the world with factual, truthful and developmental attitudes underlining their work both as news gatherers and as watchdogs for good governance¹⁵.

The recent expansion of the media space has resulted in the registration and issuance of operation permit and licence go 3 public media televisions, 7 newspapers (dailies, bi-weeklies, and weeklies), nearly a dozen specialized periodic newsheets or magazines), and 23 broadcast stations (national and community radios). Most of these outfits are being run and managed by people with minimal exposure or none at all in their chosen fields of work. This leaves a media fraternity operating in a milieu that is fraught with dangers, considering that they are working in a field controlled by traditional ethics and conditions of law that cannot be violated either by error or intent.

In the absence of a professional intermediary body between the Press and Government, contraventions of press law and ethics have had to receive the direct scrutiny of Government. This necessity has encouraged the adverse scrutiny of local and international press bodies as to what the parameters of government should be in policing of aberrations in the press. In recent times the outcry has been taken up by voices outside the jurisdiction of The Gambia on the Internet with even more divisive consequences.

MOICI Strategic Plan 2014 - 2018¹⁵

In view of the above a national ICT Policy has been formulated and the government development blue print aims at making the country into a silicon valley by 2020. The Information and Communications Act, 2009 amended in 2015 provides the policy framework for the restructuring, development, and regulation of the information and communications sectors in The Gambia and for connected matters. It covers the technical aspects of broadcasting such as allocation of frequency and issuing of licenses.

Sections 25, 207, 208 and 211 of the 1997 Constitution of The Gambia has the following provisions which are pertinent to the BPFA. These provisions guarantee freedom of speech and expression of the individual, the press and other media. Freedom and independence of the press; and, instructs state authorities to take positive measures to promote diversity in the state owned media and to afford fair opportunities and facilities for the presentation of divergent views and dissenting opinions. With the exception of state owned media, all newspapers, journals, magazines, radio station and broadcasting stations are required to be registered in order to operate.

Since 2015 The Women's Bureau, Think Yong Women, GAMCOTRAP, GFPA, have media programmes targeting women and youth. GAMCOTRAP's and APGWA and the Network Against Gender Based Violence, Girls Generation, Girls Agenda and Safe Hands for Girls have been conducting intensive and sustained training for religious and traditional women leaders and communicators. The Women's Bureau with support from UNICEF develop Communication Strategy on FGM/C and the messages on FGM/C, early marriage, violence against women, etc. GFPA, NGBV and Action Aid The Gambia have media units that produce video documentaries on important issues affecting women's lives.

A number of media associations and networks exist that provide an entry point for mainstreaming gender in the media. The Gambia Press union continues to build capacity of its members through short-term training activities on gender reporting. The Network of Traditional Communicators, an umbrella organisation of traditional media practitioners is a member of the population and development task force and the capacity of its members is constantly being built to deliver specific development messages. Associations such as the Association of Health Journalists also play a role in and creating awareness on women issues and the girl child.

The young people in the Media are a dynamic and growing organisation of child advocates whose voices are heard not only on the national scene but some of its female members have participated in the UN Forums for children and in the UN Summit on the SDGs. They organise National Child Friendly Awards to recognise the work of adults who promote and protect the rights and welfare of children and young people in The Gambia.

The Government promotes women in ICT through the provision of an enabling environment for the private sector development. The period under review has witnessed the emergence of a wide range of the new communication technologies such as Internet and the GSM companies. Women form a significant number in this area and are employed in senior management positions.

- Most of the private media outfits (print and electronic) are owned and managed by men.
- Both the public and private media do not provide space for divergent and alternative viewpoints due to the self-censorship that operates. Generally the stereotypes of wider society are maintained in the way women and women's issues are portrayed.
- There is no female editor in chief in any of the present newspapers.
- Commercialization of public media has threatened women's adequate access to the electronic media as they cannot afford the costs of production.
- The high license fee acts as a deterrent for any female who would want to start a newspaper or a radio station.
- The new ICTs have opened a new world for women and girls in terms of access to information on a timely basis and the ability to communicate. However, they also make them vulnerable to abuse and sexual exploitation. The free phone calls offered by the GSM companies throughout the night acts as a source of distraction to young girls. Incentives to customers should not be detrimental.

Chapter 17: Women and the Environment

Women participation in environment and natural resource management is a key cornerstone in The Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP). The GEAP provides the framework under which women's role and participation in environmental management can be built. Women bear the brunt of natural disasters as they still have to carry out their reproductive roles under very harsh conditions. They need to be supported during such trying times.

Under the leadership of the Office of the Vice President, a National Disaster Management Policy, Act and Action Plan were developed. Regional Disaster Management Committees (DMC) was formed under the various LGAs to coordinate and manage disaster relief in their regions among other things. The Government of The Gambia through the Ministry of Agriculture has constructed dykes in many communities aimed at reducing the impact of salt intrusion in rice fields. The concept of carbon emissions and climate change is generally out of the scope of many women and capacity building activities need to be put in place to address environmental issues.

