

**RECOVERY FOCUSED
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

(RF-NDP) 2023 - 2027



Annual Progress Report (APR) - 2024

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA),
The Quadrangle,
Banjul.

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Foreword

It is with great pleasure and resolve that I present this Annual Progress Review 2024 of The Recovery Focus-National Development Plan (RF-NDP) 2023 - 2027, a cornerstone of our collective ambition to build a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous nation. This review reflects our ongoing commitment to transparency, evidence-based assessment, and results-oriented development.

The RF-NDP serves as a strategic compass, guiding national efforts to accelerate socioeconomic transformation, strengthen governance, and promote sustainable livelihoods. Over the past year, we have made notable strides in key priority areas-including macroeconomic stability, governance, agriculture and fisheries, education, health, infrastructure, and climate resilience-despite facing global and domestic challenges. These achievements are a testament to the dedication of our government, the resilience of our communities, and the support of our development partners.

This review not only highlights progress but also identifies gaps, lessons learned, and opportunities for recalibration. It underscores the importance of adaptive planning, robust monitoring, and inclusive stakeholder engagement in driving meaningful change. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in aligning our development trajectory with the aspirations of the Gambian people, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Agenda 2063.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to this review, including government ministries, civil society organisations, private sector actors, and international partners. Your collaboration and insights are vital to shaping a future where every Gambian can thrive. Let this review serve not only as a record of progress but as a call to action—to deepen our resolve, strengthen our partnerships, and accelerate the pace of transformation.



Abdoulie Jallow

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Acknowledgment

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs wishes to extend profound appreciation to the heads of all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) for their guidance, collaboration, and support during the formulation of this report, which has been instrumental in gathering the much-needed data that informed the report.

Special appreciation is extended to the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) and the Directorates of Aid Coordination, Budget, and Loans and Debt Management under the Ministry for the immense contribution in the preparation of the second Annual Progress Report of the Recovery-Focused National Development Plan (RF-NDP) 2023-2027. Special thanks to the Sector Working Group members whose invaluable participation and rigorous scrutiny helped to further enrich the report.

Special acknowledgement goes to the multilateral and bilateral partners for their continued support towards national development.

Executive Summary

Introduction

This is the second annual progress report of the Recovery Focused National Development Plan (RF-NDP) 2023-2027. The report documents the achievements and progress made in the year 2024 and also provides recommendations to strengthen the implementation of the RF-NDP.

The report assesses progress by pillar, financial performance, and institutional framework for coordination, monitoring and evaluation.

Implementation Progress (Achievements and Challenges)

Under Pillar 1, progress was registered and some communities have been provided with electricity, indicating an improvement from the baseline. However, the pillar is constrained because Phase II of the PACD project has not commenced.

Under Pillar 2, progress registered was the gazetting and submission of the draft constitution to the National Assembly for the first reading in November 2024. However, the lack of a finalised constitution and the non-operationalisation of the anti-corruption commission have constrained progress for this pillar. Additionally, the lack of availability of updated data regarding elections constrained reporting on the voter turnout. This is because the election is a cycle, and it is conducted every five years. Also, during the same period, no activity was carried out, leading to the availability of balanced electoral boundaries and a harmonised regulatory framework due to a lack of resources.

Significant improvements have been made in several legislative initiatives aimed at improving climate change governance. This reflects a steadfast and unwavering commitment to legal and regulatory reforms that promote the sustainable use of the environment.

In terms of Public Finance Management reforms, LGAs have made some improvements in establishing functional Procurement and Internal Audit Units, but face a capacity challenge to adopt Programme-Based Budgeting (PBB).

Also, no progress has been registered towards the existence of the revised Local Government Act, a legal framework that will create an enabling environment to ensure decentralisation of Local Councils. Also, due to capacity constraints, progress is yet to be realised towards the existence of a property valuation mechanism and the existence of a civil society governance and management strategy to strengthen local council administration.

Furthermore, efforts are in place to achieve nationwide coverage for justice delivery institutions (Office of the Ombudsman, NALA NHRC, ADRS and NAATIP) to roll out sub-regional offices to the 8 (eight) LGAs.

However, most of these institutions were unable to roll out sub-offices due to inadequate resources.

During the reporting period, slow progress was registered in implementing the Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission's (TRRC) recommendations. This is attributed to coordination challenges among

implementing partners and limited resources to facilitate the implementation of the TRRC White Paper.

One of the pillars' strides was the formulation of a standardised policy framework for sectors to guide the Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in developing their respective policies. Additionally, a job categorisation exercise is underway, which will pave the way for a new pay policy.

Under pillar 3, the economy demonstrated resilience despite global uncertainties. Real GDP is estimated to have grown to 5.3 per cent in 2024. The growth was driven by a stabilising macroeconomic environment, constituted by both the government and the private sector, and recovery in tourism-related activities.

Headline inflation moderated to 10.2 per cent by the end of December 2024 from the peak of 17.3 per cent in December 2023. This was due to easing global commodity prices, stabilising exchange rate, and the tight monetary policy stance adopted by CBG.

Domestic revenue collection amounted to D22.6 billion (14.2 per cent of GDP) in 2024 compared to D17.8 billion (12.7 per cent of GDP) recorded in 2023. This represents a 27.4 per cent increase relative to the previous year. The performance was on account of higher-than-expected collections in corporate income tax and taxes on international trade. Similarly, non-tax revenue increased by 11 per cent relative to the 3.5 billion in 2023. This was due to improved collection efficiencies by GRA and some MDAs.

In 2024, the tourism sector registered a slight improvement in arrival numbers as part of its ongoing post-COVID-19 recovery efforts. Compared to 2023, tourist arrivals increased by 9.5 per cent, bringing 19,661 additional visitors to Destination Gambia. Despite this positive growth, the sector fell short of its 2024 projection of 233,411 arrivals by approximately 3 per cent.

Factors hindering progress on this pillar include the lack of updated data, the limited capacity of local entrepreneurs, barriers to accessing finance and restricted access to international markets.

