



UNITED NATIONS
The Gambia



COVID-19
RESPONSE

UN Results Report United Nations, The Gambia

31st March 2021





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Foreword

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in The Gambia, we are pleased to present the Annual Results Report on the fifth year of the UNDAF 2017-2021. Due to the country context, the current UNDAF has been postponed by one year to ensure alignment with the national planning cycles and national ownership of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). The next UNSDCF is thus expected to cover the period 2023-2028. In the interim, the current UNDAF will come to an end in 2022. This penultimate year of implementation and reporting on the UNDAF thus provides an occasion to reflect on the achievements made, recognise challenges and identify future programmes that will improve The Gambia's recovery post COVID-19 pandemic.

The first half of 2020 ushered in a period of uncertainty with the advent of the Corona Virus pandemic. The Gambia confirmed its first case of COVID-19 on 18 March 2020. The UNCT has been actively involved in supporting the government's COVID-19 response since the declaration of the virus as a public health emergency of international concern. The UNCT developed the COVID-19 Response Plan as an immediate support offer to prepare and respond to the direct public health and indirect immediate humanitarian consequences of the pandemic, particularly on vulnerable populations, including women, children, youth, elderly, rural population, migrants, returnees, prisoners, farmers, fisherfolk, and persons with disabilities.

The immediate impact of COVID-19 pandemic included increased cases of gender-based violence; loss of employment and livelihoods that has put further strain on families; a threat to the right to education and nutrition for many children, and increased inequalities in access to

health services. The speed of which the UN in The Gambia moved to support the Government, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, including accessing emergency funding, resulted into life-saving initiatives such as, the creation of three COVID-19 Treatment centers in the regions.

The Gambia, as a country in transition, the UNCT continued to provide support to democratic reforms, including entrenching the Sahel agenda focusing on security, governance, and resilience. Key interventions in 2020 included strengthening democratic reforms such as the ongoing National Security Sector Reform (SSR) and the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission, Rule of Law (RoL) and empowerment of women. These reforms will support an efficient prosecution system that meets international standards with significant reductions in clashes between security personnel and local communities. The UN also supported the strengthening of National statistical system to conduct five surveys and studies (Poverty Survey, Demographic Health Survey (DHS), SDG baseline, Lumo and tourism sector assessments and the Integrated Household Survey (HIS) with disaggregated data for better analysis and policymaking; the safe re-opening of schools with provision of PPEs, disinfestation of school premises and the resumption of school feeding; Upgrading of health facilities in mostly rural areas to tackle COVID-19; Food transfers to vulnerable families including to 11,088 pregnant women to address the immediate food security challenges faced by COVID-19; the development of a database management system for the Network against Gender Based Violence to ensure accurate input and documentation of SGBV cases; Training of farmers on good agricultural practices; Provision of alternative energy sources and cooking equipment to poor families in rural Gambia.

Our success through the last year is founded on solid, long term partnerships, which aid to mobilize financing towards The Gambia's achievement of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2020, the UN collectively mobilized USD 53.8M and delivered USD 33.4 million through its programmes. Following the end of the NDP period and the UNDAF, the new UN Cooperation Framework would be aligned to the new vision of the government that will inform future national development plans, mainstreaming SDGs in subsequent national development priorities. The UN will continue to work in partnership with the Government and all stakeholders to amplify the Decade of Action towards the achievement of the SDGs for the people in The Gambia.

Signed:



Ms Seraphine Wakana,
UN Resident Coordinator
The Gambia



UN entities in the Gambia

Resident UN Agencies



UN Agencies with Project Offices



Non-Resident UN Agencies



Key Government partners in The Gambia

Office of the President

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare

Ministry of Agriculture

Minister of Fisheries and Water Resources

Ministry of the Interior

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Youth and Sports

Ministry of Ministry of Lands, Regional Government and Religious Affairs

Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment

Ministry of Energy and Petroleum

Ministry of Tourism and Culture

Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure

Minister of Transport, Works and Infrastructure

Ministry of Defense

Key development Partners of the UN development system in the country

The key partners of UNCT The Gambia in the implementation of the UNDAF are the government, namely the Office of the President and line ministries, local governments, development partners, civil society organisations, and the private sector. The implementation is overseen by three Outcome Results Groups, led by the head of UN agencies and participation of relevant state and non-state partners. Progress is captured annually in the Annual Progress Reports and in the Mid-Year Reports of the Resident Coordinator (RC) that are shared with all partners in the country, made available on the UN The Gambia website and communicated on the UN The Gambia social media channels.

During UNDAF implementation in 2020, the United Nations in The Gambia further strengthened relationships with partners in development. UNDAF interventions were mainly funded by development partners as core and regular resources finance less than 12% of the resource envelope. In 2020, more than 80% of contributions came from the governments of UK, USA, Germany, Japan, Italy, the EU, and the World Bank. Funds were also mobilized from the UN Peace building Fund and the UN Multi-partner Trust Fund.

For Governance, Economic Management and Human Rights, a strong partnership around migration was achieved with the European Union Trust Fund for Africa, Governments of Italy and the USA, mobilizing \$381,547; and with the Governments of Japan, the USA, and Peace Building Fund (PBF) for \$356,500, for strengthening Sustainable Economic Management, and Governance and Human Rights respectively. In addition, \$7,610,485 was also mobilized from the PBF for access to justice, community policing, climate change, strengthening inclusive citizen engagement and ensuring a peaceful and democratic process in The Gambia.

For Sustainable Agriculture, Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Management, \$9.2 million, was mobilized through the UN's Technical Cooperation Programme and Trust Fund. In addition, \$10,188,279 was mobilized from The European Union, Global Environment Fund (GEF) Trust Fund, Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), Secretary General's Peace Building Fund, Royal DSM, Mastercard, Korea, Japan, Germany and The UK.

For Human Capital, a range of partners supported the initiatives including \$315,000 from the Peace Building Fund for Civic Engagement; \$100,000 mobilized for the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS; US\$1.5 million and US\$228k mobilized from Japan towards Zero Hunger and Human Capital development, respectively.

The Government of The Gambia, as a key partner of the UN, has funded (100%) the Programme for Accelerated Community Development as part of the government's contribution to the UNDAF. This is a community based and driven programme, which supported the socio-economic advancement of the rural population and addressed the rural urban divide in terms of development deficit as poverty is more intensive in rural areas. The pilot programme focused on basic infrastructure and services such as electricity, safe drinking water, access roads, labor-saving devices and post-harvest processing equipment and exotic livestock breeds for milk production.

Together with other key development partners, UNCT through the platform of Local Education Group (LEG) successfully mobilized US\$8.5 million from the Global Partnership on Education and supported elaboration of guidelines for the safe reopening of schools. The LEG was also used to advocate for the protection of the education budget in the context of fiscal consolidation.



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UNCT supported the National Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Coordinating Group in the development and approval of a funding proposal submitted on behalf of the Ministry of Health (MOH) to the Global Fund for US\$600,000.

Strategic partnership was developed with Government of The Gambia and the World Bank, for emergency procurement support to the Government including heavy vehicles and equipment funded through COVID-19 emergency resources of the World Bank.



CHAPTER 1

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND THE REGIONAL CONTEXT



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Chapter 1: Key developments in the country and the regional context

The development trajectory globally has been redefined by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Gambia is no exception with the pandemic taking its toll on the country's socio-economic development. The pandemic coincided with the development of the first new generation CCA for The Gambia. This provided an opportunity for further analysis and discussion on the impact of the pandemic on the country.

For the first time in 9 years, the country is expected to register a negative GDP growth figure. The initial growth estimates for 2020 were revised from 6.5 percent, to 0% percent due to the pandemic. The pandemic exposed the country's vulnerability to external shocks especially the Tourism sector as well as the weaknesses in the country's health system and social protection mechanisms.

Overall, the CCA reflected some of the progress in the respective Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and discussed the root causes of key developmental challenges in the country. While there has been some progress in good governance and socio-economic development, the effects of the country's historical authoritarian regime continue to linger.

The progress on the SDGs in the CCA highlighted improvements in basic amenities such as access to improved water, increased literacy rates and increased skilled birth attendants. Issues of high population growth rate, high poverty level of 48%, rapid urbanization, effects

of climate change were also analyzed. It is evident that the pandemic further exacerbates the prevailing situation in the country and erodes gains made in achieving the 2030 agenda.

As the country heads to elections in December 2021, beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, the democratic and political sphere was active in 2020 with rising tensions among political parties and constant debates on pertinent issues. One of such issues was the new draft constitution which failed to progress. Generally, the Government continues to push its reform agenda aimed at ensuring a conducive environment for sustained socio-economic development.

The uncertainties posed by the pandemic ultimately hinders prospects for strong economic recovery and sustained socio-economic development needed to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2030. As a result, the United Nations System (UNS) in The Gambia continues to repurpose itself to ensure it adequately supports the Government of the Gambia to attain its development aspirations. To this effect, the current United Nation Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) has been extended by a year to allow the UNS align the next Co-operation Framework with the government's planning cycles.