The national *set setal* days (Clean the nation exercise) have created awareness and served as a vehicle for social mobilization to encourage people to take ownership of cleaning their environment. This strategy has contributed to reducing the incidents of malaria and other

diseases by controlling the breeding of mosquitoes and other vectors. Women's groups participate proactively in the national cleaning days and need to be supported in their endeavours.

Chapter 18: The Girl-Child

The Gambia is a Party to both the CRC and the ACRWC, and commits to taking appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect children from all forms violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation, including sexual abuse. The state in fulfilling its obligations, have enacted legal instruments and formulated policies for the protection of children in The Gambia including the Children's Act of 2005 amended in 2016 to prohibit child marriage in the Gambia.¹⁶ The Act was promulgated to ensure the effective enforcement of the CRC and the ACRWC through the incorporation of their provisions into national law, so that it can create legally enforceable obligations in which government can be held accountable. The Act is the most comprehensive piece of child rights legislation that contains all laws relating to the rights, welfare and care of children in The Gambia. It harmonizes all the laws that previously existed in the country in relation to children. It also filled in the gap in the Constitution of the Republic of The Gambia which lacked detailed provision on child rights and the issues of children.

The Children's Act protects children from all forms of violence and abuse, economic and sexual exploitation, trafficking and sale, including ensuring that they do not fall prey to prostitution networks or are engaged in hazardous work. Section 59 (1) prohibits the recruitment of children into "any of the branches of the armed forces of The Gambia or other security agencies" while Section 59 (2) obliges the Government or any other relevant agency or body to "ensure that no child is directly involved in any military operations or hostilities.". Section 27 of the 1997 Constitution states that "men and women of full age and capacity shall have the right to marry and found a family" and such a marriage shall be based on the "free and full consent of the intended parties."

Section 24 of the Children's Act prohibits child marriage even though this is subject to the provisions of any applicable personal law. Section 25 of the Act prohibits parents, guardians or any other person to 'betroth a child to any person; make a child the subject of a dowry transaction; or give out a child in marriage.'" Section 28 of the Women's Act prohibits parents and guardians from withdrawing girls from school for the purpose of marriage.

¹⁶ Other laws enacted include: Tourism Offences Act of 2003, and the Trafficking in Persons Act of 2007.

The enforcement of the Children's Act prevent and protect children from curb the menace of abuse of girls. Decentralization of the Children's Court is of essence currently there are 2 additional Children's Court in Brikama and Basse respectively to provide a criminal justice system for Children. The establishment of a Child Welfare Unit at the Police Headquarters and Child Welfare Officers in all Police stations trained by the Department of Social Welfare and partners to handle matters relating to young offenders and victims.

There has been an increase in the number of Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs) - 64 in all regions of The Gambia, 5 adolescent neighborhood watch groups (ANWG's) in the tourism industry areas, with the support of UNICEF. The Department of Social Welfare (DSW) has established a Shelter for abused Children at Bakoteh. The DSW has decentralized in 3 regions, West Coast Region, Upper River Region and Lower River Region. With support from Save The Children-Sweden and technical support of CPA, a National Child and Youth Advisory Board was recently established tasked with the responsibility of facilitating exchanges of skills and information among children and how they can be better involved in the fight against violence against children and the monitoring of the implementation of the global study recommendations on ending violence in all settings.

In 2019, Government established the Children Unit under the Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare with the responsibility to coordinate child protection interventions. Therefore the unit will focus strengthen the capacities of child rights protectors and professionals to better provide protection for children as well as law enforcement agencies on handling children's issues; lawyers and judicial officers on how to make the judicial system more child-friendly; and health workers on how to deal with child abuse cases according to minimum standards. Ensure the popularization of the hotline for reporting cases of child abuse.

The challenges experienced are inadequate child protection services for victims of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation and children without primary care-givers. These services must also be provided in addition to information and knowledge and other preventive strategies. Government should provide funds for a comprehensive range of services such as psycho-social and recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration services for victims of abuse and exploitation. There is need for more equipped safe houses and one stop center to be established around all regions of The Gambia.

Young girls are vulnerable to abuses related to high tourist presence in the country. The GT Board in collaboration with the police has engaged in several initiatives to curb the menace of abuse of young girls in the tourism industry. However, sustained and concerted effort of all stakeholders within the sector would be required to address this problem. Better coordination between child

protection organisations and government departments to ensure that a multi-disciplinary approach is taken which is vital to child rights promotion and protection.

Inadequate proper procedures and guidelines on child protection issues remains a problem in translating the laws into realities. There is need for development of implementing guidelines and the provision of timely and effective redress mechanisms where children's rights are violated. For example, guidelines on child protection must be prepared to ensure minimum standards which are applicable by both government and NGOs in dealing with issues of children's rights.