Under pillar 4, the education sector has experienced notable improvements across various areas. Policy advocacy focused on establishing schools outside a 2-kilometre radius of existing ones led to a 20.5 per cent increase in accessible communities, surpassing the 2027 target. Also, regular curriculum reviews and access to qualified teachers, along with improved learning resources, have enhanced the quality of education.

Progress on quality, accessible, and affordable health care services cannot be measured due to the absence of survey data. However, administrative data from the sector indicated that the under-five mortality rate has decreased, and the infant mortality and neonatal mortality rates have declined. Additionally, the percentage of live births delivered in health facilities has increased to 98.4 per cent, reflecting substantial advancements.

Similarly, annual remittance flow has significantly increased, reaching \$775.6 million, approximately 31.5 per cent of GDP. Assistance to migrant returnees has been maintained, with 7,618 individuals receiving support, though reintegration into training programs has decreased, involving only 2,031 returnees. The amended

Trafficking in Persons Act is now in effect, marking an important legislative milestone to prevent and counter trafficking in persons.

Key challenges in measuring progress towards this pillar are the lack of updated survey data and insufficient funding.

Under pillar 5, agriculture experiences a decrease in growth during the year under review. The 2024 update of the agriculture share of GDP stands at 20.6 per cent, indicating a decrease from the 2023 figures. This was a result of the erratic and temporal distribution of rain, dry spells and inundation of rice fields. Despite the decrease in growth in the sector, there has been an increase in rice and maize cultivation and small-scale poultry farming across the country.

Access to early warning information has increased over the year under review, with an additional 5 per cent coverage compared to 2023, providing significant benefits to the population, particularly in mitigating risks and improving resilience. Additionally, progress has been made in developing a policy for minimum tree cover, which is crucial for environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and biodiversity conservation.

Factors hindering progress on this pillar include the high cost of land development, traditional land ownership, the lack of mechanisation, rain-fed dependency and lack of updated data. Addressing these constraints requires strategic investment, infrastructural development, and innovative farming.

Under pillar 6, the proportion of women's representation in the cabinet remains the same and is still below the recommended 30 per cent gender representation quota agreed during the 1995 United Nations Beijing Conference. Progress cannot be assessed on the increase in women's representation in the National Assembly and Local Government Councils because this can only be determined during the next election cycle, thus, their representation remains the same. Also, the increase in advocacy and awareness programs on gender equality and women and girls' empowerment helped improve progress under this pillar.

The ratification of the AU protocol on the rights of older persons has been successfully ratified, marking a key milestone in the protection and promotion of the rights of older persons. Additionally, the proportion of extremely poor households receiving formal transfers has registered significant progress.

Under pillar 7, there has been an improvement in passenger volumes by mode of transport during the year under review. This achievement is attributable to an effective and efficient safe and fully integrated transport system and public works infrastructure. The number of kilometres of urban and rural roads constructed has increased during the year under review.

There is no updated survey data to measure progress for the proportion of individuals who own a mobile phone (with a mobile cellular subscription) and households with access to electricity, and the proportion of the population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology. However, administrative data from the sector shows significant progress under the pillar.

Financial Performance

In the fiscal year 2024, out of the total anticipated resources of seven hundred and three million United States Dollars (US\$ 703 million), about six hundred and thirty-seven million United States Dollars (US\$637.5 million), (91%) have so far been mobilised and invested in the implementation of the RF-NDP. From this contribution, eighty-two million, six hundred and thirteen thousand, four hundred and thirty-nine United States Dollars (US\$82,613,439.00) in loans and one hundred and forty-four million, seven hundred and fifty-two thousand, three hundred and one United States Dollars and thirty-three cents (US\$144,752,301.33) in grants. The GLF contribution amounted to twenty-five million, nine hundred and ninety-three thousand, four hundred and sixty-seven hundred and fifty-seven United States Dollars and fifty-eight cents (\$25,993,467.58), European Union contributed twenty seven million, one hundred and forty three thousand, three hundred and twenty six United State Dollars and one cent (\$27,143,326.01), the UN System contributed thirty one million, eight hundred and forty one thousand, nine hundred and nine United State Dollars and ninety seven cents (\$31,841,909.97).

Institutional framework for coordination monitoring and evaluation

The establishment of a strong institutional framework ensured that all stakeholders played their role in the implementation of the RF-NDP for strong accountability and results. Government, Civil Society organisations, the private sector and development partners all have a role to play, and the extent of their close collaboration will determine the achievement of the objectives of the plan.

The M&E processes are an integral part of implementing the RF-NDP. An M&E plan including a results matrix was developed where each pillar has a set of outcomes, indicators (disaggregated to the appropriate level) with baselines and targets to facilitate the tracking and reporting of the plan.

Conclusion

The report highlights significant achievements in various sectors but also shows the need for targeted actions to overcome persistent challenges. Strategic investments, enhanced capacity-building efforts, data availability, robust policy reforms, and financial resources are essential to sustaining progress and achieving the Recovery Focused National Development Plan's objectives.

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
ADRS	Alternative Dispute Resolution Secretariat
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
AfDB	Africa Development Bank
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANR	Agriculture and Natural Resources
APR	Annual Progress Report
BADEA	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
BIA	Banjul International Airport
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
CBG	Central Bank of The Gambia
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
CPI	Corruption Perceptions Index
CPIA	Country Policy and Institutional Assessment
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
CREG	Centre of Excellence in Generational Economics
CR-ITMP	Climate Resilient-Integrated Transport Masterplan
CRR	Central River Region
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DCF	Development Cooperation Forum
DD	Demographic Dividend
DDMI	Demographic Dividend Monitoring Index
DHIS2	District Health Information System Version 2
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DVOR	Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ERMS	Electronic Record Management System
EU	European Union
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FSQA	Food Safety Quality Authority
FY	Fiscal Year
GABECE	Gambia Basic Education Certificate Examination
GBA	Greater Banjul Area
GBoS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
GCAA	Gambia Civil Aviation Authority
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFRC	Gambia Fire and Rescue Service
GLF	Government Local Fund
GLFS	Gambia Labour Force Survey
GMD	Gambian Dalasi
GTBoard	Gambia Tourism Board