The Mid-Term Evaluation of the current National Development Plan (NDP) is being finalized to establish progress registered thus far in the implementation of the NDP. The NDP is also being extended to 2022 and reprioritized into a Covid-19 Recovery Plan to ensure the plan accommodates the effect of the pandemic. With the Vision 2020 ending, the evaluation of the vision will be instrumental in the formulation of the successor vision. Along with the Common Country Analysis (CCA), these mid-term and long-term plans will guide the development of the next Co-operation Framework.



CHAPTER 2

UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK



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Chapter 2: UN development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework

2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The Gambia UNDAF (2017 -2021) is the primary working document of UN intervention in the country. It was prepared in line with The Gambia's priorities as indicated in the NDP while strongly anchored in the SDGs with a strong focus on SDG1 (No Poverty). The design and implementation of the UNDAF is guided by the programming principles of the UN such as the human rights, Leave No One Behind (LNOB), and gender equality. Cognizant of the current global Economic context, and the urgent need to position The Gambia on a path to achieve sustainable Socio-Economic development, the UN is also committed to engage in partnerships outside of and within the UN through the adoption of "Delivering as One".

In view of the above, 2020 was not a normal year by any means due to the sudden spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UNS in the Gambia had to quickly readjust its priorities in 2020 in line with the government to tackle the pandemic. As a result, the UN delivery and support to The government and its people in the past year has greatly centered on managing the health emergency and socio-economic challenges that came as a result of the pandemic (such as unemployment, food security, etc.), and the emergency response that followed. This has contributed to further strengthening of the health system to better prepare and cope with future challenges.

Support to the government in responding to the pandemic include conducting studies that led to the formulation of response programmes and policies, coordination of

the health response, support to the continuity of basic social services such as health and education establishing a primary isolation center, the Ndemban Healthcare Centre COVID-19 treatment facility and testing centre and the provision of social protection services.

The culminative results of the UNCT included transformative policy development, legislative reforms, strengthening of data systems with an emphasis on leaving No One Behind targeting the most vulnerable, most marginalized, and most at-risk individuals in The Gambia. Institutional capacity strengthening including updating regulations, data and information management systems, technical capacity building, to support the democratic reforms provided an enabling environment to meet the needs of the people.



updating regulations



data and information management systems



technical capacity building



democratic reforms provided an enabling

environment to meet the needs of the people



In ensuring that no one is left behind, several social assistance programmes were designed and implemented in 2020 in response to the pandemic targeting the most vulnerable including migrants, women, children, and rural dwellers. To tackle the unemployment challenges exacerbated by COVID-19 youths, migrants, small

business owners (particularly in the Travel and Tourism Sector) and other vulnerable groups were provided with cash transfer and small business grants and retraining programmes.



The advent of the pandemic has pushed the need for new and innovative ways of service delivery. The use of innovative technological solutions such as digitalization in areas of health, education, social protection and economic empowerment, and rule of law was key in the continuity of service during the pandemic.

Nonetheless, the UNS has still managed to stay focused on some of its key deliverables such as peace building and security despite the pandemic. Major gains have been registered in these areas such as the ongoing Security Sector Reforms, Transitional Justice, and the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC).

2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

Strategic Priority 1: Governance, Economic Management and Human Rights

Priority Support Area: Governance is all encompassing and include political, human rights and access to economic assets management for the advancement of the welfare of the people of The Gambia.

OUTCOME 1.1: Sustainable Economic Management



Target: By 2021, accelerate inclusive and sustainable economic growth to reduce poverty and inequality for the vulnerable groups.

2020 RESULTS:

A UN study was used to develop both the government and UN response to the COVID-19 crisis. Subsequently more than US\$10M was allocated to the Health and Social Protection sectors to address the immediate challenges brought about by the pandemic.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with support from several UN agencies swiftly provided budget support to the government to address the health and socio-economic impact of the pandemic. The IMF provided US\$21.3M COVID-19 emergency support under the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) and US\$4.4 million debt service relief under the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT). A large proportion of these funds were used to address food security challenges such as a national food distribution programme covering 84% of households nationally. This served as a social safety net to the most vulnerable in dealing with the impact of the pandemic and serve as a poverty reduction tool.

Government's capacity was strengthened in mainstreaming the SDGs in their development plan which included support in conducting a first national Voluntary National Review (VNR)¹ that was presented at the high-level political forum in July 2020.

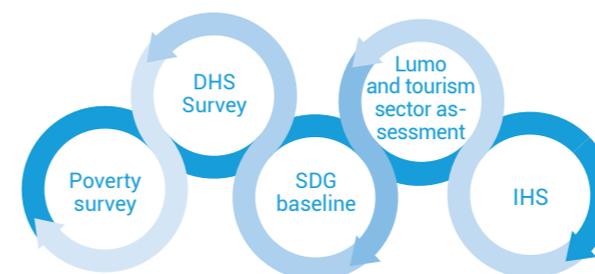
Furthermore, the national statistics offices were supported by the UNS to roll out a management information system and to conduct five surveys and studies (Poverty survey, DHS², SDG baseline, Lumo³ and tourism sector assessments and the IHS⁴) with disaggregated data for better analysis and policymaking. In addition, the

government was supported to improve the quality and availability of reliable data through provision of ICT equipment and technical assistance from the UN.

Financial management and governance in the country was further strengthened through the provision of integrated financial management system to local government authorities and support for the establishment of functional planning units in all government ministries and regional councils. Domestic resource mobilization increased by 16% during the year following support by UNS through tax education, seminars and compliance targeting professional bodies and the revision of the VAT Act, Customs and Excise Act.

Government launched the Programme for Accelerated Community Development-(PACD) in 2020 with the UN to support the transformation of rural dwellers through the provision of better roads, access to energy, portable and clean drinking water and access to labour saving devices to increase agricultural productivity, enhance processing and value-addition. Following the completion of a baseline survey and mapping of target beneficiaries, electricity was provided to 10 communities.

Despite COVID-19, the UNS supported the creation of 600 new jobs (406 men:274 women) and 1258 livelihoods (766 women:492 men) during the year. This was a result of the formulation and finalization of the 16 policy/strategy evaluation and formulation at central and regional levels; strengthening of 16 institutions that offer entrepreneurship and business support services or technical and vocational training. At the micro-level, the UNS supported 112 enterprises, mainly small businesses, to become more competitive and provided income.



Women's participation in business was also improved as the Women's Associations, Women's Chamber of Commerce and the government were supported to increase the share of public procurement contracts that are awarded to women-owned businesses resulting in more than \$3M worth of contracts under the COVID-19 emergency food relief fund being awarded to women-owned companies. Additionally, The Gambia's first National Migration Policy was launched as well as policy guidelines for labor migration in an attempt to fill the legislative gap which has presented a challenge in terms of regulating private recruitment agencies.

OUTCOME 1.2: Governance and Human Rights



Target: Institutional reforms implemented to ensure rule of law and guarantee people their human rights, such as access to justice, gender equality, basic social services, and democratic participation in decision-making processes.

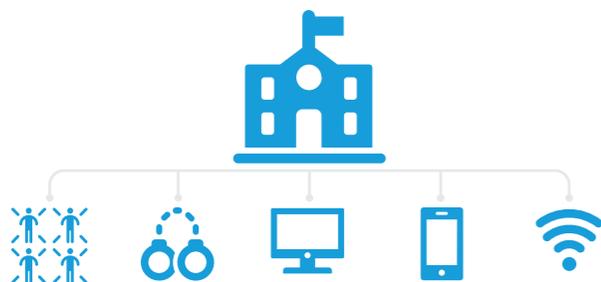
2020 RESULTS:

In 2020, The UNS in The Gambia supported the government in its drive to improve governance and the rights of people through building an inclusive and effective Rule of Law and Human Right framework in the Gambia through reform and capacity building of the justice system by re-establishing standards and procedure, enhance performance, capacity, accountability, integrity, and oversight of the judiciary and justice institutions (Judiciary, Police force and Prison, Ministry of Justice, Civil Society Organizations, and Gambia Immigration Department). Also, to ensure effective, accessible, fair, and equal justice and security service delivery to all Gambians and migrants, particularly women, children, and victims of serious human rights violations, to deal with the past, provide redress for grievances; and prepare the future to build a democracy based on the rule of law and human rights.

With the advent of the pandemic, the UNS provided support to the government in COVID-19 mitigation measures such as decongesting of the prisons as well as alternative measures to keep the courts operational

¹ Voluntary National Review of the National Progress in achieving the SDGs (VNR)
² Demographic Health Survey (DHS)
³ Weekly Market (Lumo)
⁴ Integrated Household Survey (IHS)

during lockdown such as the provision of ICT equipment and software to conduct virtual court hearings and the completion of two dormitories to house 200 remanded inmates.



Furthermore, support was provided to the National COVID-19 Taskforce in the development of messages to ensure that the most vulnerable communities and minority groups in the country e.g. remote communities differently-able people and prisoners were targeted and reached during sensitization campaigns to ensure that no one is left behind. The UN supported the translation of COVID-19 safety messages into local and indigenous languages, dissemination of messages through local radio and television stations including the use of sign language for those hard-of-hearing.



