



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

gambia.unfpa.org

Editor-in-Chief

Ndéye Rose Sarr

**Editorial Team/
Production Team**

Lamin Camara
Mbasireh Saidybah
Maimuna Denton
Faith C. Ememodo
Anna Ceesay

Contributors

Lamin Camara
Maimuna Denton
Alieu Jammeh
Alhagie Kolley
Jainaba Njie
Ramou Sonko
Joy Michael
Fatima Sonko
Mbasireh Saidybah
Faith C. Ememodo
Bakary Juwara
Ramatoulie Kujabi

Photography

©UNFPA The Gambia

Design and Layout

Zikodev Multimedia

All rights reserved

Table of Contents

04	Table of Contents
05	List of Acronyms
06	From the Representative
08	CHAPTER ONE Programme Report
09	Ending Preventable Maternal Deaths
11	Ending Unmet Need for Family Planning
13	Ending Gender-based Violence and Harmful Practices
16	"I was a punching bag for years"- One-Stop Centre brings hope to GBV Survivor
18	CHAPTER TWO Programme Enablers
19	Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
19	Sourcing population data for development
20	Supporting the provision of CSE
20	Leave no one behind
21	Inclusion for Development - All or nothing
24	Delivering adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health information and services
25	Investment Case
26	CHAPTER THREE Advocacy, Communication, and Resource Mobilisation
28	Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships
28	Communication and Visibility
30	CHAPTER FOUR Project Reports
31	UN Peacebuilding Fund Projects
31	The Peacebuilding Fund Impact
33	China Aid Project
34	UN Trust Fund on Human Security
35	Italian Cooperation
35	United Nations Partnerships on the Rights of People with Disabilities
38	CHAPTER FIVE Humanitarian Response
40	CHAPTER SIX Operations and Finance
41	Staff recruitment
41	Streamlining procurement processes



List of Acronyms

AYSRH	Adolescents and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health	MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
BEmONC	Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care	PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
CO	Country Office	PSEAH	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
COVID	CoronaVirus Disease	PWDs	Persons with Disability
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	RHCS	Reproductive Health Commodity Security
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations	SDP	Service Delivery Point
EmONC	Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care	SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
ESRI	Environmental System Research Institute	SoWP	State of World Population
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
FP	Family Planning	SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
GALGA	Gambia Association of Local Government Authorities	STIs	Sexually Transmissible Infections
GBV	Gender-based Violence	TRRC	Truth Reconciliation and Reparation Commission
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	UN	United Nations
HACT	Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons	UNPRPD	United Nations Partnerships on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
ITGSE	International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
LGAs	Local Government Authorities	USD	United States Dollars
mCPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate, Modern Methods	VDC	Village Development Committee
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	WDC	Ward Development Committee
		YE4DD	Youth Empowerment for Demographic Dividend

From the Representative

2022 provided us an opportunity to consolidate on the gains made in the implementation of the 8th Country Programme with The Gambia Government. UNFPA renewed strategic partnerships with the government, non-governmental counterparts, sister UN Agencies, and other development partners. This annual report highlights the key results achieved in 2022 with a particular focus on gains made in our work towards strengthening maternal health, increasing the uptake of FP services, and strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Country Office supported The Gambia Government in developing an Investment Case geared towards ending all preventable maternal deaths, ending the unmet need for Family Planning, and ending GBV including Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation. We now have compelling evidence that supports us in programming for results and providing partners including Government, with what it requires to attain critical results in these three areas. This is crucial especially as we have barely seven years to accelerate the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically goals 3 and 5.

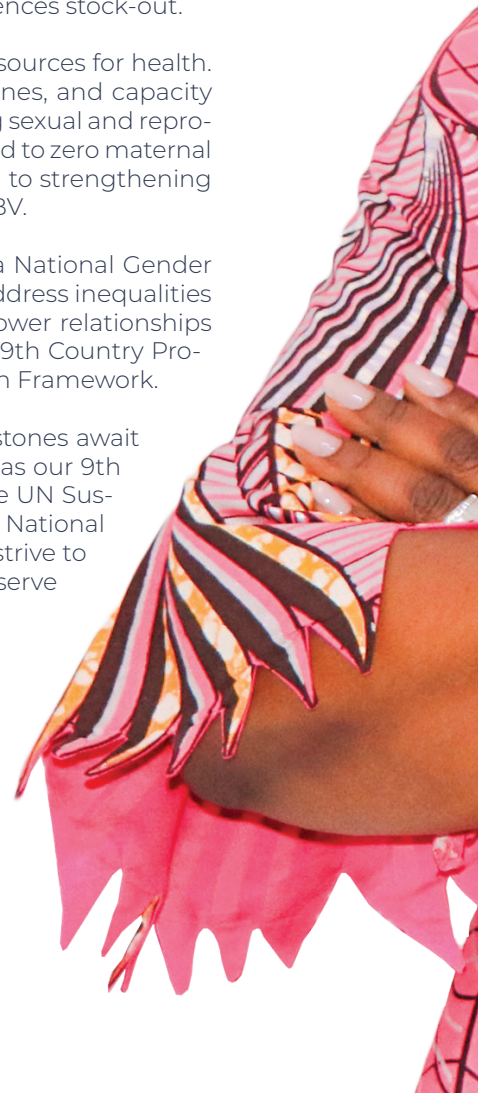
The Country Office's continuous advocacy has led to the Government signing of the Compact of Commitment to contribute to the procurement of family planning commodities as part of their matching funds. This will ensure that every woman who needs contraceptives, irrespective of where they live, can get them. Continuity and availability of family planning commodities are crucial, and the country has made significant efforts to ensure that close to 90 percent of service delivery points have registered no stock-out of at least three commodities. Together with our Ministry of Health counterparts and non-government partners, we will ensure programme improvement to the extent that no facility, anywhere in the country, experiences stock-out.