Ha	Hectare
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information Communication Technology
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IDA	International Development Association
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFMIS	Integrated Financial Management Information System
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISO	International Organisation for Standardization
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
LBS	Lower Basic School
LGA	Local Government Authority
LRR	Lower River Region
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoCDE	Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoFEA	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
MoGCSW	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare
MoPE	Ministry of Petroleum and Energy
MoPS	Ministry of Public Service
MoTWI	Ministry of Transport, Works and Infrastructure
MSMEs	Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
MT	Metric Tonnes
NAATIP	National Agency Against Trafficking in Person
NALA	National Agency for Legal Aid
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NBR	North Bank Region
NEDI	National Enterprise Development Initiative
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NMTS	National Multi-modal Transport System
NPCS	National Population Commission Secretariat
NTA	National Transfer Account
NTTA	National Time Transfer Accounts
NYSS	National Youth Service Scheme
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
OPEC	Organization for the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PACD	Programme for Accelerated Community Development
PBB	Programme-Based Budgeting
PFM	Public Finance Management

PIA	President's International Award
PLR	Policy, Legal and Regulatory
PMO	Personnel Management Office
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PS	Permanent Secretary
PURA	Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
PwDs	Persons with Disabilities
RAI	Rural Access Index
RF-NDP	Recovery Focused National Development Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SFD	Social Fund for Development
SIG	School Improvement Grant
SPA	Strategy for Poverty Alleviation
SSS	Senior Secondary School
SWEDD	Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend
SWG	Sector Working Group
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TDA	Tourism Development Area
TRRC	Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission
TSA	Tourism Satellite Account
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Technical Working Group
UBS	Upper Basic School
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
URR	Upper River Region
US\$	United States Dollar
UTG	University of The Gambia
VDC	Village Development Committee
WACOMP	West Africa Competitiveness Programme
WALIC	West Africa Livestock Innovation Centre
WASSCE	West African Senior School Certificate Examination
WCR	West Coast Region
WDC	Ward Development Committee

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background and Purpose

The Annual Progress Report (APR) is an annual publication that informs the implementation status of the Recovery Focused National Development Plan (RF-NDP) 2023 - 2027. The 2024 APR is the second report series of the RF-NDP produced by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs under the coordination of the Directorate of Development Planning in collaboration with the Directorates of Aid Coordination, Budget, Economic Policy and Research, Loans and Debt Management, and the Gambia Bureau of Statistics. The overall objective of this report is to review and show progress towards the realisation of the RF-NDP targets as at December 2024, identify challenges, and recommend measures to enhance implementation of the Plan.

1.2. Overview and Context

The RF-NDP comprises:

- A plan framework anchored on a goal, three strategic objectives, seven pillars, and an accountability framework.
- Financing Strategy, which:
 - Spells out the resource requirements (including gross costs, available funding, and the estimates of the funding gaps for all the pillars, outcomes, and programme priorities, including flagship projects) based on three broad sources of funding, namely: (i) Domestic resources (public and private); (ii) International resources (public, private, and philanthropic); and (iii) Innovative mechanisms.
 - Outlines the two scenarios for funding the Plan, namely: 1) Optimistic funding scenario – with the assumption that resources will be secured to finance all the planned actions outlined in the plan; and 2) Conservative funding scenario – that considers the challenging international and domestic context and therefore envisages funding for only the top priorities of the plan.

Under the optimistic scenario, the Estimated Total (Gross) Cost of the RF-NDP without considering available funding is US\$ 3.5 billion; Available Funding based on mapping of existing and pipeline projects was estimated at US\$ 703.134 million; and the Funding Gap was estimated

at US\$ 2.80 billion. Relating to the conservative scenario, the Gross cost of the RF-NDP without considering available funding is US\$ 2.8 billion; Available funding based on mapping of existing and pipeline projects was estimated at US\$ 598 million; and the funding gap was estimated at US\$ 2.213 billion.

- Twelve Flagship Projects are identified to have a catalytic impact in the successful implementation of the RF-NDP, namely:
 1. Programme for Accelerated Community Development (PACD) Phase 2
 2. The Gambia Transitional Justice Programme
 3. Enhancing efficiency, professionalism and performance in the Public Service
 4. Improve Land Governance, physical planning, and development control
 5. Macroeconomic Management
 6. Achieving Universal Health coverage/Construction/ Renovation of health facilities
 7. Promoting TVET Education
 8. Rice Self-Sufficiency – Rice Value Chain Development
 9. Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship
 10. Universal Energy Access and Renewable Energy
 11. Rural and Urban Road Construction
 12. Inclusive Digital Infrastructure

1.3. Methodology

The preparation of the RF-NDP APR 2024 was conducted in a participatory process led by a drafting team from the Directorates of Aid Coordination, Budget, Economic Policy and Research, Loans and Debt Management – Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs under the overall coordination of sector focal persons at the Directorate of Development Planning. The Gambia Bureau of Statistics scrutinised the draft report to ensure data accuracy and consistency.

As part of the process, templates were developed by the Directorate of Development Planning and presented to Sector Working Group (SWG) members for review during a workshop. After a draft report was produced, it was shared with stakeholders (Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs); SWG members; civil society; private sector; and multilateral and bilateral partners including the United Nations Country Team and European Union Delegation in The Gambia) for their inputs (review and comments) that further enriched the document. A validation workshop was held to obtain feedback from stakeholders,

which was discussed and incorporated into the report, thus finalising the process.

To rate the performance of the pillars, a standardised rating procedure is used: 'on track', 'constrained', and 'no progress'. It is 'on track' when the indicator is fully achieved or the implementation of the indicator is ongoing. An indicator is rated 'constrained' when no up-to-date data is available. Whereas 'no progress' rating means the implementation of the indicator has not started.