These services were used to provide the most vulnerable in society with legal advice and support. This is an important component in the strengthening of the national structures to ensure everyone is accorded a free and fair hearing if and when required.

In line with SDG16, the UNS, through Security Sector Reform, continues to provide support to national justice actors and hence in 2020 supported capacity building programmes to several of these actors such as the police, magistrates, CSOs etc. A total number of 306 of these actors were provided with trainings including 170 security personnel during the COVID-19 national lockdowns on human rights obligations in enforcing laws during state

of public emergencies. This has yielded results as the number of security personnel and public clashes in the enforcement of the lockdown laws has been virtually none.

Additionally, the UNS supported strengthening of border management by enhancing the capacity of 50 (38 men; 12 women) immigration officials in the collection and analysis of migration data to inform policy making as well as 10 (8 men: 2 women) senior immigration officials on regional cooperation in migration management. Further, provision of a border management information system was installed at 3 main Ports of Entry - Misera, Giboro and Farafenni to ease travelers processing and improve the working conditions of border officials.

Using a Human Rights-Based Approach the National Human Rights Commission was provided with support to help address stigma and discrimination against people infected and affected by COVID-19. This is in line with the UN Secretary General's initiative on Hate Speech. Additionally, a Rapid Assessment for People Living with HIV/AIDS in the context of COVID-19 was supported to ensure continuity of treatment, care and support of the affected.

To enhance social cohesion and harmony amongst communities, the UN continues to support to the National Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC). So far, the Commission has held 22 public hearings and by the end of the 22nd session has had testimonies from 358 witnesses, 285 male and 73 females, 216 were victims and 69 were self-confessed perpetrators or adversely mentioned persons. Some of the thematic areas covered include sexual and gender-based violence, murders by the death squad "TheJunglers⁵," and hunting of alleged witches in 2009. 17 identified victims of SGBV registered with the TRRC received livelihood training to address their socio-economic needs in collaboration with the Government of Ireland.



The primary legislative tool in The Gambia remains the Constitution, adoption of the new draft constitution remains uncertain. However, several important Bills were debated by the National Assembly and enacted in 2020 with the support of the UN system. These include the revisions of the Evidence Act to improve cases and prosecutions services and the Legal Practitioners Act to enable a freer legal service. The UN also continued to jointly advocate for the passing of important legislation, for example, the revised Women's Act and the pending Disability Bill aimed at domesticating the UN CRPD, promoting, and protecting the rights of Persons with Disabilities in The Gambia.

In ensuring, the Gambia continues to fulfil its international obligations regarding implementation of recommendations from human rights mechanism, The Government of the Gambia was supported through the Ministry of Justice to publish recommendations, including recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review and visit of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Guarantees of Non-recurrence in 2019.

In addition, to ensure CSO participation in public affairs, the UN in The Gambia conducted a training on the right to participate in public affairs. The purpose of the training was to build the capacity of government, civil societies, and organizations of persons with disabilities on the right to participate in public affairs. Additionally, to enhance CSO engagement and ensure the concerns of vulnerable groups are reflected in key processes, the UN supported the Gambia Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS and the Gambia Federation of the Disabled to participate in the WCA regional consultations on the new UNAIDS Global Aids Strategy (2021-2025).

In addition, key government policies and strategies on governance and human rights were developed and adopted through UN support which included the formulation and/

or revision of policy strategies for national institutions such as National Prison Services, The Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, The Judicial Service Commission Regulation and The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare.

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for protection and assistance of vulnerable migrants (including victims of trafficking) was also developed and implemented to strengthen protection and human rights with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Justice and the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons. Additionally, the UNS continued to support the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) including the establishment of a fully functional NCM Secretariat at the Office of the Vice President and the operationalization of 6 Thematic Working Groups.

Furthermore, the UN strengthened the child justice system through support of government to improve the situation of children in the justice system i.e. juveniles, migrant children, and homeless children. During the year, 27 children were bailed out from the juvenile prison and 282 migrant children from Senegal were reunited with their families through the support of the UN.



Strategic Priority 2: Human Capital Development

Priority Support Area: Education and health care services with a special focus on raising quality and accessibility. Improved equitable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene as well as social safety nets, nutrition, child protection and HIV/AIDS care services with special focus on most vulnerable. Improve gender equality and promote youth access to reproductive health services.

⁵ A group of self-confessed individuals who admitted to killing several individuals during the rule of the former President Yahya Jammeh

OUTCOME 2.1:
Education



Target: Increased access to inclusive and equitable quality and relevant education for all with special focus on the most vulnerable.

2020 RESULTS:

Joint support was provided to the education sector to achieve the development of the Education Sector COVID-19 response Strategy. This strategy was used to facilitate resource mobilization through the platform of Local Education Group (LEG), in which GPE grant of US\$3.5 million was secured.



As part of the safe school reopening other UN Agencies, through the UNCT, provided sanitary supplies, disinfection of school premises prior to reopening, COVID-19 sensitization, resumption of school feeding, infrared thermometers, and masks to prevent the school children from infection. The UNCT also supported the donation of handwashing stations in response to MOBSE's request to strengthen hygiene measures among school children.

Progress in girls' education is improving with girls' lower secondary school completion (63%) is now more than boys (57.4%) with total of 60.6% (EMIS 2020). More children with disabilities are provided with assisted learning devices such as braille machines and training itinerant teacher.



progress in girls' education

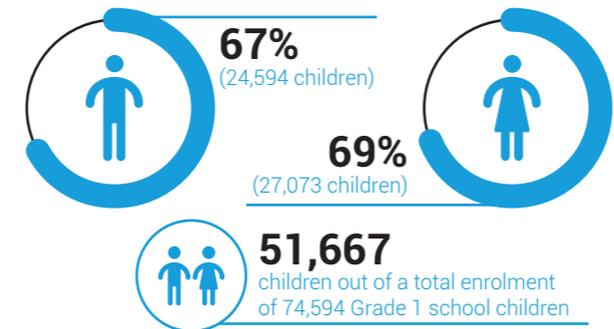
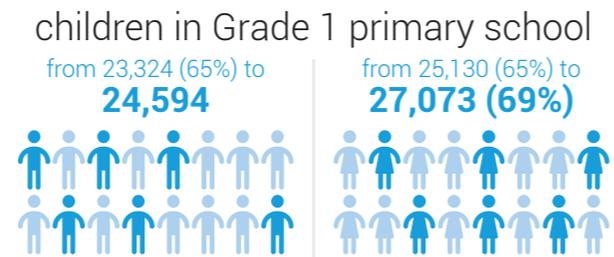


total of 60.66%
(EMIS 2020).



The U-Report platform which is a mobile based real time monitoring tool was used to increase the coverage of the distance learning programme over radio and television during the COVID-19 school closure.

Analysis of data from the Education Management Information System (EMIS 2020) shows that the number of children in first Grade Primary with ECD experience have increased both in percentage and nominal values for the second year in a row (2019 and 2020). About 51,667 Grade 1 children (68%) had ECD experience which increased from 48,454 children (65%) in 2019. Similarly, the proportion of and number of boys and girls increase from 2019 to 2020. Boys increased from 23,324 (65%) to 24,594 and girls from 25,130 (65%) to 27,073 (69%). (Target: Male-70%; Female: 70%).



OUTCOME 2.2:
Health



Target: Increased equitable access to quality health for all including the most vulnerable.

2020 RESULTS:

Like the rest of the world, The Gambia was not spared by the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As expected, it inflicted a huge strain in the country's

health system by increasing end user demand and the creation of COVID-19 treatment and quarantine centers.

Hence, the COVID-19 pandemic was primarily a health emergency. The UNS advocated and provided technical support to the government for increased resource allocation to the health sector to enable it better prepare and tackle the health response. In this regard, government reallocated funds from other budget entities such as recurrent expenses within the 2020 national budget into the health budget. An initial sum of 512 million Gambian Dalasi (approximately US\$10.1M) was allocated to tackle the pandemic by Government.



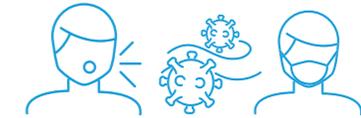
The UNS Systems during the early days of the pandemic began a system wide assessment and preparation of the health system which led to the subsequent interventions both by government and other partners. The UN supported the government in the development of messages and guidelines in dealing with the pandemic including assessments on stigma attached to those who contract the virus and their rights.

The UN also led in the procurement and delivery of COVID-19 testing equipment and supplies. These testing equipment and supplies were crucial in containing the spread of the virus in the early days of the pandemic as it allowed the country to quickly test suspected cases, isolate those that contracted the virus and conduct rapid contact tracing.

Several national health facilities including many in the rural areas were upgraded/equipped to enable them tackle the pandemic. These included the refurbishment and provision of medical equipment and supplies (including WASH⁷ materials) to Hospitals and health centers to ensure continuity of services during the pandemic such as maternal and child health services.