PART 4: EMERGING PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Chapter 19: Emerging Priorities

Women, the economy and Poverty

- Develop programmes that will ensure significant reduction of poverty among Gambian women the enterprise development fund
- Provision of livelihood skills to women through vocational training.
- Provision of low interest credit facilities/grants for business start-ups and improvement purposes.
- Provide training on the management of these business ventures.
- Eradicate cultural and traditional barriers including land tenure systems that prevent women from owning land and other economic resources.

Education and Training of Women

- Ensure equal educational opportunities for men and women.
- Through affirmative actions such as the reduction of school fees or extension of free education up to Grade 12.
- Review the current curriculum to ensure that it caters for the employment and development needs of women.

Women and Health

- Put in place measures that will enable the attainment of the goals of the national health and population policies.
- Provide adequate health facilities and services that are requisite for the attainment of the National Health Policy.
- Increase the affordability of health services for women.
- Advocate for male participation in reproductive health services.
- Increase family planning uptake.

- Improve indicators in line with the national health policy

Violence against Women.

- Prevention of domestic violence; improving the mentality against violence by raising awareness and education in every chain of the society through: education in schools, raising awareness of the population through the Media and public education programs; organization of campaigns and different activities; involvement of men and boys, as important partners in these efforts, to make violence socially unacceptable; publication and dissemination of awareness raising materials against violence etc.
- Implement the enacted legislation with zero tolerance against gender-based domestic violence;
- Protection and support for victims of gender-based violence by delivering services tailored for the victims; introduction of a national counseling line, and regional green lines of counseling for girls and women victims of violence/abuse; establishment of shelters for victims of domestic violence throughout The Gambia; introduction of the system for the collection of data, and monitoring of gender based violence. Special attention should be paid to women/girls with disabilities.
- Train the police forces, justice, health, social services, education, media etc., who are responsible for the prevention and fight against domestic violence on women and girls.

Women in Power and Decision Making

- Increase the participation of women in decision making and conflict resolution.
- Put in place transparent process that will ensure non discrimination based on gender.
- Raise public through traditional and religious leaders on the need to involve women in the decision making process.

Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

- Strengthen the national gender machinery.
- Lobby for and increase budgetary allocations to women issues.
- Improve the capacity of the Gender Focal Points to enable effective mainstreaming of gender into their institutional policies and generation and dissemination of gender disaggregated data.

Women and the Media

- To facilitate an atmosphere of professionalism within a self-regulated environment will ensure a dynamic and responsible press, geared towards nation building.
- To achieve this, the goals must therefore centre on a well trained press cadre and this will be further realized through the full implementation of the proposed journalism programme at the University of The Gambia.
- Streamline the ownership of media houses particularly TV broadcasting for women.

The Girl-child

- Measures to prevent discrimination and eradicate harmful traditional practices against the Girl-child.
- Fully implement the Children’s act through mobilization of adequate resources and training of enforces especially the police and judiciary.

Establishment of a functional national gender statistical system

- To facilitate the systematic collection and analysis of gender statistics on a sustained basis; and
- Enable the study and/or measurement of the outcomes/impacts of the gender programmatic, policy and legal interventions or endeavours to support further planning and evolution of the national gender agenda.

Chapter 20: Recommendations

No	Critical Area of Concern	Proposed Recommendation
1	Women and Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take a tighter look at the structure of the national economy with a view to enable appreciation and better orientation towards effective poverty reduction especially as it affects women; and ensuring sustained growth and stability to continuously reduce gendered poverty.• Fully implement the Gambia Women’s Federation economic empowerment programme and take policy and actual steps to increase women in the developing middle class.• Work with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MOFEA) to include gender budgeting as a core aspect of the public finance management system, especially budgeting and its implementation outcome reporting.• Together with the Central Bank of The Gambia, review the structure of the microfinance industry and its operational modalities to enable throughput of cheaper financing to women led investment programmes and provide low interest credit