Chapter 2

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS BY PILLAR AND OUTCOME

2.1 Overall assessment of Progress and achievements

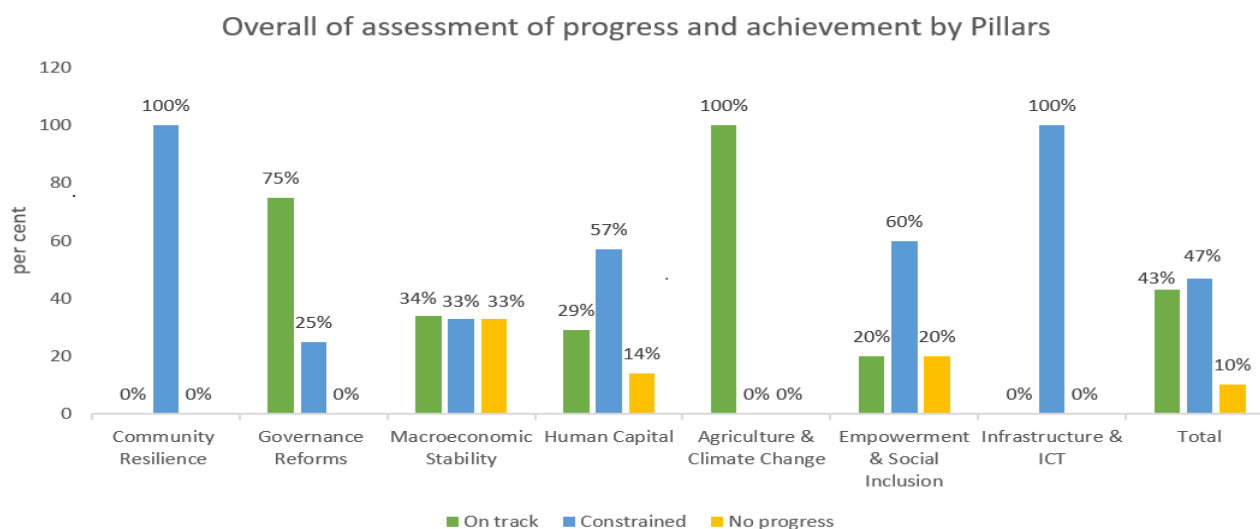
This chapter presents the overall assessment of progress for the second year of implementation of the RF-NDP as well as reports on the achievements and progress for each of the Pillars. The assessment of progress is at the outcome level, through a bottom-up process, based on review of progress made at the target/results level.

1_Table 1.0: Overall assessment of progress and achievements by pillars

Pillar	Description	Progress on the Outcomes			Total
		On Track	Constrained	No Progress	
I	Building Community Resilience to Shocks and Crises	0	1	0	1
II	Governance Reforms	6	2	0	8
III	Macroeconomic Stability and Inclusive Growth	1	1	1	3
IV	Human Capital	2	4	1	7
V	Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change	3	0	0	3
VI	Empowerment, Social Inclusion- Leaving No One Behind	1	3	1	5
VII	Energy, Infrastructure and Information Communication Technology (ICT) Connectivity	0	3	0	3
Total		13	14	3	30

A comparison of the overall progress among the seven pillars is presented in Figure 1. Out of the thirty (30) outcomes of the RF-NDP, thirteen (13) are on track, ten (14) are constrained, and seven (3) registered no progress as at end December 2024 of the year under review.

Figure 1: Overall assessment of progress and achievements by pillars



2.2 Pillar I: Building Community Resilience to Shocks and Crisis

Government, in collaboration with partners, is committed to supporting communities and households recover from shocks and crises and build resilience. Therefore, the government will build upon existing initiatives and scale up its interventions at both the household and community levels to have the desired impact for the largest proportion of the poor and vulnerable. As part of efforts to support communities to build resilience to shocks and crises, the government has initiated a second phase of the PACD, building on the achievements and lessons learned from the pilot phase.

The key interventions of the PACD are the following:

1. Small-scale rural infrastructure for improved access to potable water, energy (off-grid), and youth empowerment.
2. Community food security (labour-saving devices, year-round integrated food production schemes) and environment schemes.
3. Sustainability of services and assets.

1 Box 1.1: Building Community Resilience to Shocks and Crises			
Outcome	Dashboard		
	<i>(i.e. rating on progress towards outcomes)</i>		
	On track	Constrained	No progress
Community-level resilience to shocks and crises enhanced		✓	

Under this pillar, the programme is constrained for the year under review because the implementation of the second phase of the PACD project has not yet started instead the bridging phase is ongoing focusing on completing the remaining activities under phase one pending the finalization of the project document phase II.

2.2.1. Progress made towards achieving the outcome – Highlighting significant accomplishments and milestones

2_ Table 1.1: 2024 progress made on community-level resilience to shocks and crises enhanced

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @2024
Number of communities provided with electricity	10	54	20
Number of communities provided with clean water	31	120	PACD phase II implementation not started
Number of youth access to finance (land,	0	480	PACD phase II

equipment, tools)			implementation not started
Number of hectares of land provided with irrigation for pasture growth and exotic animal breeding	5 hectares	10 hectares	No progress
Number of Communities provided with dairy livestock (goats and cattle)	0	750	27 cows procured
Number of Communities provided with Labour saving Devices	38	207	5 tractors distributed

Source(s): Ministry of Public Service (MoPS)

During the year under review, progress was registered as 20 communities were provided with access to electricity, showing an improvement over the previous year. However, the ineffectiveness of the PACD project phase II means that significant progress cannot be measured on the other indicators.

2.2.2. Factors hindering progress

The factor hindering progress in this outcome is the ineffectiveness of the PACD Phase II due to resource constraints.

2.2.3. Recommendations on the outcome

Community-level resilience to shocks and crises enhanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government should fast-track the implementation of the PACD Phase II • Mobilize resources to start the PACD Phase II project

2.3 Pillar 2: Governance Reforms

This pillar aims to establish the enabling conditions for effective governance by emphasising the protection of human rights, adherence to the rule of law and improvement in political, electoral, land, climate and security sector governance. Its focus is enhancing the country's legal and regulatory frameworks, ensuring access to justice, constitutional democracy, and fostering transparency, accountability, government effectiveness and regulatory oversight.