⁷ Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
⁸ Basic emergency obstetric and newborn care (BeMONC)
⁹ comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care (CEmONC)

Regarding the provision of technical support to the government during the pandemic, UN agencies supported the government in the development of project proposals and access to emergency funding from development partners to help in the fight against COVID-19. One of the successful proposals include the RCCE funds received by the government from The Global Fund.



Since COVID-19 is a communicable disease passed from one person to another through close contact or touch, the development and implementation of an effective RCCE strategy is crucial in controlling the spread of the virus. In this regard, the UN participated in the government RCCE committee and served as a technical advisor through which the national plan on COVID-19 RCCE was developed and supported the implementation of the plan. Funding and guidance were provided to the health sector in conducting surveillance as well as the broadcasts of the messages in local media channels.

To ensure that gains made towards the attainment of the 2030 SDGS on health particularly on maternal and child health, the UN consolidated its support to the government to ensure that there is a continuity of key health services such as BeMONC⁸, CEmONC⁹, Immunization, etc. through the provision of technical support, supplies and capacity building. 48,557 people in the last three quarters of 2020 were provided with essential non COVID-19 care. Furthermore, 6084 women accessed sexual and reproductive health services at Essau District Hospital in 2020 following urgent renovation and provision of equipment and supplies to ensure that women in hard to reach areas continue to access quality care. This included facility deliveries, ante-natal and post-natal attendance. This is a step toward the development of regional centers of excellence as part of Center of Excellence in Maternal and Newborn Care (CEMAN).



The UNCT facilitated the Gambia to establish its primary isolation center. The Ndemban Healthcare Centre in Bakau has been transformed into a modern fit-for purpose facility that will serve as a Covid-19 treatment and testing centre. Ndemban is now also equipped to serve the healthcare system beyond Covid-19 by hosting some healthcare departments, effectively decongesting the main hospital, and improving people's access to adequate health care. This transformation was made possible through Public Private Partnership (PPP) cooperation between the government, the UN and TAF Africa Global (Gambia) LTD. This PPP is just one of many collaborations envisioned in providing continued support to the improvement of the Gambia health system



The UN also supported Points of Entry (PoEs) in strengthening disease surveillance at the borders through provision of medical equipment such as infrared thermometers, first aid kits and supplies including WASH materials. Frontline officers at PoE's were also trained on Infection prevention and Control (IPCs) and proper use of PPEs. With UN support a Border Health Management Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) manual for detection, screening, management and referral of ill travelers were developed in accordance with IHR 2005.

OUTCOME 2.3:
Nutrition



Target: Increased equitable and quality access to nutrition specific and sensitive services including the most vulnerable.

2020 RESULTS:

The Gambia in its drive to achieving zero hunger in recent years has registered significant gains in the reduction of hunger and its related alignments such as stunting, wasting etc.

In 2015 23% of children under five were stunted and 10% of children under five were wasted (SMART, 2015). By 2018, these figures had dropped to below the NDP targets of 19% and 8% respectively. However, with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, these gains risked being eroded by the economic and social challenges that came with the pandemic.

To address this, the UN in The Gambia has partnered with the government to run rigorous nutritional and food security programmes in the past twelve months.



These include the counselling of 27,032 lactating mothers on Infant and Young Child Feeding practices, the treatment of 1179 severely acute malnourished children and 3712 wasted children.



Furthermore, to address the immediate food security challenges faced by vulnerable families, 8083 pregnant women were provided with food supplies. Also, the UN provided food transfers to vulnerable families that were directly affected by the virus and put in quarantine by the government.



OUTCOME 2.4:
Social Inclusion and Protection



Target: Access to integrated, inclusive and sustainable social protection services for vulnerable groups through a social protection framework in line with international standards increased.

2020 RESULTS:

The Gambia passed its first ever social protection policy in 2016 which aimed to first build an inclusive social protection system prioritizing the most vulnerable in society.

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic threatened to push more people below the poverty line hence the need to strengthen the national social protection system.

In 2020, UN system in The Gambia supported the establishment of the National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS), which is mandated, with the overall coordination of the country's social protection and welfare design and response. The country is also in the process of developing and eventual operationalization of National Social Protection Single Registry which will provide a platform to for the government to account for the most vulnerable in society and design adequate response mechanisms.

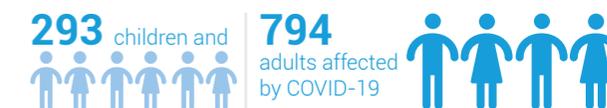
Government was supported to provide cash and food transfers to 96,355 food insecure individuals and households. Cash and food transfers to 7029 targeting women living in food insecure households with children under 5, cash transfers to 6219 targeting persons made redundant from their jobs in the tourism sector as a result of the pandemic, cash transfers to 83,000 targeting food insecure households in the 30 poorest districts of the country, and cash and food transfer to 73,939 households under the school feeding take-home ration. In addition, 76 returning migrants, and 31 stranded vulnerable migrants were provided with cash and food transfers as well as WASH supplies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



In 2020, the UN developed and implemented a Child Protection COVID -19 response plan with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare. The Initiative provided capacity building for 54 social workers for the delivery of psychosocial sessions to 293 children and 794 adults affected by COVID-19, provision of sanitary and education material for children in institutions and in their families.

Furthermore, to ensure that no one is left behind especially children, the coverage of the Child Protection Case Management System (CMS) was extended to more regions of the country to reinforce the consolidation, analysis and reporting of child rights violations. This has resulted in a multisectoral, integrated and decentralized case management approach whereby 828 children were identified to receive support related to health, education, reintegration, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriage violations.

psychosocial sessions to



To ensure inclusivity and full participation in COVID-19 public information programs, support was provided for a sign language interpreter to be included in all television panel discussions on the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Strategic and Action Plan for the Gambia Federation of the Disabled, which is the umbrella body for 16 Disability Persons Organizations (DPOs) in the country was developed. The Strategic and Action Plan provided the Federation with a strategy and course of action to improve the lives of persons with disabilities in The Gambia.

The UNCT was successful in its application to the UNPRPD¹⁰ MPTF¹¹ prepared in close collaboration with The Gambia Federation of the Disabled. The UNPRPD MPTF Funds that were mobilized in 2020 will be used to develop a situational analysis and programme to support persons with disabilities. In 2020, UNCT progressively involved organizations of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in its activities including the commemoration of the International Day of Person with Disabilities. In preparing the CCA in 2020, organizations of PwDs were consulted through focus group discussions enabling the UNCT obtain further information on the status of PwD's.

OUTCOME 2.5:
Youth and Gender

Target: Women and youth empowerment promoted to reduce gender disparities, gender-based violence, access to decent employment opportunities and ensure effective participation in national development.

2020 RESULTS:

It is globally recorded that 2020 saw an unprecedented spike in youth unemployment and domestic violence primarily affecting women. This is often attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the economy and lockdown measures put in place to curb the virus early on.

The UN system conducted a gender Impact Assessment of COVID-19 pandemic to guide interventions aimed at mitigating the impact of the pandemic on women.



The Gambia like the rest of the world took actions to address this through the establishment of the country's first national GBV helpline and SGBV shelter to protect and care for survivors of gender-based violence. Since the inception of the helpline, 3496 calls were received and 2619 of these calls were GBV related issue. Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) was provided to each of these callers.

The Child help line 199 was also launched in 2020 and under the leadership of the MoGCSW, the GBV technical working group was also established.



To compliment these efforts, the UNS in The Gambia supported the development of a database management system for the Network against Gender Based Violence to ensure accurate input and documentation of SGBV cases. Other support provided included capacity-building opportunities to health workers, the Gender based violence unit at the Ministry of Justice, and community radios on SGBV.

Through the support of the UN Peacebuilding Fund, national platforms that enable youth and women to participate in the national discourse such as the National Youth Parliament, National Working Group on Women, etc. were established/strengthened. Yields from these include training and support to 50 aspiring female candidates in the upcoming local election cycle 2021-23 which will aim to increase the participation of women in the decision-making process and serve as agents of community conflict prevention. A further 100 women from school mother clubs were engaged in promoting peace and sensitizing women on their role in keeping their children safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.



In the drafting of the new constitution, the UNS supported the review to identify the gaps on marginalized groups including women and youth participation and inclusivity.

As FGM and Child Marriage are outlawed in the country, the UN continues to support its partners including non-government agencies to conduct sensitization and advocacy on the issue. In 2020, the UN worked with 300 religious leaders, 5 Community Child Protection Committees to raise awareness of children on harmful practices including FGM/C. This included the use of mobile technology such as U-Report to capture the teenage cohort. The National FGM Strategy and Action plan was also developed in 2020.

Strategic Priority 3: Sustainable Agriculture, Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Management

Priority Support Area: Integrated Agricultural production and productivity as well as commercialization for inclusive growth and food security.