We continue to invest in health system strengthening including human resources for health. This includes the procurement of equipment, maternal lifesaving medicines, and capacity building of healthcare providers. Community engagement in strengthening sexual and reproductive health service uptake has also been pivotal in our work and this has led to zero maternal deaths in the Kiang West District of The Gambia. This is strongly attributed to strengthening community involvement in Sexual and Reproductive Health and ending GBV.

For the first time in The Gambia, the CO supported the development of a National Gender Analysis that identified, analysed, and provided a framework for action to address inequalities that arise from the different roles of women and men and the unequal power relationships between them. The National Gender Analysis will help inform not just the 9th Country Programme Document but also the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

We are looking forward to 2023 with great enthusiasm as several key milestones await us. These include the development of a new Country Strategic Document as our 9th Country Programme with The Gambia Government which is aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and The Gambia's National Development Plan. These are exciting times for us and our partners as we strive to deliver for The Gambia. We will continue to count on their support to further serve the people of The Gambia.

Ndéye Rose Sarr
UNFPA Country Representative



FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE



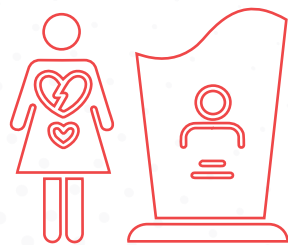
UNFPA ANNUAL REPORT 2022





CHAPTER ONE

Programme Report



Ending Preventable Maternal Deaths

Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services requires that everyone, everywhere, can receive affordable, acceptable, and quality care delivered with maximum respect for the dignity and rights of each person. Central to the realisation of this is the need to ensure the availability of modern maternal lifesaving medicines, equipment and infrastructure, and human resources for health as they are crucial in ending preventable maternal deaths. These will avail dignity, privacy, and regard to expectant mothers delivering their newborns at health facilities.

The Gambia's Maternal Mortality Ratio currently stands at 289 for every 100,000 live births according to the 2019/20 Demographic and Health Survey. With current trends and investment, the country is highly unlikely to meet its SDG target of 70. Even with the most ambitious scenario as per the recently completed Investment Case, the country can only reduce by half the current MMR. Recognizing the need to strengthen the health system to deliver quality emergency obstetric care services is crucial in enhancing women's reproductive health and ensuring safer deliveries.

Key Results



01

UNFPA in collaboration with the Office of The First Lady, The Ministries of Health and Gender, launched a national campaign to end fistula in The Gambia by 2030. This has helped to bring obstetric fistula to the national agenda, leading to the conduct of 9 fistula repair surgeries and the revitalisation of the National Fistula Taskforce.



02

The Kabilo Bama initiative continues to yield positive results. The Kabilo Bama project in The Gambia's Kiang East district resulted in no maternal deaths reported out of 264 health facility deliveries. The initiative also increased male involvement in SRHR and ending GBV including FGM and Child Marriage.

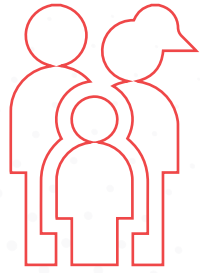


03

Medical supplies and equipment worth US\$283,000 were procured to strengthen BEmONC in 17 health facilities across the country and 9 service providers trained on EmONC Signal functions to strengthen emergency obstetric care services.



Ending preventable maternal deaths



Ending Unmet Need for Family Planning

Increased access to family planning commodities can improve health outcomes for women and could help reduce maternal deaths due to conditions associated with frequent deliveries. As The Gambia is a male-dominated society, Family Planning is challenged by strong opposition from men who are mostly the key decision-makers in the home. Other challenges include a shortage of health providers, insufficient capacity to provide services, and inadequate infrastructure and supplies, especially in rural and hard-to-reach communities. This has contributed to the low uptake of contraceptives due to unbalanced socio-cultural norms. However, if the unmet need for FP is improved through the promotion of demand-creation interventions including community distribution programmes, maternal mortality could be reduced.



Family Planning Contraceptives

Key Results

88.2%

of Service Delivery Points (SDP) that offered three modern contraceptives following national protocols had no stock-outs, compared to 75.6% in 2020. (RHCS, 2022)

80%

of SDP had FP Operational Guidelines Available

1,747

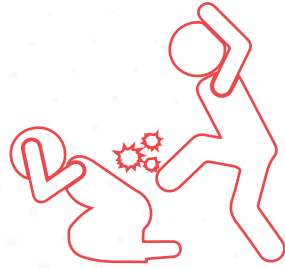
women, adolescents, and youth utilised integrated sexual and reproductive health services in 2022, an increment by 238%, from 274 in 2017.