		<p>facilities/grants to women to enable business start-ups or for expansion purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the current communal land tenure system to make it easier for women to own land and other economic resources. • Initiate a national programme of advocacy to change attitudes that will enable effective implementation of existing legal and policy frameworks on eradicating continuing discrimination against women in various aspects in spite of the existence of laws and policies against these behaviours. • Undertake sensitization on the existing laws and/or legal frameworks and policies (such as the NDP) and make women beware of their rights and entitlements under these laws and policies and as well make the society as a whole aware of their duties and obligations under the same laws and policies.
2	Education and Training of Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the gross enrolment rates at the lower basic and upper basic education levels for females are higher than for males, this is not the case at the senior secondary and tertiary levels. In addition, the ratio of females opting for Mathematics and the Sciences is also very low compared to their male counterparts. The following steps should therefore be taken to ensure that gender equality in education is achieved: • Advocate for greater financial support for girls education to maintain and sustain high enrolment and transition rates through all levels of schools, from basic to tertiary. • Engage donors for the provision of more scholarships/sponsorships to outstanding and needy female students, especially in mathematics and the sciences.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access through building new schools especially SSS in districts that do not currently have them. • Increase quality of teaching and learning in the Sciences at the tertiary level by providing well equipped laboratories and other learning materials.
3	Women and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensify efforts to mobilize resources for the full implementation of the Health policy; • Through an appropriate health education programme, increase women’s awareness of sexual reproductive health; • Provision of STIs drugs and supplies in all facilities with a view to increase access; • Train health care workers on the syndromic treatment and management of HIV AND AIDS and other sexual transmitted disease with a view to provide proper treatment; • Set up well equipped laboratories in all major health centres and hospitals; • Establish HIV AND AIDS clinics targeted specifically for most at risk populations • Provision and distribution of condoms to MARPs; and • Monitoring and supervision of HIV AND AIDS services.
4	Violence against Women	
5	Women and Armed Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is need to increase the number of women in top decision-making positions in the security services. • Despite the increased participation of women in peacekeeping missions abroad, The Gambia is yet to attain the 50% level required by the United Nations Resolution. • The Gambia is still yet to ratify the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

6	Women and the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the current land tenure system to enable more communal ownership of land by women for both agricultural and other economic purposes. • Support the establishment of food preservation, processing, storage and distribution as well as improve divisional transportation networks for wider market access for women products. • Advocate for the establishment of a financial intermediation system that caters to the financing needs to investment programmes undertaken by women. • Ensure robust national economic with macroeconomic stability to enable effective investment planning and execution. • Advocate for rural communication infrastructural development, which affect women’s work (access roads, telecommunication, electrification etc). • Institutional capacity building for women’s groups and co-operatives and increase women access to finance and economic opportunities. • Support the National Women’s Federation to serve as a platform for the effective participation of all women in national programmes. • Provide seed and cereal banks and support the development of women’s co-operative banking, central marketing and consumer distribution outlets. • Support to value-addition to primary products and agro-businesses to raise farm and crop production to enhance women productivity and increased income levels.
7	Women in Power and Decision Making	
8	Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through traditional and religious leaders, sensitized the public on the need to engage women at all level of decision making. • Advocate for the appointment of more women in key decision making positions in both the public and private sector.

9	Human Rights of Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government should intensify and focus on implementation of relevant acts. • Through civic education and other mechanisms, sensitize women on all the relevant acts. • Through donors, provide adequate resources for the full implementation of the all the relevant acts
10	Women and the Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a mechanism of dialogue between the government and the media to enable a smother working relationship than what currently obtains. • Commence the proposed journalism programme at the University of The Gambia and ensure that it meets international standards. • Establish a national standard for media houses and self regulating infrastructure.
11	Women and the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve women in the assessment of environmental impact of all projects and programmes that affect them directly
12	The Girl-Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child Protection Units of the Police need to be adequately trained and resourced to enable active engagement of the unit in community outreach programmes. • The Children Unit of the Ministry to be resource and fully functional • The establishment of the hotline for reporting cases of child abuse.

Annex1: Gender Statistics

Table Number of local elected representative by gender and region (Local councilors Statistics).

Region/ Council	Indicator	Sex		Both Sex
		Male	Female	
Banjul	Elected	8	1	9
	Nominated	2	1	3
Total		10	2	12
Kanifing	Elected	17	-	17
	Nominated	4	2	6
Total		21	2	23
Brikama	Elected	24	4	28
	Nominated	4	1	5
Total		21	7	33
Kerewan	Elected	16	0	16
	Nominated	4	1	5
Total		20	1	21
Mansakonko	Elected	11	1	12
	Nominated	2	2	4
Total		13	3	16
Janjangbureh	Elected	12	0	12
	Nominated	2	1	3

Total		14	1	15
Kuntaur	Elected	9	1	10
	Nominated	2	1	3
Total		11	2	13
Basse	Elected	14	0	14
	Nominated	2	1	3
Total		16	1	17

Table: Women participation in politics by sex (Local Council Election of 2018)

Region/Council	Number of Candidates	Male candidates	Female candidates	Elected female candidates
Banjul	35	33	2	1
Kanifing	77	65	12	1
Brikama	87	69	18	4
Kerewan	52	48	4	0
Mansakonko	33	30	3	1
Janjangbureh	44	42	2	0
Kuntaur	39	34	5	1
Basse	42	41	1	0
TOTAL	409	362	47	8

Source: Monographs on Women Political Participation in The Gambia, 2018

Table Number of elected NAMs

National Assembly	Indicator	Sex		TOTAL
		Male	Female	
Number of elected NAMs	Elected	50	3	53