OUTCOME 3.1:
Agriculture and Food Security

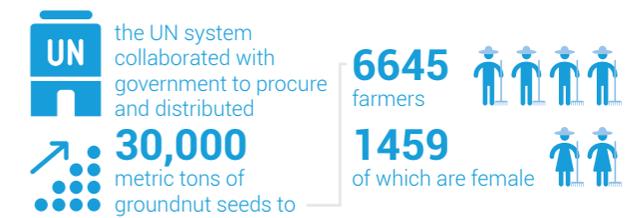
Target: Sustainable agricultural production and productivity increased for enhanced food security, nutrition, and income generation for all in rural and urban areas.

2020 RESULTS:

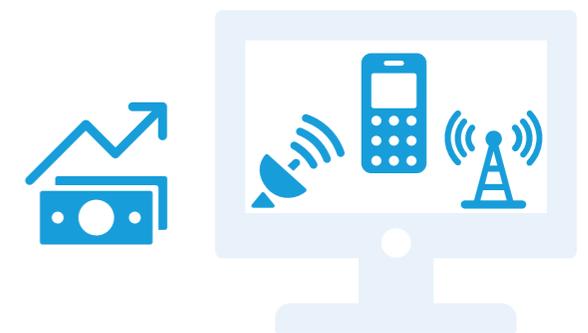
Agriculture is the primary source of employment in the country and serves as the primary provider of food and nutrition in the country. The UNS in The Gambia as a result in 2020 invested heavily in agriculture and the provision of food to farmers and vulnerable families across the country.

With the arrival of COVID-19 into The Gambia, the country's ability to produce as much food internally as it can became a priority. In this regard, the UN system collaborated with government in the procurement and distribution of 283.554 metric tons of varieties of seeds

(afasafe groundnut, and certified rice, groundnut, maize, findi and cowpea seeds) to 19,843 farmers of which 6728 were female. An additional 13,485 farmers of which 83.4% (11251) are female were provided with vegetable seeds for the 2020 agricultural planting season. From the seeds' beneficiaries, 12,190 farmers of which 36% (4388) were female, were provided with fertilizers to improve their crop yield. A further 5189 farming households and food insecure households in the urban areas were provided with cash transfers during the lean agricultural season.



In 2020, the UN conducted extensive capacity building programmes for farmers and agricultural stakeholders on good agricultural practices. Out of 30,000 planned over the period UNDAF, a cumulative of 15,000 (50%) farmers were trained. The 1830 farmers were trained in the first quarter of the year prior to the pandemic becoming a public health concern. As face to face meetings are usually the only available option in some of the planned remote communities' trainings were put on hold. The UN is supporting the establishment of 26 Community Gardens. The Gardens are at advanced stage of completion. Once operational they will enhance food production and nutrition security. The UN provided 22 power tillers to farmers and National Agriculture Research Institute. 50 farmers were trained to operate the power tillers.



¹⁰ The UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRD)
¹¹ Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)

The UN also provided supplies such as mobile apparatus and GPS hand held devices during the pandemic to government in support of an e-market platform and a web-based data collection application facilitate trade and monitor market prices of produce across the country. The UN also provided 4 vehicles to MoA and MoH to enhance extension service delivery to communities.

The Cadre Harmonise Analysis was conducted for the 2020/21 pre harvest assessments and remote food security assessments. These reports were subsequently used to inform government policy on food security and the eventually COVID-19 agriculture and food security response.

OUTCOME 3.2:
Natural Resources & Environment Management



Target: Sustainable, inclusive, and integrated natural resource and environment management enhanced for food security, income generation and safe environment.

2020 RESULTS:

The UN drives for responsible agriculture and sound environment management. Several innovative schemes were employed in 2020 to improve the state of the environment and promote the afforestation and reforestation of depleted habitats.

The UN partnered with government to provide alternative energy sources and cooking equipment to poor families in rural Gambia who use wood and charcoal for cooking. 414 households were provided with 830 more energy efficient and climate friendly cooking stoves.



In a bid to protect the country's forest cover, the UN provided 15 communities involved in tree cutting with an alternative means of livelihoods through the provision of 520 beehives to engage in to transform into beekeeping.

53,550 forest trees seedlings were procured and distributed to community forests and agroforestry, of which, 48,658 seedlings were planted covering an estimated area of 200ha.

528 Community Forest Committee (CFC) members were sensitized on tree planting and the use of trees for natural forest regeneration management. Additionally, 400 CFC members were trained on dryland forest management.

The UN is supporting the rehabilitation and equipping of the NARI, PPS and National Environmental Agency(NEA) Laboratories. The refurbishment and modern equipment will enhance the capacity of the government to analyze, and monitor pesticides, fertilizers, hazardous chemicals on the environment. Such capacity will scale up actions on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

The UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) conducted a GAP assessment of legal instruments affecting land and natural resources management. The objective of the GAP assessment is to conduct a review of the State Land Act of 1991 and the Land Compensation and Acquisition Act of 1991.



In addition, the PBF provided support to communities on construction of cattle tracks to prevent conflict between nomads and crop producers, provision of water boreholes, mediation services in land conflicts and capacity building to agricultural and land stakeholders.

OUTCOME 3.3:
Disaster Risk Management (DRR)



Target: Effective national DRM system is in place to strengthen vulnerable communities (men and women) resilience to adverse shocks.

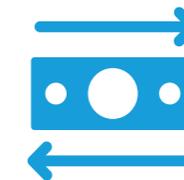
2020 RESULTS:

As the consequences of climate change are expected to affect the developing world the most due to unpredictability of the agricultural cycles and countries becoming more prone to climate related disasters. The Gambia has prioritized the integration of climate change and DRR in government policy.

The UN also procured four weather stations in rural Gambia to assist in the data collection and monitoring weather changes such as rains to assist in DRR preparation and emergency response. The UN also conducted a micro insurance feasibility study i.e. weather-based insurance, which will aim to provide small-scale livelihood insurance

services to vulnerable families against natural disasters. This study informed the development of a project funding proposal with a focus on introduction of micro-insurance, which got a grant award from the Adaptation Fund.

Support was provided to national and subnational institutions to create adaptive capacity to address the adverse effects of climate change and build climate resilience. This includes contingency planning and operational planning support under the Africa Risk Capacity for macro-insurance and as well as the planning for micro-insurance project as part of the funding proposal development process. Cash transfers were also provided to 5535 vulnerable people and the UN aided the government during the national food distribution process targeting 84% (235,767) of all households in the country in response to the pandemic.



provided to
5535 vulnerable people

The UN supported the development of a National Early Warning Strategy primarily to guide the development of disaster management and to align strategic direction for disaster risk reduction.



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2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

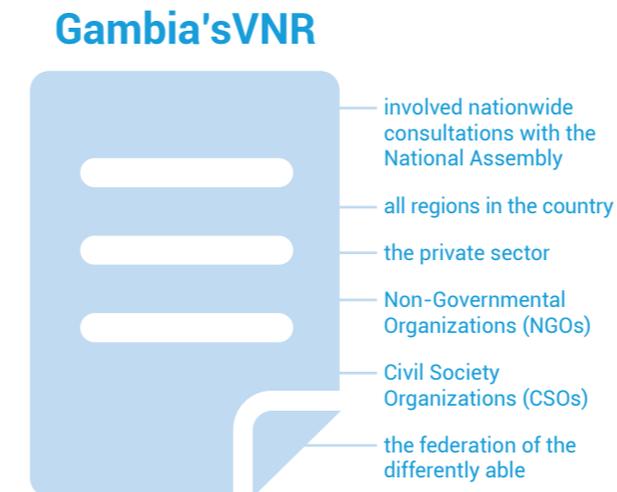
| NDP Priorities | SDGs |
|---|----------------|
| Governance, Human Rights and Security Sector Reform | 16 |
| Macroeconomic Stabilization and Economic Management | 1, 8, 10 |
| Modernized Agriculture, Agribusiness and Fisheries | 1, 2, 12, 14 |
| Human Capital Development (education, health & social protection) | 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 |
| Infrastructure and Energy | 7, 9, 12, 13 |
| Tourism and Culture | 1, 8 |
| Private Sector Development and Trade | 1, 8, 9, 17 |
| Youth Development and Empowerment | 1, 3, 4, 8, 10 |
| Strengthening Public Institutions | 16 |
| Women's Empowerment | 1, 3, 4, 5, 10 |
| Environment, natural resource management and climate change, and land use | 11, 13, 14, 15 |
| Diaspora in Development | 17 |
| Information and Communication Technology | 9, 17 |
| Civil Society | 16, 17 |
| Data for Development | 17 |

The Gambia launched the 2030 Agenda at the national level through a development forum on the theme "Post 2015 Agenda and its Financing at the Local level" to, inter alia, recommend options for mainstreaming the SDGs into the development planning process and identify the most viable options for financing, including Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).

In July 2020, five years into implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the country submitted its first VNR report¹² to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and presented it at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

The Gambia's VNR review process involved nationwide consultations with the National Assembly, all regions in the country, the private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the federation of the differently able.