300

Community-Based Distributors trained in 2022 and they cumulatively recruited 5553 New Acceptors and 12371 recurrent users.

Family Planning IUD





Ending Gender-based Violence and Harmful Practices

Human rights violations specifically targeting women have been documented for decades and Gender-based Violence in public and private spheres, including violence against women and girls, is one such. Although SDG 5.2 calls for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030, The Gambia continues to make modest progress in this area.

Ranked 127 on the Global Gender Gap, The Gambia still has a high prevalence of GBV, influenced by cultural and social norms. 26% of ever-married women have experienced physical, sexual, and emotional violence by their husbands or intimate partners and 1 in 4 women aged 15-49 years will become survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. The occurrence of GBV in some communities in The Gambia has been 'normalised' to the extent that 40% of women believe it is acceptable for their partner(s) to abuse them. As such, UNFPA has been working with the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Welfare, together with other partners to address gender disparities and promote sexual and reproductive health and the rights of women and girls.

Key Results



01

UNFPA supported the development, finalization, and validation of the National FGM policy with a costed implementation plan.



02

The capacities of 59 social workers, case managers, medical doctors, and data officers in various GBV programming areas were strengthened.



03

611 survivors of Gender-Based Violence were reached with various forms of services which include psychosocial counselling, clinical management of Rape, livelihood/economic empowerment, and legal services.

Stop
GBV
Call 1313 to
seek care



04

Establishment of a Gender information platform that helps with the documentation of GBV Output.

ENDING
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND
HARMFUL PRACTICES

ENDING UNMET NEED
FOR FAMILY PLANNING

ENDING PREVENTABLE
MATERNAL DEATH

PHOTO

Laying the foundation stone for the Senegambia Bridge project. Addressing Gender-Based Violence is a key intervention under this programme.





"I was a punching bag for years"- One-Stop Centre brings hope to GBV Survivor

Gender-Based Violence is the most pervasive violation of human rights. Currently, about one in every three ever-married women in The Gambia has been subjected to some form of physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their current or most recent partner, while about 9% of women aged 15-49 years have experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime. These figures are alarming and call for increased and rapid investments in the prevention and response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and the empowerment of those most affected - women and girls - to live free from violence and have a dignified life. Although GBV is perpetrated against both men and women, women and girls are most affected due to the power imbalance in Gambian communities, socio-cultural and religious norms, and practices that undermine their dignity and wellbeing, among other factors.

An approach to address such and a bid to see that women and girls are protected from all forms of violence was the establishment of a One-stop Centre. The One-stop Centre gives access to holistic services (health, psychosocial support, legal and police services) to survivors, free of charge.

Aisha is a 22-year-old lady who dropped out of school due to financial instability. She got married as a teenager and moved with her husband and family. Over the years, she has experienced both physical and sexual violence from her partner, even putting her life on the line.

"My husband beats me up, rapes me, and verbally insults me. He has done this repeatedly and sometimes I get admitted to the hospital for days. I have never enjoyed a home of peace and love but only pain and hatred". Aisha explained how her husband raped her, and she fell pregnant with twins. He would then beat her almost every day during her pregnancy and sometimes she would bleed for days. She explained how on most nights she would dread her life and cry herself to sleep.

Aisha's experience of physical and sexual violence has affected both her psychological wellness and emotional state. According to her, she has on several occasions been suicidal, hitting her head against the wall multiple times. But the thought of her little son has always been her strength to live again.

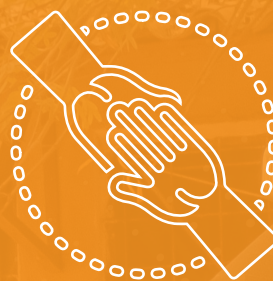
"I had to leave the house as I couldn't take any of the pain, humiliation, and the fact that I always felt I was going to be killed has been one that I feared the most". She had to leave her husband's house and live with her friend for safety and refuge. Aisha explained how at other times she would have to shuttle between two friends' houses to feel safe.

"When I was told about the One-stop Centre, tears dropped in my eyes, because I feel I can live and be happy again. The comfort and care I get from the centre feels like a dream and hope for me to live again". The One-stop Centre has empowered and contributed tremendously to the safety of survivors, after weeks of undergoing counselling and psychosocial support, they come back to the centre, and you can barely tell that they were the same women.

Aisha explained how the centre has helped her in all areas of her life, from the psychological and emotional therapy she gets to the shelter she receives. It has been a pillar and source of strength for herself, her son, and the unborn twins.

"My life was scattered, buried, and crumbled, but I have hope and faith. Thanks to the One-stop Centre", she explained.

UNFPA remains committed to continuing to support the government and people of The Gambia to create a safer country for everyone, where women and girls are protected from violence and empowered to live safe and dignified lives. Through collaboration and partnership, the One-stop Centre will always bring hope to women like Aisha in The Gambia.