	Nominated	3	2	5
TOTAL				58

Table Representation of Women in commissions

Commissions	Indicator	Sex		TOTAL
		Male	Female	
Representation of Women in commissions	Public Service Commission	4	1	5
	Commission of Enquiry (Janneh Commission)	2	1	4
	Human Right Commission	n/a	n/a	n/a
	TRRC	21	8	29
	Land Reform Commission	4	1	5
	Anti-Corruption Commission	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Faraba Incidence Commission	1	4	5
	Law Reform Commission	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Constitutional Review Commission	6	5	11
	Independent Electoral Commission	5	1	6
Judicial Service Commission	n/a	n/a	n/a	

Table Representation of Women in the Civil Service

Civil Service	Indicator	Sex		TOTAL
		Male	Female	
Representation of Women in the Civil Service	Minister	17	2	19
	Secretary General	1	0	1
	Permanent Secretary	25	11	36
	Deputy Permanent Secretary	27	15	42
	Director General	4	0	4
	Executive Directors/ Directors	31	7	38
	Managing Directors (Parastatals)	0	0	0
	Executive Directors of Agencies	3	1	4

Table Number of Women in high state institution

State Institution of Justice	Judiciary	Sex		TOTAL
		Male	Female	
Number of Women in high state institution	High Court Judges	5	4	9
	Supreme Court Judges	6	1	7
	Appeal Court Judges	3	2	5

	Magistrates	20	22	42
	Cadis			
	Economic and Social Council	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Heads of District tribunals	48	0	48

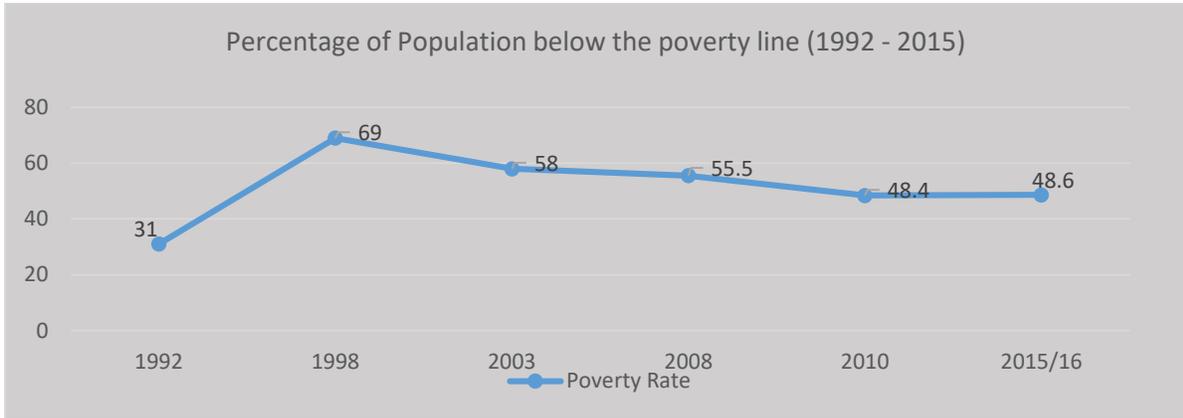


Figure 2: Poverty status in all dimensions according respondent's poverty perception

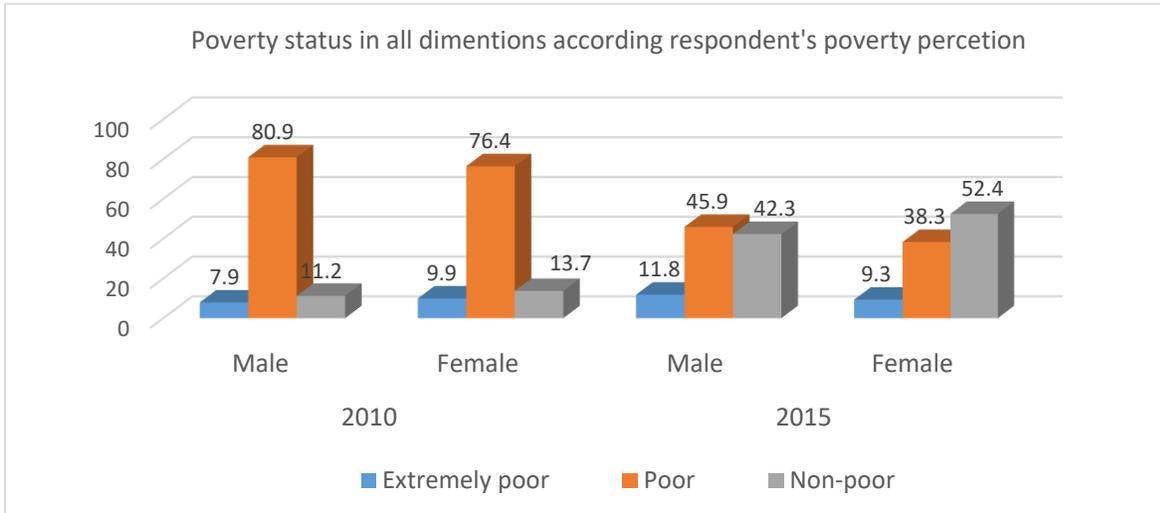


Table 1 Percentage of children in the population who completed Grades 6, 9 and 12 by gender