2 Box: 2.1 Governance Reform			
Outcome	Dashboard		
	<i>(i.e. Rating on Progress towards outcome)</i>		
	On Tack	Constrained	No Progress
A new Constitution adopted and legal reforms undertaken		✓	
Regular, transparent, inclusive, free, and fair elections		✓	

Climate and Climate Change Governance is enhanced.	✓		
Policies and regulatory frameworks for decentralization and local governance enhanced and harmonised	✓		
Policy and Institutional reforms to ensure rule of law, respect for human rights and equitable access to justice	✓		
A reconciled society in which victims are fully paid their reparation dues	✓		
A reformed security sector and adequately capacitated security sector institutions in terms of policies, infrastructure, equipment, and mobility	✓		
An efficient, motivated, accountable and results- oriented public service	✓		

Under this Pillar 75 per cent of the outcomes are on track while 25 per cent showed constrained. The Pillar is therefore rated as being on track.

2.3.1. Progress made towards achieving the outcome- Highlighting significant accomplishments and milestones

3_ Table 2.1: 2024 progress on a new constitution and legal reforms undertaken

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @ 2024
Existence of a new constitution	No	Yes	No
Existence of an Anti-corruption Commission	No	Yes	No

Source(s): Ministry of Justice

Progress registered under this outcome includes the gazetting and submission of the draft constitution to the National Assembly for the first reading in November 2024, as well as the partial establishment of the anti-corruption commission. However, the lack of finalised constitution and the non-operationalisation of the anti-corruption commission have constrained further progress for this outcome.

4_ Table 2.2: 2024 progress on regular, transparent, inclusive, free and fair elections

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @ 2024
Voter Turn-out: - Presidential - Parliamentary	89.3% (2021) 51.2% (2022)	95% 89%	The status remains the same, as the indicator is measured based on election cycles
Local Government Elections: - Mayoral - Councillorship	34% 29% (2018)	50% 50%	The status remains the same as the indicator is measured based on election cycles
Availability of Balanced Electoral Boundaries	No	Yes	Election bill stalls at the National Assembly
Harmonious Regulatory Framework	No	Yes	Election bill stalls at the National Assembly

Source(s): Independence Electoral Commission (IEC)

During the reporting period lack of availability of updated data regarding elections at various levels (Presidential,

Parliamentary and Local council) constrained reporting on the voter turnout. This is because the election is a cycle, and it is conducted every five years. Also, during the year under review, the election bill that should pave the way to the achievement of availability of balanced electoral boundaries and a harmonised regulatory framework stalled at the National Assembly.

5_ Table 2.3: 2024 progress on climate and climate change governance

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @ 2024
Existence of Climate Change Act	No	Yes	A consultant has been recruited to develop the Climate Change Act
Existence of a National Waste Management Act	No	Yes	The Bill is printed and presented to the National Assembly for enactment in November 2024
Existence of Water Act	No	Yes	Bill redrafted incorporating feedback from the Cabinet
Existence of revised Forest Act	No	Yes	2018 Forestry Act is being reviewed and updated
Existence of revised Biodiversity and Wildlife Act	No	Yes	Legal review completed but yet to be enacted by the Parliament

Source (s): Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Natural Resource & Ministry of Fisheries & Water Resources

Significant improvements have been made in several legislative initiatives aimed at improving climate change governance, reflecting a steadfast and unwavering commitment to legal and regulatory reforms that promote the sustainable use of the environment.

Achievements in this area include the recruitment of a consultant to develop Climate Change Act, the submission of the national Waste Management Act to the National Assembly for enactment in November 2024, the ongoing redrafting of the Water Act to incorporate feedback from the Cabinet, and the review of the revised Forestry Act and Biodiversity and Wildlife Act which are yet to be enacted. The successful implementation of these legislative measures will not only support the sustainable management of natural resources but also strengthen governance in addressing climate change.

6_ Table 2.4: 2024 progress on policies and regulatory frameworks for decentralization and local governance enhanced and harmonized

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @ 2024
Enactment of a Revised Local Government Act	No	Yes	A consultant hired to revise the Act
Proportion of Local Councils Operating on a Programme-Based Budgeting	0	100%	25%
Number of Local Councils with a Qualified Budget officer	0	8	3
Number of Local Councils with Functional Internal Audits	0	8	7

Number of Local Councils with Functional Procurement Units	0	8	7
Existence of a Property Valuation Mechanism	No	Yes	No
Existence of a Civil Society Governance and Management Strategy	No	Yes	No

Source(s): Directorate of Public Finance Management (2024); Ministry of Lands, Regional Government and Religious Affairs (2024); Non-Governmental Organisation Affairs Agency (2024)

The existence of the Local Government Act will create an enabling environment for the decentralisation of Local Council administration and management. However, progress has been made with regard to the development of the Act, as a consultant has already been hired, and capacity assessment is being done with the support of the UNDP.

The ongoing Public Finance Management (PFM) reforms in eight local councils is intended to build the capacity of LGAs in Programme-Based Budgeting, procurement and auditing to increase transparency, accountability and efficiency of service delivery. The 2024 data indicated that all the LGAs have functional procurement and internal audit units except Janjanbureh, showing great achievement towards PFM reform. Additionally, three LGAs (Mansakonko, Basse & Kanifing) have qualified budget Officers, and two LGAs (Brikama & Kanifing) have adopted PBB for sound public finance management. Also, during the year under review, no progress has been made towards the existence of a property valuation mechanism and the existence of a civil society governance and management strategy due to resource constrain.