CHAPTER TWO

Programme Enablers

Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

With the prevalence of gender inequality, gender discrimination, and social norms and practices, girls become exposed to the possibility of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, child domestic work, poor education and health, sexual abuse, exploitation, and violence. Many of these manifestations will not change unless women and girls are valued and prioritised. However, through a lot of awareness and campaigns against such practices, women and girls are empowered to speak up. One such initiative is the Community-led Dialogues to support the elimination of FGM within communities in Foni in the West Coast Region of The Gambia. This new approach is geared towards addressing the social norms that exacerbate the practice through meaningful dialogue and conversation that can influence community-based behaviour change as vital tools in ending the practice. Strategies utilised included safe spaces, listening circles, and AtayaChats to break through social barriers around FGM conversations. These conversations gave a good understanding of the factors that influence the practice of FGM and record any new practices, trends, and success stories around the fight against FGM.

Sourcing population data for development

Generation, analysis, and utilisation of quality data are crucial elements of programming for development. Utilisation of data to inform policy and programming is key in generating results and ensuring that not only do we have value for money but also equity in our programme interventions, ultimately ensuring that no one is left behind. As the lead UN Agency for data for development, UNFPA has supported the mobilisation of partnerships and resources for the conduct of the 2023 Population and housing census preliminary activities. This included the acquisition, and installation of a GIS package from the Environmental System Research Institute (ESRI) and capacity building of personnel from the Bureau of Statistics on its utilisation. The CO also supported Census mapping including training of 100 enumerators for the pre-census mapping activities, questionnaire development, and pre-testing. Our support also contributed to the procurement of mapping equipment and consumables as well as support awareness raising and advocacy. UNFPA supported the establishment of a Technical Committee as a governance framework to support census activities and ensure consistency with national needs and priorities.

Supporting the provision of CSE

Access to Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) empowers young people to protect their health, well-being, and dignity. When CSE is started early and provided over time, young people are more empowered to make informed decisions about their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, and can develop the life skills necessary to protect them whilst respecting the rights of others. Over the last five years, major strides have been made toward the development and incorporation of CSE in the Gambian school curriculum. To ensure effective delivery, the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education utilised the pre-service manual that was developed to build the capacity of 289 teachers to improve their knowledge and understanding of CSE. A national out-of-

school comprehensive sexuality education manual has also been developed in accordance with the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education (ITGSE) and the Revised Guidance on Out-of-School Sexuality Education. The manual is intended as a resource for all stakeholders involved in delivering out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). It hopes to further encourage multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder initiatives that can lead to efficient and harmonised delivery of CSE programmes at regional, national, and local levels. A core group of young people have also been trained using the manual and will serve as a pool of facilitators and resource persons for out-of-school CSE delivery in the Gambia.

Leave no one behind

In order to achieve our three transformative results, the Country Office is very much keen on ensuring no one is left behind regardless of their location, age, or gender. Most people living with disability are at a disadvantage regarding most SDGs. For instance, in addition to poverty rates being higher, persons with disabilities face drawbacks in many aspects of their daily lives – when it comes to job opportunities, wages, accessibility to the workplace, businesses, public spaces and institutions, as well as access to sanitation facilities and new technologies. As such, UNFPA is committed to ensuring that the marginalised group such as those living with disability are empowered as well as given opportunities. Moreover, we need to recognize the potential of persons with disabilities as contributors to society and to enhance current efforts to mainstream

their needs, rights, and perspectives into the process of achieving the goals at all levels. In addressing areas of gender inequality, disability policy, and strategic plan we review in order to promote and protect the rights of PWDs by creating and strengthening necessary structures, processes, and tools for effective protection and inclusive service delivery especially in promoting women's participation in the decision-making process. Through addressing the unmet need for family planning, ending preventable maternal death, and the end of gender-based violence and harmful practices, UNFPA will continue advocating that the rights of women and girls, especially persons leaving with disability are inclusive and are given the right access and information about their health and wellbeing.

Inclusion for Development - All or nothing

Adama Jammeh, a Person with a Disability and a sign language teacher, highlights how persons with disabilities in her community are excluded from society. She emphasises the need to have persons with disability in key professions, as this would bring about inclusivity.

She cites instances of losing opportunities because she has a disability. According to her, "I was unfortunate [not to be able] to acquire a well-paid job as a result of me being a person with a disability. Despite my competency, persons with disabilities are usually left behind and excluded in key societal positions." Adama speaks of how Gambian Sign Language should be introduced in all tertiary institutions, including The Gambia College, School of Nursing, and Gambia Police Training School, as this would ease the free flow of communication and empower persons with a disability. As some women living with disability are subjected to multiple forms of discrimination and Gender-Based Violence in their homes and communities, she emphasises the need to train Deaf women in the Regions on issues such as Gender-Based Violence and sensitisation on STIs.

UNFPA is working with the Government of The Gambia and other partners through the implementation and facilitation of the National Disability Act, to ensure people with disability are not left behind, but are included in decision-making processes and empowered to become influential people in society, who are able to reach their potential.



“The pledge to leave no one behind is a commitment to end extreme poverty in all its forms and to ensure that those who have been left behind can catch up to those who are ahead in their progress.”