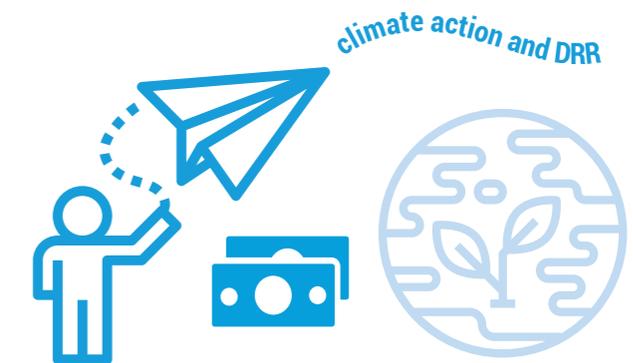
After the VNR reporting to the High level Political Forum, a country-wide consultation was held to share the findings of the report with the local communities.



Overall, The Gambia has made significant progress in the attainment of the SDGs. While the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to erode these gains, the UN is committed to supporting the government in building back better and recalibrating to ensure progress on the SDGs and the Agenda 2030 is realized. For example, the UN Programme for Accelerated Community Development (PACD), an initiative led by the government with UN's support, is aimed at bridging the rural urban divide in The Gambia, making sure no one is left behind.

Current government expenditures towards the SDGs have been re-aligned, such as by eliminating fossil-fuel subsidies, being climate-sensitive, and making gender-sensitive budget reforms.

Future government expenditures were avoided to free up resources for investment in essential areas, such as investments in climate action and DRR.



Government's Financial resources were delivered more effectively, for example strengthening public procurement. Other domestic, international, private, and public financial flows of other stakeholders have also been re-aligned with government's priorities.

¹² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/gambia>

Summary of Indications Covered: Data Availability as at: June 11th, 2020

| SDGs | No of Indicators (Tier I%II) | Gambia Coverage | % coverage |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|  1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere | 12 | 3 | 25.0% |
|  2. End hunger, achieve food security & improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture | 14 | 7 | 20.0% |
|  3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages | 28 | 14 | 50.0% |
|  4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all | 12 | 9 | 75.0% |
|  5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls | 11 | 7 | 63.6% |
|  6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all | 11 | 8 | 72.7% |
|  7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all | 4 | 3 | 75.0% |
|  8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all | 16 | 4 | 25.0% |
|  9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization & foster innovation | 12 | 4 | 33.3% |
|  10. Reduce inequality within and among countries | 14 | 1 | 10% |
|  11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable | 13 | 1 | 7.6% |
|  12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns | 12 | 0 | 0.0% |
|  13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts | 6 | 2 | 33.3% |
|  14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development | 9 | 2 | 22.2% |
|  15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss | 13 | 1 | 7.6% |
|  16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels | 23 | 5 | 21.7% |
|  17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development | 20 | 8 | 40.0% |
| TOTAL | 230 | 78 | 33.9% |

Extending partnerships with the private sector has been at the focus of the UNCT work throughout 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity for the UN to engage with the private sector for skills transfer. UN collaborated on the production of face masks by beneficiaries who had been trained by the private sector partners following a request from the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MOBSE) in relation to COVID-19.

The collaboration led to the sharing of knowledge on the production process, including required standards and certification, further partnership with NGOs supporting the process and liaison with MOBSE.

In collaboration with the private sector, the UN trained returnees in skills such as poultry farming, poultry processing, tailoring, plumbing & electricity installation.

The returnees were provided with start-up packages to start their businesses following their skills acquisition. In addition, UN entered into a tripartite Agreement with the private sector to support rice farmers.

Additionally, returnees were also trained on the production of non-medical PPE suits, producing 2,000 suits and shoe covers that were donated to frontline border control workers which simultaneously contributed income generation for the migrants.

The UNCT has also facilitated the enrollment of companies in the Gender Seal Certification Programme including The Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI). The Gender Seal Certification Programme will support and guide the private sector's delivery and compliance to gender equality principles by establishing standards that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In a show of solidarity premised on the Agenda 2030 principle to leave no one behind, the UN through the leadership of government and partnerships from the private sector through Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) combined forces to decongest Mile 2 detention centre and effectively contain the spread of Covid-19. Towards this end, a 200-bed capacity dormitories and a perimeter wall of the Jeshwang detention centre were constructed and GCCCI supplied 200 bunkbeds and mattresses. This intervention was unique in its creativity and transformative impact as the implementing partners authorised and endorsed the inclusion and participation of prison technical staff and detainees in the construction work which was spearheaded by GAMWORKS through We Khan Construction. Not only did the new facilities significantly decongest Mile 2 prison (35%), inmates were paid for their participation and gained new technical skills which they will be able to use upon release.

2020 GOAL

Extending partnerships with the private sector

The **COVID-19** pandemic provided an opportunity for the UN to engage with the **private sector** for skills transfer.

UN collaborated on the **production of face masks** by beneficiaries who had been trained by the **private sector partners**...

sharing of knowledge on the production process, including required **standards** and **certification**

UN trained returnees in skills such as **poultry farming, poultry processing, tailoring, plumbing & electricity installation**

The returnees were provided with start-up packages to start their businesses

2000x

The Gender Seal Certification Programme will support and guide the private sector's delivery and compliance to **gender equality principles**

200-bed capacity dormitories

200 bunkbeds and mattresses.

35% decongest Mile 2 prison inmates were paid for their participation

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

2.4.1 UN The Gambia COVID-19 Response

The UN was the first partner to engage the Government of The Gambia and support them in drafting their national response plan to the COVID-19, including the strengthening of the National Disaster Management Agency's (NDMA) capacity by providing support for the establishment of a COVID-19 Response Secretariat. This was supported with the development of the National Response Strategy and Plan formulation and coordination. A comprehensive National Response strategy and plan was the outcome of cross-sectoral consultation and participation from all stakeholders facilitated by UNCT.

The UNCT in The Gambia established a Crisis Management Team (CMT) working in the areas of Health, Social Services, Socio-Economic pillars, with the cross-cutting pillars of Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) to support the Government of The Gambia and UN Business Operations and Medical Support, to support the duty of care of the UN Staff and dependents.

The UNCT mobilized resources in the amount of US\$55,288,840 for the COVID-19 immediate response (from donors and/or other UN funds and competitive initiatives) that included socio-economic analysis and provision of social safety nets, livelihood support and capacity strengthening for the government-led response planning, coordination and implementation of the health response. Resourcing the COVID-19 Response Plan required re-purposing of some the interventions and adapting to the pandemic regulations in place. The Country Socio Economic Response Plan (SERP) Report was finalized and implemented.

The UNCT mobilized resources in the amount

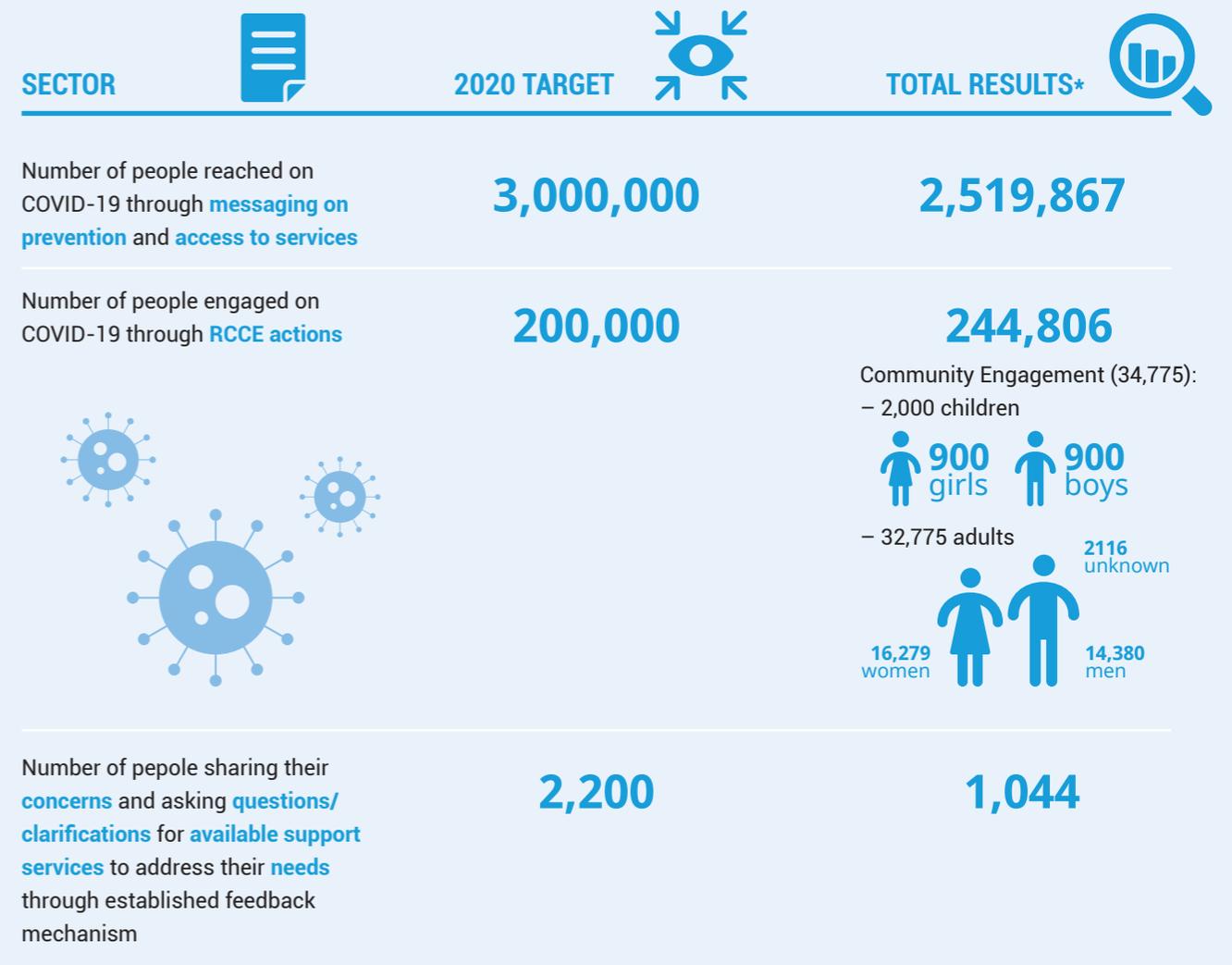
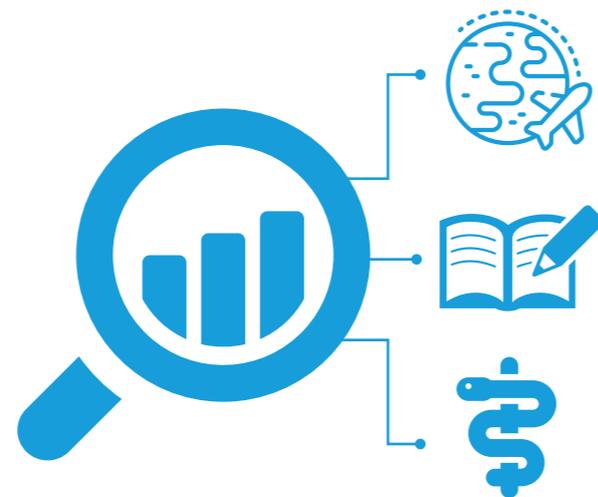
US\$55,288,840