7_ Table 2.5: 2024 progress on policy and institutional reforms to ensure rule of law, respect for human rights, and equitable access to justice

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @ 2024
Proportion of Regional Headquarters with functional sub-offices for:			
National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)	0.0%	100%	0%
Alternative Dispute Resolution Secretariat (ADRS)	37.5%	100%	40%
National Agency for Legal Aid (NALA)	0.0%	100%	0%
National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (NAATIP)	0.0%	100%	0%
Office of The Ombudsman	50%	100%	100%
Existence of amended criminal and criminal procedure codes	No	Yes	No (Under consideration at the National Assembly)
Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) Scores (World Bank)	3.1% (2022)	4%	No updated data available
Mo Ibrahim Governance Index score	55.3 (2021)	60	70
Corruption Perception Index (CPI)	37 (2021)	60	38

Source(s): NHRC, ADRS, NALA, NAATIP & Office of the Ombudsman World Bank (WB) Country Policy and Institutional Assessments (CPIA), Mo Ibrahim Governance Index, Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (2024)

The Judiciary sector in 2024, disposed of 5,541 cases (4,141 civil and 1,400 criminal) cases out of a total of 12,995 cases, representing 42 per cent of overall cases which shows that more effort is needed in case management. Also, the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Rules 2024 were enacted to encourage amicable settlements before litigation. As a result, the Judiciary trained 20 mediators from the Bench and Bar to support this initiative during the year under review. The amended criminal and criminal procedure code was under consideration at the national assembly during the year under review.

In 2024, the Office of the Ombudsman have achieved 100 per cent rollout of sub-regional offices to the 8 (eight) LGAs and 40 per cent coverage for NALA. The rest of the justice delivery institutions, such as NHRC, ADRS and NAATIP were unable to roll out sub-offices due to inadequate resources (financial, human, land, material & equipment). The 2024 Mo Ibrahim Index has ranked The Gambia among the top 10 African countries demonstrating significant improvement in good governance, particularly in the realms of human development and economic opportunities. In terms of the corruption perception index, The Gambia achieved a score of 38 per cent during the year under review, indicating a moderate level of perceived corruption. Unfortunately, there is no updated data available regarding the country’s policy and institutional assessment (CPIA).

8_ Table 2.6: 2024 progress on reconciled society in which victims are fully paid their reparation dues and transitional justice attained

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @ 2024
A post-TRRC implementation plan and prosecution strategy adopted	No	Yes	No (The Special Prosecutor’s office Act, 2024 and the TRRC policy were developed)
Existence of a social service mechanism for victims and victim groups	No	Yes	No (100 victims treated by the Medical Board)
% of TRRC Recommendations implemented	0%	100%	10%
Existence of a Victims’ reparation fund	No	Yes	The Government allocated 60 million GMD for reparations
Proportion of Victims Compensated	0%	100%	0%

Source(s): Ministry of Justice & National Human Rights Commission

The progress made in the implementation of the Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission’s (TRRC) recommendations can be attributed to strong political commitment, leading to the creation of a TRRC policy document and the establishment of the Post TRRC Secretariat. Additionally, various engagement and collaboration platforms have been set up, including the Partnership Platform, Victim Town Hall, and Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Platform, to accelerate the implementation of these recommendations.

The Medical Board, tasked with providing urgent medical support to victims, successfully extended assistance to

100 victims in 2024. However, the operationalisation of the Reparations Commission and the Victims Reparation Fund did not materialise in 2024, despite the passage of the acts establishing these institutions. This setback is primarily due to insufficient financial and technical resources. Nevertheless, the Government has allocated D60 million (sixty million Dalasis) for the Victim Reparation Fund, of which D8 million (eight million Dalasis) has already been utilized by the Medical Board for victim support. Furthermore, the Government has pledged to transfer all funds from the sale of Jammeh's Potomac residence (approximately \$2 million) to the Fund upon receipt from the U.S. Government.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), responsible for monitoring the implementation of the TRRC report, reported in 2024 that the Government has acted on only 10 per cent of the 163 TRRC recommendations. This slow pace of implementation is attributed to coordination challenges among implementing partners and limited resources available for executing the White Paper.

Regarding victim compensation, there has been no progress in 2024, as no victims received compensation. However, the Commission is anticipated to commence operations in April 2025 to develop a Victim Reparation Policy, and secure additional resources to expedite compensation processes.

The Alliance of Victim-Led Organisations, which includes all eight local victim-led organisations, has played a crucial role in coordinating victim affairs and has contributed significantly to the development of various Post TRRC Acts, as well as supporting the Medical Board in delivering social services to victims.

9_ Table 2.7: 2024 progress on a reformed security sector with adequately capacitated security institutions

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @2024
Existence of an internal security policy	No	Yes	First draft of ISP produced
Existence of gender sensitive recruitment and human resource management strategy for security agencies			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Law Enforcement Agency • Gambia Armed Forces • Gambia Police Force • Gambia Immigration Department • Gambia Fire and Rescue Services • State Intelligence Services • Gambia Prison Services • Financial Intelligence Unit 	No	Yes	No
Existence of an asset disposal policy	No	Yes	No
Existence of a joint training institution for the armed and security forces	No	Yes	No
Number of security agencies with planning units	4	8	4
Number of cases of major offences reported	363 (2021)	133	294
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Murder • Rape 	24	10	29
	61 (2021)	33	46

Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	57% (2021)	10%	52%
Number of fire and rescue fatalities reported	48	15	54
Cases of drug trafficking reported	243 (2020)	110	199
Number of road accident cases reported	1218 (2021)	650	1053
Number of fatal accidents	155 (2021)	23	106

Source(s): Ministry of Interior; Gambia Bureau of Statistics

The fact that the draft Internal Security Policy has not been validated hindered its operation and as a result registered slow progress in 2024. Equally, no progress has been registered on the gender sensitive recruitment and human resource management strategy for security agencies, asset disposal policy, a joint training institution for the armed and security forces and the number of security agencies with planning units due to lack of funding.

The draft Bill on Prison service delivery reform submitted to the Ministry of Justice is still yet to be approved and therefore constrains the much-needed Prison's reforms. In 2024, the number of unsentenced detainees as a proportion of the overall prison population has not improved as the status quo remained the same. Also, the total number of reported major offences was 294, which is below the national target of 133. There were 29 murder convictions, exceeding the target of 10, and 46 cases of rape, surpassing the target of 33. These statistics indicate both progress as well as the need for continued focus within the realm of prison reform and service delivery. The Gambia Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) drafted a Cabinet Paper for the passing of the GFRS Act at Cabinet to enhance their operations. The number of fire and rescue facilities reduced from 67 (2023) to 54 (2024) due to resource constrain.