Delivering adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health information and services

The Gambia has been experiencing a rapid increase in the population of young people for many years[1]. Two-thirds of the population are young people under the age of 25 years and more than half of these are young women and girls. The potential of girls aged 15-19 is impeded by early marriage (23.8 percent), with 18 percent giving birth. Access to SRH services remains a challenge in The Gambia due to the limited availability of those services. This contributes to the phenomenon of teenage pregnancy with twice as many girls aged 15-19 getting pregnant in rural areas than girls in urban areas. Presently, 46% of women in the country have experienced some form of physical violence from the

age of 15 years. Female genital Mutilation is also a very common traditional practice in The Gambia with a prevalence rate of 76% despite the existence of a law prohibiting the practice. These statistics demonstrate that investing in young people's needs, aspirations, and futures cannot be realised without ensuring their unlimited access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. UNFPA The Gambia has committed to assisting policymakers, service providers, and administrators to strengthen service provision and outreach to young people through tailored technical inputs and relevant training of personnel to better serve the young.

Investing in young people's needs, aspirations, and futures cannot be realised without ensuring their unlimited access to comprehensive health education and sexual and reproductive healthcare. UNFPA The Gambia has committed to assisting policymakers, service providers, and administrators to strengthen service provision and outreach to young people through tailored technical inputs and relevant training of personnel across all levels of the health system to better serve the young.

To reinforce AYSRH delivery, UNFPA The Gambia supported the operationalization of two youth centres in Pakalinding and Bansang and developed the capacity of

health service providers and volunteers for sexual and reproductive health delivery in 2022. In addition, UNFPA The Gambia developed the Suma Tyme App, a mobile application that provides access to information on sexual and reproductive health and rights for adolescents and youth. It is aimed at bridging the knowledge deficiency and difficulty to access SRH information and services by providing young people with accurate information and access to SRH. The App was developed in consultation with young people including Persons with disabilities (PWDs), students, and women and youth-led CSOs. To ensure inclusivity, videos with subtitles are incorporated into the app to facilitate its accessibility to PWDs.

Investment Case

UNFPA in collaboration with the Government of The Gambia has supported the development of an investment case for the three transformative results to accelerate the reduction of the unmet need for Family planning, reduction of all preventable maternal deaths, and acceleration of the reduction of GBV including Child Marriage and FGM.



According to the analysis, under the ambitious scenario with a \$38 million investment, the MMR can be expected to decrease by 51%, which is 141/100,000, by 2030, which still doubles the SDG target of 70/100,000.



With family planning, the more ambitious scenario, which requires a \$3.2 million investment, calls for commitments to raise mCPR from 12.2% for all women to 30% by 2030. However, if the current total FP demand remains stable at around 29.6%, this scenario will meet all

unmet demand by 2030. The most ambitious scenario would prevent 350,000 unintended pregnancies between 2023 and 2030.



On GBV including FGM and Child marriage, a total of about 300,000 (three hundred thousand) cases of FGM/C may occur in The Gambia between 2023 to 2030 inclusive. Furthermore, an analysis of the cost of inaction on FGM/C is that about 520,000 women and girls are at risk between 2023 and 2030 inclusive. For the eight-year period, a total of 155,558 cases of FGM can be averted with a \$10 million investment under the most ambitious scenario. With child marriage, which requires a \$25.8 million investment, 36,448 cases of child marriage will be prevented between 2022-2030. There is a strong case for focusing limited resources on the problem in rural areas, which will require a minimum investment of about \$9 million.



CHAPTER THREE

Advocacy,
Communication,
and Resource
Mobilisation

Achieving our three transformative results equally requires transformational change in social norms, strengthening investments, and mobilising resources for efficient service delivery of health and positive social service outcomes. These can only be realised through strong collaboration and persistent engagement with our partners and stakeholders in supporting women, girls, and young people to realise their full potential. In 2022, we championed several advocacy initiatives to bring attention to and garner support around women's health and wellbeing, gender equality, and gender-based violence, and promoting young people's empowerment and leadership in decision-making processes. The Country Office launched the 2022 State of the World Population Report (SoWP) to highlight trends and evidence around demographics and the world's population with a view to shedding light on unique challenges faced by various population groups and call on policymakers and stakeholders to act on eradicating unintended pregnancies and promoting the health and wellbeing of women and girls. We also launched a national campaign in collaboration with the First Lady of the Gambia to create awareness and bring attention to the devastating condition of Obstetric Fistula silently suffered by many women and girls around the world and in particular the Gambia. The campaign brought together policymakers, women's groups, local authorities, health workers, and the media to shed light on the condition. The Country Office also participated in a regional and global call to action to end obstetric fistula, held in Abidjan and a side event at the 77th United Nations General Assembly on Friday, in New York. The call for action is to accelerate efforts to eliminate obstetric fistula in West and Central Africa by 2030. The high-level side event brought together the First Ladies of The Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Ministers of Health and Gender and development partners to build and strengthen partnerships among key stakeholders, towards increasing commitment to mobilise resources to address obstetric fistula in West and Central Africa.

Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships

Achieving the three transformative results, requires concerted efforts, through strengthened partnerships and investments to secure the desired outcomes of a world where every pregnancy is wanted, where every childbirth is safe, and where every young people's potential is fulfilled. In 2022 through strategic leadership of the Country Representative and rigorous collaborative partnership, the Country Office mobilised USD 1.9 million from non-core funding to provide essential support to vulnerable communities and to the life-saving work that we do in delivering for the Gambia.



In a joint submission with other sister agencies, resources were mobilised from the generous contribution of the following donors and partners to address less funded priority populations.