for the COVID-19 immediate response



Emergency funds were mobilized from the MPTF COVID-19 fund, for US\$1M. The UNCT also engaged in new partnerships with the private sector to tackle COVID-19, including supporting prisons and building COVID-19 treatment centers. Actions undertaken through the Socio-Economic Response provided new opportunities for UN Agencies to collaborate and Deliver as One. This created visibility for the UN efforts to support the NDP. The joint UN COVID-19 plan enabled agencies to identify and reprioritize resources from regular programmes towards the COVID-19 response.

Through the implementation of the UN Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19, UN conducted socio-economic impact analyses in several sectors including tourism, education, finance, and health to inform evidence-based policy responses. The findings formed the basis of the national Socio-Economic Response Plan in which the UNS supported the government to safeguard livelihoods and nurture inclusive partnerships ensuring that no one is left behind as the country builds back better.



Psychosocial Support

The UN supported the mental health and Psychosocial Support training of 725 healthcare and frontline workers in quarantine facilities specifically on Psychological First Aid.

The UN supported the provision of Psychosocial Support to people affected directly or indirectly by Covid-19.

As at 31 December 2020

2,200 clients had received Psychological first aid services cumulatively
63 clients had received psychotherapy/trauma counselling / trauma therapy

Risk Communication & Community Engagement

The UN supported the formulation of a Concept Note and a Budget of **GMD 6,363,084.90**.

The Ministry of Health was thereby strengthened to conduct 16 synchronized broadcasts on 23 radio stations including 9 community radios, 13 commercial stations and the National Broadcaster – GRTS, reaching hundreds of thousands of people with key messages on COVID-19.

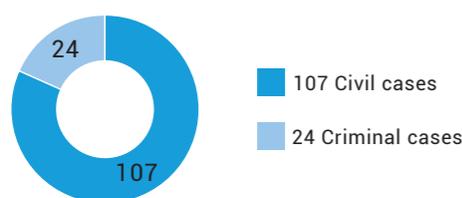


Strengthening Community Access to Justice

UNCT also supported the establishment of virtual courts at the High Court and magistrate level to facilitate access to justice and address the persistence case backlog during the pandemic. This was an innovation from the Accelerator Lab. In addition, three remote mobile legal aid clinics at the community level and the Prison legal aid desk to facilitate access to free legal aid, mediation, and social services, were put in place. 52 bail applications were filed through the Prison Legal Aid Desk of which 36 were successful.

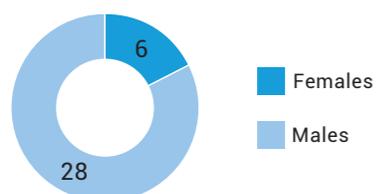
Virtual Courts

Cases heard through the Virtual Court as at 31 December 2020



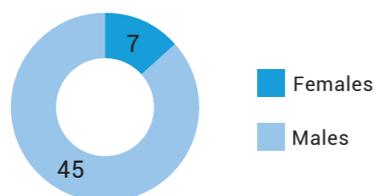
Mobile Legal Aid Clinics

Cases reported through MLAC as at 31 December 2020



Prison Legal Aid Desks

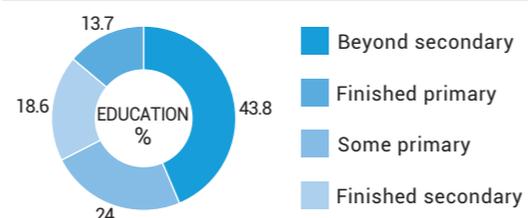
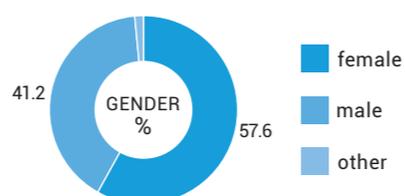
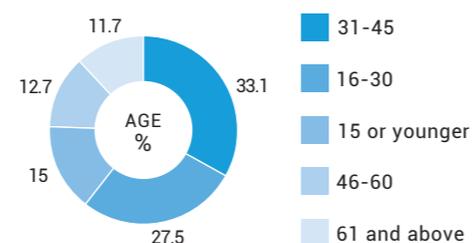
Bail applications filled through PLAD as at 31 December 2020



2.4.2 UN 75 Dialogues

The United Nations in The Gambia marked the 75th anniversary of the United Nations by partnering with the National Centre for Arts and Culture (NCAC), the National Youth Council (NYC), The Gambia Association of Local Government Authorities (GALGA), Government Departments and Ministries.

The partnerships with NCAC gathered 176 entries were received for the competition including many filled out UN75 paper forms from across the nation (927).

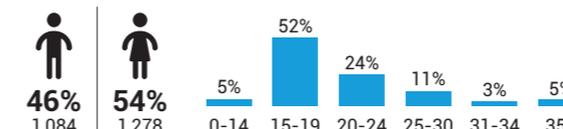


ADVOCACY

#Poll 42 - UN75: 2020 and BEYOND

August 6, 2020

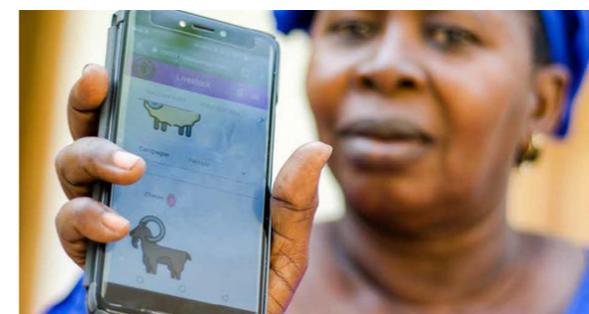
2,537 RESPONSES | 24% RESPONSE RATE



A U-report poll was also conducted. The poll registered **2,530 RESPONSES** out of which **46% (1,081) male** and **54% (1,274) female**. **87%** of the respondents were within the age 15-30. Poll results of key findings and insights can still be viewed via <https://gambia.ureport.in/opinion/4436/>.

The second phase of the Dialogues was completed through a combined CCA2020-UN75 Dialogues nationwide tour of the 7 regions in The Gambia held in October 2020. 361 people from across the 7 regions were reached with UN COVID-19 protocols for face-to-face meetings observed.

UN75 Dialogues in The Gambia #TheGambiaWeWantToSeeIn2045



TOTAL RESPONSE



Top Region: **West Coast**
809 Responses // 2,639 Polled

2.4.3 Communicating As One

One UN website



- The UN Country Team in The Gambia collaborated in the development of a One UN website to strengthen communication with its diverse audiences in The Gambia and around the world.

Development of joint promotional materials

- The UN Gambia's work is communicated to the public monthly through the joint E-Newsletter to better inform them of the work of the UN in The Gambia.