In 2024, cases of drug trafficking reported by the Drug Law Enforcement Agency were 199, above the target of 110, showing the need to enhance reporting of drug trafficking cases. The number of road accidents reported increased from 683 (2023) to 1053 (2024), indicating improvement during the year under review. However, the number of fatal accidents instead increased from 78 (2023) to 105 (2024), indicating more efforts are required to minimise fatal accidents.

10_Table 2.8: 2024 progress on an efficient, motivated, accountable and result-oriented public service

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @ 2024
Existence of a standardized policy formulation framework for sectors	No	Yes	Standardized Policy Formulation Framework developed
Conduct survey on civil service turnover rate	No	Yes	No Progress
Existence of a new pay policy	No	Yes	Job categorization exercise underway
Existence of a public service performance management system	No	Yes	Performance Management Unit established

Number of MDAs using Electronic Record Management System (ERMS):			
• Ministries	5	23	12
• Agencies	0	20	0
Existence of a Public Sector Human Resources Capacity Development Policy	No	Yes	Sectoral consultations were carried for the review and update of the said Policy

Source(s): Ministry of Public Service

The standardised policy formulation framework for sectors to guide the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the development of their respective policies was developed in 2024 indicating some progress achieved. Job categorisation exercise leading to the establishment of a new pay and grading structure has been carried out during year under review. Regarding the existence of civil service performance management system, progress registered in 2024 was the establishment of the Performance Management Unit. The progress registered in the existence of public sector human resources capacity development policy was the sectoral consultations regarding to review and update of the said policy. Also, the electronic records management system (ERMS) has been rolled out to 12 Ministries, showing a great improvement in 2024, but no progress has been registered in rolling it out to the Agencies.

2.3.2. Factors hindering progress

A new constitution and legal reforms undertaken

The non-existence of a new constitution created a challenge to undertake the necessary legal and regulatory reforms in the country, and inadequate resources to operationalise the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Regular, transparent, inclusive, free, and fair elections

No elections have been conducted relating to presidential, national assembly and councillorship elections in 2024 since it is based on cycles. Additionally, no activity has been done leading to the achievement of the availability of balanced electoral boundaries and a harmonious regulatory framework because the election bill that should pave the way for these indicators is stalled at the National Assembly.

Climate and climate change governance enhanced

Slow pace of finalising the various Acts designed to facilitate environmental sustainability and climate change governance and limited technical and financial resources remain a challenge.

Policies and regulatory frameworks for decentralization and local governance enhanced and harmonized

The non-existence of the revised Local Government Act hinders significantly the decentralisation processes and PFM reforms of LGAs. Also, the non-availability of a property valuation mechanism and civil society governance and management strategy to strengthen local governance and inadequate capacity in the area of PBB, Procurement, Auditing and Financial Management in LGAs are factors hindering progress.

Policy and institutional reforms to ensure rule of law, respect for human rights and equitable access to justice

Delay in court cases resulting in a backlog of cases and inadequate resources (financial, human, land, material &

equipment) to facilitate rolling out of sub-regional offices by the above-mentioned justice delivery institutions to the LGAs are among the factors hindering progress for this outcome.

A reconciled society in which victims are fully paid their reparation dues

Factors hindering progress under this outcome include: inadequate financial and technical resources to operationalise the Prosecutor's Office and the Reparations Commission, high victims' expectations, the tight fiscal space for transitional justice within the international community, and the coordination of the implementing Institutions responsible for the implementation of the White Paper.

Reform security sector and adequately capacitated security sector institutions in terms of policies, infrastructure, equipment and mobility

Inadequate technical capacity, financial, material/ equipment and infrastructure to support the operations of the security institutions pose a great challenge for the sector. Also, the non-enactment and implementation of the various policies, legal and regulatory frameworks, the non-availability of a centralised data management system and the non-installation of CCTV cameras to facilitate the ongoing security sector reforms are some of the challenges.

An efficient, motivated, accountable and results-oriented public service

Difficulty of reconciling the varied interests and priorities of different stakeholders regarding the development of standardised policy framework is a challenge. Also, insufficient financial resources and connectivity issues hindered the rolling out of ERMS to the remaining Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and the absence of civil service turnover survey.

2.3.3. Recommendations on the outcomes

A new constitution and legal reforms undertaken

- Increase sensitisation and advocacy of relevant stakeholders to ensure the existence of a new constitution to facilitate the necessary legal reforms
- Allocate financial resources for operationalisation of the anti-corruption commission

Regular, transparent, inclusive, free and fair elections

- Expedite the passing of the elections bill at the National Assembly to ensure the availability of balanced electoral boundaries and a harmonious regulatory framework

Climate change governance enhanced

- Finalise the various Acts designed to strengthen climate change governance
- Build the capacity of the sector staff on climate change governance

Policies and regulatory frameworks for decentralisation and local governance enhanced and harmonized

- Fast-track the revision of the existing Local Government Act to support the ongoing legal, public financial and administrative reforms in Local Government Authorities (LGAs)
- Train LGAs staff in the area of PBB, Procurement, Financial Management and Auditing to achieve the desired PFM reforms
- Develop a property valuation mechanism for LGAs
- Develop a civil society governance and management strategy to strengthen partnership with CSOs

Policy and institutional reforms to ensure rule of law, respect for human rights, and equitable access to justice

- Speed up court cases to reduce the backlog
- Allocate adequate resources (human, financial, materials/equipment) to facilitate the rolling out of sub-regional offices of the justice delivery institutions to the LGAs.

A reconciled society in which victims are fully paid their reparation dues and transitional justice attained

- Expedite the recruitment of the Special Prosecutor to facilitate the implementation of the white paper
- Provide adequate financial and technical resources to the Reparations Commission to expedite the reparations process.
- Manage high victims' expectations through sensitisation programmes and ensure victims' compensation.