The Joint SDG Fund's Development Emergency modality to respond to the needs of women and girls who were heavily impacted by the high burden of the food crisis and inflationary increase of food items. The project prepared and coordinated key strategic interventions that can

prevent further loss of ground to attain the SDGs in this Decade of Action.



In addressing the concerns of the person with disabilities, we also mobilised resources from UNPRPD (UN Partnership with persons with disabilities) to address the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, in The Gambia. The project ensures Multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism enhanced to support the implementation of the National Disability Act. In ensuring increased participation of women in political leadership,



In addressing women's political participation, we mobilised resources from the PeaceBuilding Funds (PBF) to address the peace issues and mitigate conflict concerns from the weak participation of women in decision-making processes in the country. The project is innovatively addressing the inhibitors and underlying factors preventing women's participation in decision-making platforms.

Communication and Visibility

In 2022 the Country Office increased its communication and visibility efforts, through media and social media platforms. The office created awareness about our three transformative results using our various platforms. Our social media traction received 390,200 impressions on Twitter and 520,115 impressions on Facebook by developing insightful,

well-informed, and up-to-date content for our audience. The Country Office published 14 human impact stories on the website. As a result, 8,030 unique visitors were recorded during the year.

Media engagement and collaboration were also enhanced in the year. The Country Office supported the training of media

practitioners to enhance their knowledge and skill in promoting ethical reporting of Gender-based violence issues and to build synergies between the media and UNFPA around the work we do to end all forms of GBV and harmful practices. 24 media personnel were trained on content development around UNFPA's three transformative results. Hence, leveraging media personnel as an avenue to intensify their awareness using the right language in disseminating the message through ending misinformation and disinformation around gender-based violence.

Through social media engagement, we broadcast messages to maximise reach, bring visibility to the campaign

and enhance public information about the danger of keeping silent on issues of obstetric fistula.

We also rolled out a media campaign targeting stakeholders, government officials, and young people on the need to sensitise the public on the negative impact of Gender-Based Violence during the 16 days of activism. The campaign captured the voices of government officials, CSOs, implementing partners, and young influential Gambians in various sectors sharing their messages and their commitment to addressing the issue of GBV. The campaign was aired on all social media platforms Twitter, Facebook, and Youtube.






The Gambia

**Did you know that
Obstetric Fistula
is curable?**

**Seek medical
help NOW!**

#ZeroFistulaGMB



CHAPTER FOUR

Project Reports


UN Peacebuilding Fund Projects


The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund is the organisation's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. The Fund may invest with UN entities, governments, regional organisations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds, or civil society organisations. The Fund works across pillars and supports integrated UN responses to fill critical gaps; respond quickly and with the flexibility to peacebuilding opportunities; and catalyse processes and resources in a risk-tolerant fashion.

The Peacebuilding Fund Impact


The PBF was an early responder to the transition priorities in The Gambia. Following the declaration of The Gambia's eligibility to the PBF in September 2018 by the UN Secretary-General, PBF support has helped catalyse critical peacebuilding processes in a very short period. UNFPA Gambia, with funding from the peacebuilding fund, secured two new projects to the tune of USD1.8 million for a Mental Health and Women Leadership project and concluded the implementation of the project on Young women and men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates for the prevention of violence and hate speech. Some key aforementioned results from the projects are highlighted below:


Promoting peace and social cohesion through the provision of mental health services and psychosocial well-being of SGBV survivors in The Gambia: This project was approved in January 2022 and seeks to contribute to peacebuilding and social cohesion by reducing the short- and long-lasting effects of SGBV on the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of survivors, their families, and communities. The project's interventions centre first and foremost on the promotion and protection of the mental health and psychosocial well-being of SGBV survivors through the provision of services, community engagement, knowledge sharing, and learning, as well as strengthening local and national institutional efforts and capacities to continuously address SGBV and promote mental health in The Gambia. During the first year of implementation, UNFPA achieved the following results:

 Capacity building for key stakeholders to promote mental health, and provision of quality and comprehensive GBV and psychosocial services including livelihood support for survivors. A total of 49 social and health workers (26 females and 23 males) were trained on MHPSS and psychosocial first aid over a period of five months.


 Three Community Healing Cycle sessions on MHPSS were conducted for 40 GBV survivors (10 male and 30 female) that participated in the TRRC process in Sintet, one of the target communities under the

project. The sessions provided psychosocial counselling and therapy management to reduce mental health trauma, fostering reconciliation, healing, and peace.


 Twenty-Five survivors (18 female and 7 male) were referred for MHPSS services at the One Stop Center.


 10 Survivors (2 male and 8 female) have concluded the economic and livelihood training to enhance personal empowerment that has equipped them with livelihood skills to create income aiding their reintegration back into society.


The PBF project on youth (*young women and men*) *as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates for the prevention of violence and hate speech* was developed to address the institutional barriers (such as exclusion from decision-making) for young people, to strengthen youth capacity for engagement and participation in governance and leadership, and to address hate speech and counter fake news and misinformation of young people through media and local community structures. The project seeks to mobilise young men and women to participate in community dialogue initiatives at intra and intergenerational levels to enhance inclusion, social cohesion, and sustainable peace. The two-year project which ended in December 2022 achieved the following key results:

 Capacity building of 2,128 young people (1,268 females and 885 males) on political participation, mentorship, advocacy, peacebuilding, and leadership through dialogue sessions and training.