Support communication aspects of UN strategic events and International days

- The UN Country Team collaborated to commemorate strategic events and international days, including the UN Day in which diverse audiences were informed by the UNCT about the work of United Nations in a Davos-styled live television broadcast.

Develop capacity of UNCG members

- The skills and capacities of members of the UNCG was developed in photography. The training benefited UNCG members on photography for enhanced visibility of the work of the UN in The Gambia.

2.4.4 BUSINESS OPERATIONS FOR THE UN IN THE GAMBIA

With an extension of the Gambia's current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017–2021, to 2022 in complement with National Development Plan 2018–2021, and the alignment of national and UN cycles, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in The Gambia updated its Business Operations Strategy (BOS) (2017–2021) to coordinate and align its activities for more efficient and effective service delivery including COVID-19 response, thereby mitigating duplication of processes, curtail transaction costs and enhance operational efficiency.

Implementation of the BOS is expected to result in net cost avoidance of USD 581,790. The Cost Benefit Analysis specifically shows that the monetary savings will be highest in the Common IT Service with a potential cost avoidance of USD 278,872 representing 48% percent of the total benefits to be generated through the BOS. In addition, the UNCT in the Gambia, has striven to incorporate innovation, environmental sustainability, gender and disability inclusiveness and other elements in support of the SDGs.



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2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

Adjustments have been made through implementing the UNDAF in 2020, including: (i) effectively responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by adopting to the challenges, timely adjustment of interventions and resources towards national recovery needs; and resource mobilization for emergency support to the country (ii) cohesive engagement of all UN agencies and partners in reaffirming the commitment to the Development partners groups which was used to strategically position the UN with its partners to deliver complementary support during the pandemic, and reduce duplication of efforts to support the most vulnerable; (iii) enhanced strategic coordination at the inter-ministerial level for UNDAF implementation through participation of the leadership of UN agencies in the country's coordination fora for the COVID-19 Response; (iv) enhanced collaboration with the IFIs to support the COVID-19 response to central government, to support the socio-economic response plan.

2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization



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2.6.1. Financial Overview

In 2020 the UNS in the Gambia mobilized the sum of US\$27,973, 520, for Strategic Priority 1 of the UNDAF of which US\$14.5 was spent. US\$9.1M was mobilized for Strategic Priority 2 of which US\$6.4M was spent and US\$16.7M was mobilized for Strategic Priority 3 of which US\$12.5M was spent in 2020.



Out of the US\$53,773,520 available for programming in 2020, US\$29,473,520 is financed from UN Agencies core funding while US\$24.3M is mobilized from development partners and donors. The major donors/contributors to this are The European Union, World Bank. US\$20,531,270 was disbursed and eventually spent towards programmes and projects.



2.6.2. Resource mobilization

The UNS in The Gambia is committed to take all reasonable steps to raise additional resources for the programmes. Resource mobilization was done bilaterally between the UN agency and the development partner as well as jointly with other UN agencies. Resources were mobilized using the following strategies:

1. The UNS made available multiple avenues to fund the UNDAF resource shortfalls

- Funding specific outputs/activities through specific agencies
- Direct budgetary support to government earmarked for UNDAF outputs/activities

2. The UN strengthened UN-Donor partnership through:

- The Development Partners group in 2020 was co-chaired by ECOWAS and the UN Resident Coordinator
- Engagement of the development partners in the substantive implementation of the Common Country Processes by inviting their participation in the CCA and other critical programmatic activities
- Promoting transparency by ensuring quality and timely reporting; providing bi-annual and annual reports on the delivery of commitments on the UNDAF and ensuring timely relevant information was disseminated on the UN country level website on fund disbursements
- Maintained regular communications on country situation, major issues and concerns, new initiatives, etc.
- Held strategic partnership forum with development partners
- Joint UN/development partners field trips to selected project sites

CHAPTER 3

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

- Informal WhatsApp group with the development partners for easy collaboration and sharing of information
 - Regular email communication for information sharing with the development partners
3. **The UN undertook a major role in supporting the government in aid coordination and effectiveness.**

- Strengthened the Partnership Forum as a platform for government-development dialogue and interaction
- Convened government-development partner-UN dialogues on major policy issues
- *The UN updated donor mapping of the joint programmes under the "Development Partners Group".*

In addition, Public Private Partnership (PPP) cooperation between the Ministry of Health, World Bank, TAF Africa Global (Gambia) LTD and UN resulted into the rehabilitation of health facility to be used as the COVID-19 Treatment center in Banjul (city). Moreover, having discovered that the testing capacity was very weak in the country, and the reported number of cases was not reflecting the COVID-19 situation in The Gambia, the UN partnered with the Standard Charter Bank to expand the testing to the remote areas of the country.

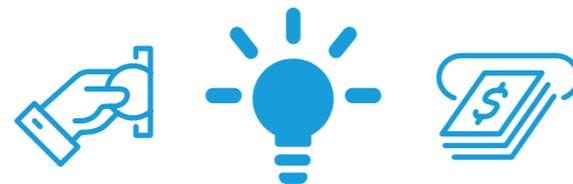


Through the UN Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) COVID-19 project (\$1M), UN built local capacity and introduced innovative ways of applying emergency infrastructure/construction, using local fabrication of

containers for COVID-19 emergency treatment centers. The capacities of these private sector contractors can now be leveraged to scale-up similar units nationwide, and thereby avoid importations into the country, preserving previous foreign exchange reserves, and also avoid the vagaries of global supply chains that have been disrupted due to the pandemic.



To help advance financial innovations and new technologies, the UN helped establish The Gambia Angel Investors Network (GAIN) which promotes and channels investment by wealthy Gambian angel investors into local companies. 2020 saw the closure of the first investment deal for a woman-owned company. Under a grant facility a UN scheme provided a matching contribution for every Dalasi (local currency) that the private sector invested. The UN also facilitated the establishment of a new crowdfunding platform and supported e-commerce through an acceleration programme of tech start up and integration of payment solutions in different online platforms.



To further the engagement of women's meaningful participation in business, the UN provided technical support to the Women's Associations, Women's Chamber of Commerce and the government to increase the share of public procurement contracts that are awarded to women-owned businesses. With the support of the Vice-President the procurement act was revised, and a progressive bill was submitted to the National Assembly. Thanks to the advocacy and technical support, more than \$3M worth of contracts under the COVID-19 emergency food relief fund was awarded to women-owned companies.



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Chapter 3: UNCT key focus for next year

2020 was indeed a peculiar year with the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country's Socio-Economic Development. The UN in partnership with government and other development partners repurposed itself to address the impact of the pandemic and was at the forefront in the fight against COVID-19. Thus, it is no surprise that the UNCT's focus for 2021 was on building back better from the pandemic supporting the recovery efforts towards a sustainable development trajectory.

2021 would have been the last year of the UNS's current Programme cycle. However, with the UNDAF extended by a year, plans for the development of the next CF have been adjusted to ensure alignment with the country's National Development Planning cycles. Nonetheless, in continuing the implementation of the current UNDAF, the activities articulated in the 2021 JWPs are anchored on the development priorities of the country. Beyond the expected interventions in the health sector to safeguard livelihoods, the impact of the pandemic on the Agriculture and Tourism sectors, which are major Economic drivers for the country, has propelled government to deepen its interventions in these sectors.

Furthermore, the pandemic underscored the weaknesses in the country's social protection mechanisms and its negative impact on the Education sector cannot be overemphasized. As a result, the social sector is a top priority for the government. Also, the importance of digitalization which emerged strongly in the pandemic has earned it a place as a key development priority.

Interventions of the UNS in The Gambia in 2020 are in line with government's priorities especially supporting government policies aimed at creating fiscal space for crucial economic activities and protecting the most vulnerable. UNS Programmes will ensure to embed the UN's normative principles of Human Rights-Based Approach, Gender and Women Empowerment, Social Inclusion, Prevention etc. to ultimately ensure no one is left behind.

The 2020 CCA highlighted the plight of different vulnerable groups providing the UNS with adequate analysis to guide its Programme implementation in 2021. The implementation of programmes and results attained will be monitored and captured in UNINFO to ensure adequate reporting and data gathering for evidence-based decision making.

The pandemic has further tightened the available resource base and mandated the need for aggressive and innovative resource mobilization strategies. The need to prioritize domestic resource mobilization and blended financing has never been more pressing. This is an area the UNS will use its comparative advantage to mobilize resources for its interventions as well as support and build the capacity of government in its own resource mobilization efforts. Stronger engagements especially with the IFIs and private sector, will be key to move along the resource mobilization agenda.

In conclusion, with 2021 being an election year and considering the country's history of a peaceful transition amidst the political impasse during the 2016 Presidential election, sustained peace and stability is crucial for the country. The need for an intense focus on the Peace Development Nexus in 2021 cannot be understated. A peaceful electoral process leading up to the elections and eventual peaceful transition is government's number one priority. Therefore, UNS's initiatives in building back better will be shadowed by peace building efforts.



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THE GAMBIA



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