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Grade 6								
M	73.3%	71.2%	73.8%	73.3%	73.3%	72.8%	74.7%	77.4%
F	73.9%	70.5%	71.1%	73.4%	73.6%	74.4%	76.0%	80.0%
Both	73.6%	70.9%	72.4%	73.4%	73.4%	73.6%	75.4%	78.7%
Grade 9								
M	62.7%	64.7%	65.1%	66.3%	66.0%	66.0%	60.8%	57.5%
F	56.3%	62.0%	64.2%	63.2%	63.3%	63.5%	61.2%	60.2%
Both	59.5%	63.3%	64.7%	64.8%	64.6%	64.7%	61.0%	58.9%
Grade 12								
M	31.4%	32.1%	34.1%	33.9%	37.0%	36.4%	37.1%	37.7%
F	56.3%	62.0%	64.2%	63.2%	63.3%	63.5%	61.2%	60.2%
Both	59.5%	63.3%	64.7%	64.8%	64.6%	64.7%	61.0%	58.9%

Figure:4 Percentage of children in the population who completed Grades 6, 9 and 12 by gender



Figure 4 Completion rates by wealth quintile and level of education

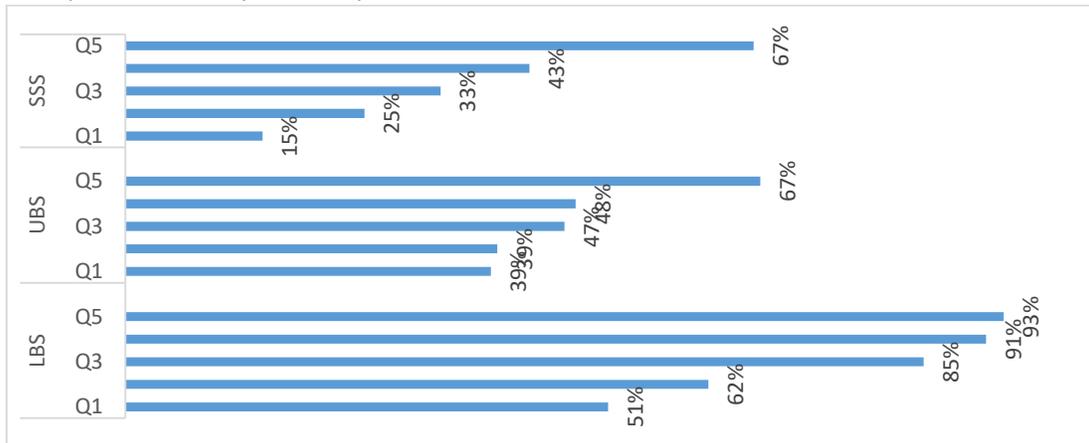
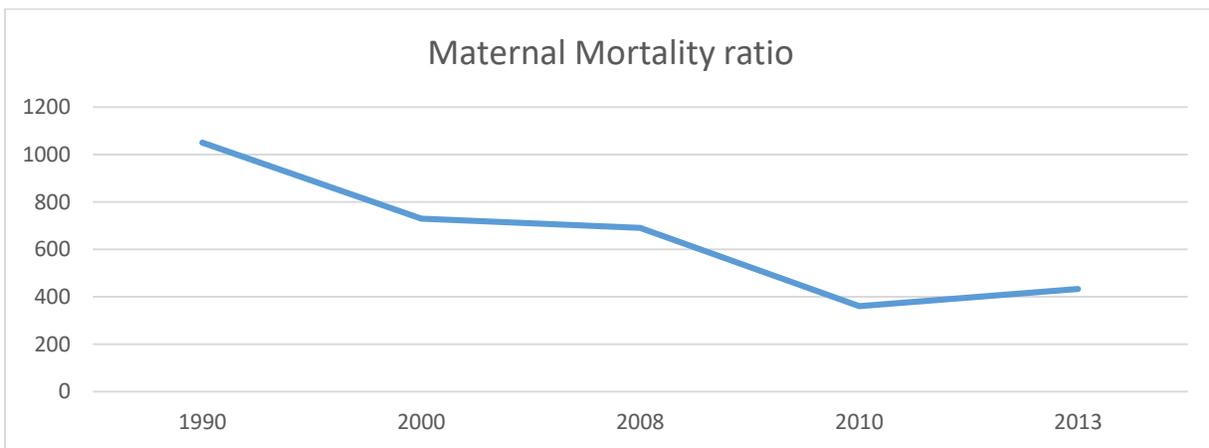


Table 4 Proportion of births attended by health personnel

Year	1990	2000	2005	2008	2010	2013
Proportion of births attended by health personnel	42	54.6	56.8	64.5	56.6	63