 The Project facilitated the establishment of a Youth Internet Radio, the

 Youth Peace and Security Situation room, and the Youth Inter-Party Committee. These platforms are providing young people with safe spaces to actively participate in decision-making processes and be agents of peace and social cohesion within their own communities.

 The Project supported an internship program between the University of the Gambia and the National Assembly for 100 undergraduate students. The training empowered the students with the practical knowledge and skills needed to increase their participation at all levels.

 Twenty-Five Young Men and Women trained on Conflict analysis and mitigation, and entrepreneurship skills, and awarded grants of D50,000.00 to undertake a peacebuilding initiative in their communities.

 60 aspiring and well-seasoned young female politicians from existing political parties across the country's seven regions trained and reported increased practical knowl-

edge and skills to participate at all levels including the National Assembly effectively.

Strengthening women's political participation and leadership through reformed legislation, community-level leadership, and political parties' engagement in The Gambia: This project, which was approved in December 2022, seeks to increase the number of women in leadership positions and decision-making platforms at all levels. This will be achieved

by addressing some of the constraints and inhibitors preventing women from political participation, local community leadership structures, and peacebuilding processes, namely legal frameworks, cultural norms, and limited competencies of aspiring women and GEWE advocates. The project, which will effectively commence in 2023, will work with community structures such as the VDC, WDC, and traditional institutions to build the social capital of more women to engage in leadership and in the peace conversation within the community.

China Aid Project

The China-Aid project to the Gambia through UNFPA for COVID-19 Response sought to support the government of the Gambia in strengthening and enhancing national capacities to prevent and respond to COVID-19 in the country through the provision of necessary equipment and supplies to the Ministry of Health. The USD 620,000 project was implemented by UNFPA in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to support the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure the continuity of services and interventions in matters of sexual and reproductive health, including the protection of health personnel

in the country. The project which handed over necessary equipment and supplies to the Ministry of Health for the provision of emergency obstetric care services to health facilities across the country will increase the capacity of the healthcare system in the management and effective infection prevention and control of Covid-19 thus protecting the health status of the population by stemming the spread of the virus. The support was mainly targeted to Health facilities providing emergency obstetric care services across the country with emphasis on the hard-to-reach areas. Through the project following were achieved:

5 Health facilities provided with delivery room equipment.

5 Health facilities were provided with antenatal kits.

1 Health facility operation theatre equipped.

50,000

women and young people received reproductive health information and services.

1200

health workers were provided with personal protective equipment as opposed to the 800 that were initially targeted.

15,000

pregnant women were able to receive antenatal care services.

UN Trust Fund on Human Security

The United Nations Trust Fund on Human Security project on Localising SDGs - Improving the livelihoods of vulnerable women and youth around the Senegambia Bridge - was developed to support communities and people around the bridge to cope with the adverse shocks created by the bridge construction, while creating pathways for women and youth to take advantage of new opportunities.

The project addresses the ecosystem support along the corridor of the bridge, and also provides community-oriented support with a specific focus on women and youth taking ownership of the project interventions in the two Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Mansakonko and Kerewan. It seeks to strengthen the economic and social rights of women and young people in the two LGAs, especially those whose livelihood has been adversely affected by the construction of the Senegambia Bridge. The project also addresses issues related to climate change and COVID-19, through working with decentralised government structures, addressing the institutional barriers that impede women's and young people's access to social services, as well as capacity and resilience-building initiatives. The project serves as a catalyst to mobilise resources and leverage other initiatives to support women and young people in the above-mentioned endeavours.

were secured for the construction of a One-stop Shop Entrepreneurship Centre and Hospitality training Centre, respectively. The construction of both centres is in progress and is expected to complete in April 2023. The hospitality centre and the one-stop business hub will create employment and income for 50 young people through a cash-for-work scheme.



The project also supported the training of trainers on the Clinical Management of Rape for 21 Medical Doctors and 3 Midwives. This training was geared towards building the capacity of doctors and midwives on GBV and its implications on women and girls, promoting positive attitudinal change and improving the quality of care of rape survivors, increased knowledge in quality of services delivery, and increasing the capacity to manage rape survivors




The project through GALGA also strengthened local government capacity in the two LGAs through the training of 40 personnel of local councils on assessment of rates, debt recovery, and budgeting. It also supported resource mobilisation capacity development through training on proposal and concept note development. 6 communities were also sensitised on the role of councils and local government authorities.



Through the project, two plots of land in Farafenni and Mansakonko

Italian Cooperation

The Youth Health Enhancement to Harness the Demographic Dividend (YE4DD) project is a multi-country project in Guinea, Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau. The project is aimed at; (a) enhancing access to youth-friendly comprehensive maternal and sexual and reproductive health information and services, (b) addressing specific youth vulnerabilities to empower young people, (c) creating a cohort of youth leaders, (d) contributing to the elimination of social and cultural constraints for responsible and controlled fertility and (e) gender relations based on equality and social justice. In 2022, the project supported the following interventions:

 A mobile phone app Suma Tyme (my time or Summertime) was developed to provide access to information on sexual and reproductive

health and rights and GBV for adolescents and youth.



A national out-of-school Comprehensive Sexuality Education manual was developed to serve as the standard guide for out-of-school CSE delivery.



6-month internships for seven young people (5 of whom are young women). An innovation office is being set up to provide young people a space to implement their ideas through UNFPA.



An open-air gym with a café was set up by UNFPA in a community park to serve as a safe space for gathering youth and disseminating information on SRHR

United Nations Partnerships on the Rights of People with Disabilities

In 2021, The Gambia enacted the Disability Act, the first dedicated legislation protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. UNFPA with funding from United Nations Partnerships on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) supported the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare to have a disability policy, strategy and costed action plan to support the implementation of the National Disability Act which is in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). These will enhance and strengthen the legal and institutional capacity of the

Government, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and other stakeholders and ensure that the rights of PWDs are respected, protected, and fully realised.

UNFPA supported the inauguration of the Advisory Council on Disability which provides strategic advice to the Minister of Gender, Children, and Social Welfare on disability matters and promotes the implementation and equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities, in line with the CRPD.

Key Results



01

Developed a National Disability Policy and Strategy to support the implementation of the National Disability Act in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).



03

Developed a cost Action Plan through a consultative and inclusive planning exercise to guide the different line Ministries in mainstreaming disability costing in their policies and programmes. The costed Action Plan serves as a major instrument for resources mobilisation from the Treasury and other sources.



02

Capacity building for 17 Advisory Council members to enhance policy and legal analysis to promote the implementation and the equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities in line with CRPD, including women and children with disabilities.



United Nations Partnerships on the
Rights of People with Disabilities





CHAPTER FIVE

Humanitarian Response

Gambia is susceptible to recurrent climate-related disasters such as drought and flooding, resulting in loss of livelihoods and food insecurity. In 2022, The Gambia experienced the worst flash flood in nearly half a century. The torrential rain and thunderstorms caused widespread damage and affected large parts of the country, particularly the densely populated Banjul area. Also, in addition to climate-related disasters, we also experienced internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees, and host families in Foni Kansala (West Coast region) due to armed conflict between the armed opposition Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance and Senegalese military forces. In strengthening the national capacity to respond when a humanitarian emergency occurs, the following was achieved:

Results

31

health and social workers including humanitarian frontline workers were trained on minimum initial services package for sexual reproductive health and gender-based violence.

100

RedCross Volunteers were trained on Sexual reproductive health, gender-based violence, and Prevention of sexual exploitation and Abuse and deployed to over 30 communities in Foni to provide urgent humanitarian services including awareness raising, mobile clinic services, and GBV referral.

A total of 28,780 were reached with information and awareness messages on SRH, GBV, and PSEAH, while 3,256 were reached with medical services, clinical management of rape, and SRH services for pregnant and lasting mothers, and 23 of the patients were referred for advance services in hereby facilities



CHAPTER SIX

Operations and Finance

Staff recruitment

In 2022, the UNFPA Country Office underwent three recruitment processes, which included the hiring of Programme Analyst Adolescents and Youth, Administrative Assistant, and a Driver. These vacant positions were filled to increase the Human Resource capacity in the office to improve on our timely deliverables as we continue to try and improve on our set goal to achieve programmatic and operational excellence.

As we continue to improve on our deliverables, we noticed a great improvement in the recruitment time in 2022, as compared to the previous years, as highlighted in the Atlas eRecruitment dashboard. The CO will work to further lower the recruitment time which will positively impact the work-life balance in the office. In terms of Gender composition, the CO has 57% women and 43% men and in the 2022 recruitment process out of 3 vacancies occupied, 2 (2/3) vacancies were occupied by women, demonstrating the Country Office's commitment to gender equality within the workplace.

Staff were also encouraged to consider the option of Flexible Working Arrangements where they can work from their homes without compromising on the quality of their deliverables. In 2022, 33% of staff took the option of working from home at various times.

Streamlining procurement processes

As part of UNFPA procurement policy and procedure, it is always necessary that goods and services are procured using the right processes with control measures to make sure that the best quality of products and services are achieved at technically acceptable prices. This is for revised common operational framework for transferring cash to government and non-government implementing partners, the adoption of the Harmonized Approach for cash transfer (HACT) to implementing legal entities in compliance with UNFPA's Financial Regulations and Rules, including the principles of public procurement.

All the procurement activities undertaken were conducted at the highest level of fairness, transparency, integrity, economy, and effectiveness. In 2022, the procurement focal point coordinated the procurement processes of Request for Quotations and shopping starting from the needs assessments to the closure of the procurement contracts satisfying the procedural requirement and process documentation. As a result, goods and services were procured at best value for money considering all relevant factors, including costs and benefits to UNFPA.

The different solicitation methodologies with respective thresholds were used to have all the requested goods and services from potential vendors.

During this period, 12 Requests for Quotations (with a total value of US\$110,879.00), 1 Long Term Agreement (with a total value of US\$1,583.00) and 19 Shopping (with a total value of US\$31,198.30) were successfully undertaken by the CO to support programme delivery.





United Nations Population Fund
UN House, 5 Koffi Annan Street
Cape Point, Bakau
Banjul The Gambia

Website: gambia.unfpa.org

Facebook: UNFPA The Gambia

Twitter: @UNFPATheGambia

Instagram: @unfpa_thegambia

Youtube: UNFPA The Gambia