Figure 4 Maternal Mortality ratio



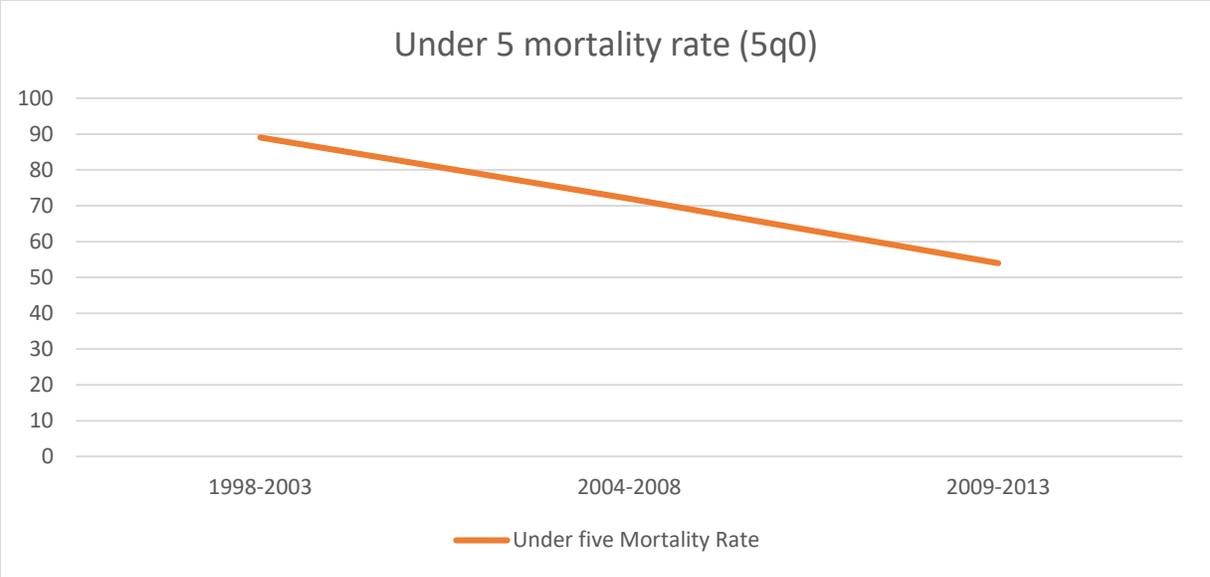


Figure 1 Under 5 mortality rate (5q0)

Prevalence of HIV infections by sex, age and key populations

Characteristics		Female	Male	Total
Age	15-19	0.4	0.3	0.4
	20-24	0.3	0	0.1
	25-29	2.5	0.6	1.7
	30-34	2.5	3.9	3.1
	35-39	5.9	5.9	5.9
	40-44	4.9	3.2	4.1
	45-49	3.4	2.7	3.1
	50-59	na	3.3	na
Overall		2.1	1.7	1.9
Urban		2.4	1.3	1.9

Rural		1.8	2.3	2
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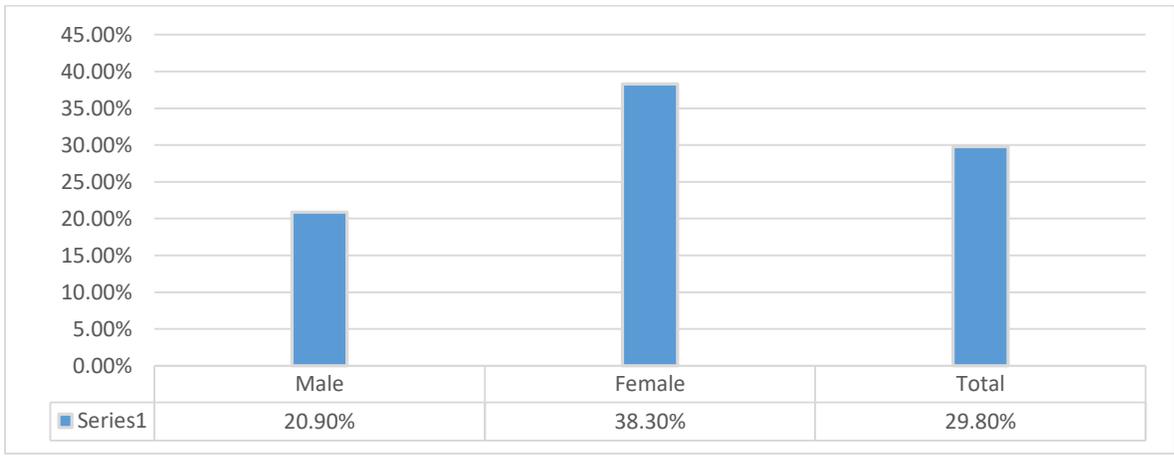
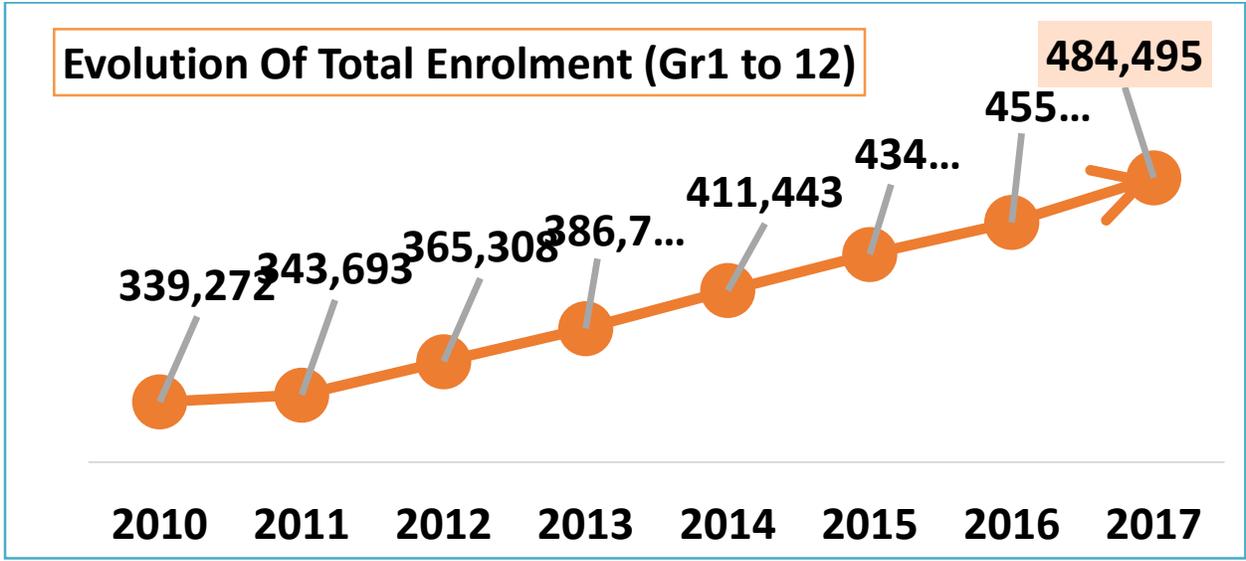
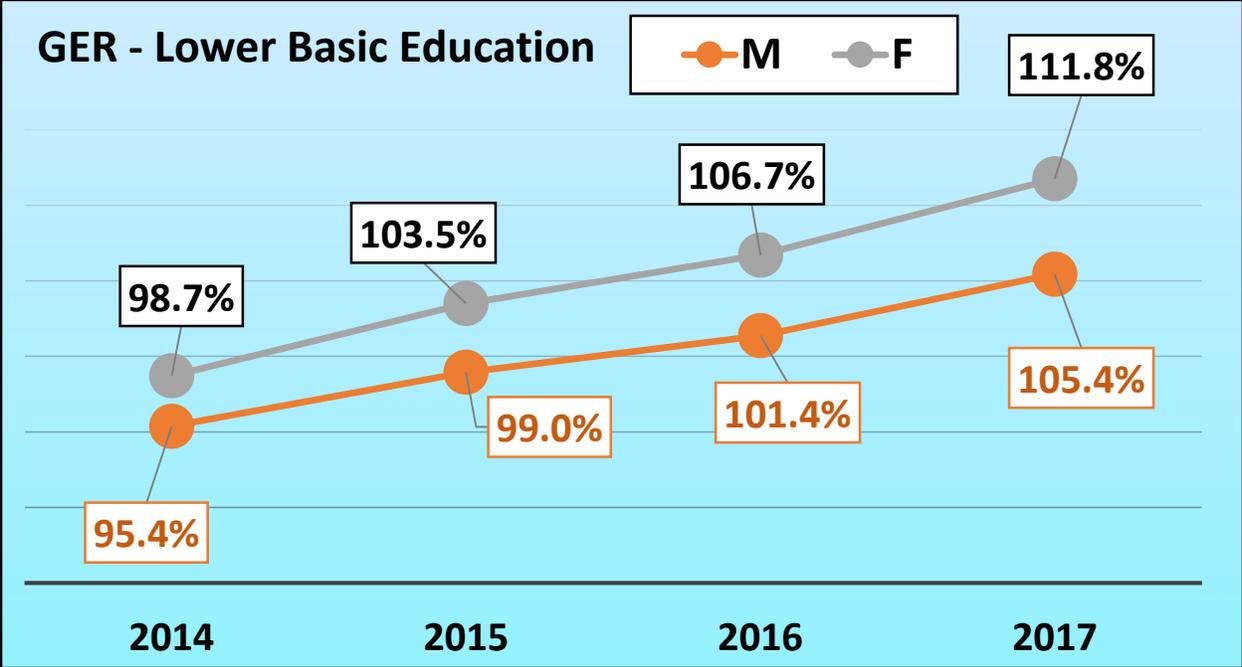


Figure Unemployment Rate





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