A reformed security sector with adequately capacitated security institutions

- Provide adequate technical, financial, material/ equipment and infrastructure to support the operations of security institutions
- Expedite the enactment of the various policies, legal and regulatory frameworks to facilitate the ongoing security sector reforms.
- Install CCTV cameras in strategic Traffic locations to support the Police Traffic Unit
- Establish a centralised data management system to enhance information sharing and reporting among the security agencies

An efficient, motivated, accountable and result-oriented public service

- Increase sensitisation and dialogue with relevant stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the harmonised policy development framework
- Facilitate the introduction of a new pay and grading system to enhance civil servants' remuneration
- Allocate adequate financial resources and resolve connectivity constraints to facilitate rolling out and usage of ERMS

2.4 Pillar 3: Macroeconomic Stability and Inclusive Growth

Achieving macroeconomic stability and inclusive growth is a top priority of the Government, as sound monetary and fiscal policies are important for poverty reduction, social equity, and economic growth. The goal of this pillar is to provide a stable economic environment conducive to fostering strong, sustainable, and private sector-led economic growth for job and wealth creation, which will ultimately lead to improvements in standards of living.

To achieve macroeconomic stability, the Government continues to monitor the performance of key sectors such as services and agriculture, as the country strives to expand and diversify the economy. The government also continues to monitor and design appropriate measures in response to changes in economic output, inflation, interest rates, foreign exchange rates and the balance of payment.

3 Box 3.1: Macroeconomic Stability and Inclusive Growth			
Outcomes	Dashboard		
	<i>(i.e. ratings on progress towards outcomes)</i>		
	On track	Constrained	No Progress
Enhanced fiscal and monetary policies, public financial management, inclusive growth, and poverty reduction	✓		
A private sector-led growth with enhanced trade and services, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and increased employment		✓	
A competitive and diversified tourism sector contributing to overall Inclusive growth, job creation and poverty reduction			✓

Outcomes under this pillar show a mixed result, with one on track, one constrained, and another registering no progress. Additionally, implementation of some of the activities under the outcomes have not yet started due to resource constraints.

2.4.1. Progress made towards achieving the outcome- Highlighting significant accomplishments and milestones

11_ Table 3.1: 2024 progress on enhanced fiscal and monetary policies, public financial management, inclusive growth, and poverty reduction

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @ 2027	Status as end December 2024
Real GDP growth	5.3% (2021)	≥7.0%	5.3
Revenue share of GDP	11.8%	≥17.0%	13.1
Overall fiscal deficit as a share of GDP	5.7%	≤ 3.0%	3.9

Percentage of people below the absolute poverty line estimated at GMD2,236.85 per person per month	53.4% (2020)	≤ 48.0%	No updated data available
Debt to GDP ratio	82.8%	<70.0%	75.8
Annual Inflation	13.7%	<10.0%	10.2
Net Domestic Borrowing as a share of GDP	0.79%	≤ 1.0%	1.6%
CBG financing of fiscal deficit as % of last year tax revenue	25.4%	0.0%	0.00%
Gross external reserves (months of import cover)	6.5 months	≥ 4 months	4.7 months
Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) economic management (1=low to 6=high)	2.7	≥ 3.5	3.2
CPIA macroeconomic management (1=low to 6=high)	3	≥ 4.0	3.5
CPIA fiscal policy rating (1=low to 6=high)	2.5	≥ 3.5	3.0
CPIA debt policy rating (1=low to 6=high)	2	≥ 3.2	3.0
CPIA quality of budgetary and financial management rating	3	≥ 4.0	3.0

Source(s): Gambia Bureau of Statistics (2020, 2023); Economic Policy and Research Directorate, MoFEA (2024); World Bank (2023), Central Bank of The Gambia(2024)

The economy demonstrated resilience despite global uncertainties. Data from GBoS is indicating real GDP growth of 5.3 percent in 2024. This represents an improvement from the 5.0 percent recorded in 2023. The growth was driven by a stable macroeconomic environment, strong construction activities by both government and private sector. The growth was also driven by financial, transport, and wholesale-related activities

Headline inflation moderated to 10.2 per cent as end December 2024 from the peak of 17.3 per cent in December 2023. This was due to easing global commodity prices, stabilising exchange rate, and the tight monetary policy stance adopted by the CBG

Domestic revenue collection amounted to D22.6 billion (14.2 per cent of GDP) in 2024 compared to D17.8 billion (12.7 per cent of GDP) recorded in 2023. This represents a 27.4 per cent increase relative to the previous year. The performance was on account of higher-than-expected collections in corporate income tax and taxes on international trade. Similarly, non-tax revenue increased by 11 per cent relative to the 3.5 billion in 2023. This was due to improved collection efficiencies by GRA and some MDAs. Despite the performances in revenues, the overall deficit slightly widened to D 6.7 billion (4.2 per cent of GDP) in 2024 compared to 5.2 billion (3.7 per cent of GDP) in 2023. This was attributed to higher-than-planned expenditures witnessed over the course of the year. The Net Domestic Borrowing target as a share of GDP was missed due to unanticipated spending shocks (hosting of the OIC and subsidies to NAWEC), while Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG) financing of the fiscal deficit was within target.

Public debt as at end December 2024 stood at D129.5 billion (81.1 percent of GDP) compared to D112.1 billion (79.8 percent of GDP) in 2023. The increased in debt was driven by exchange rate depreciation, international trade and finance corporation (ITFC) financing facility for NAWEC and GNPC, and higher than planned budget deficit. Resultantly, the threshold (of less than 70 per cent) as of end December 2024 was missed.

On the CPIA rating, a notable improvement has been witnessed in 2024 compared to 2023. This increment stems mainly from fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies.

12_Table 3.2: 2024 progress on private sector-led growth with enhanced trade and services, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and increased employment

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @2024
Trade balance as a share of GDP	-34.20%	≤ -20%	≤ -32%
Value of total exports as a share of GDP	2.40%	25%	No updated data available
Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	National: 9.1%	National: 14.0%	No updated data available
	Male: 12.9% Female: 5.0% (2022-23)	Male: 17.0% Female: 10.0	
Informal sector employment	62.8% (2022-23)	58.00%	No updated data available
Percentage of adults using formal accounts	19.0% (2019)	70.00%	No updated data available
Existence of the National Local Content Act	No	Yes	The process has not yet started
Development of a National Laboratory Policy	No	Yes	The Policy has been developed and taken to Cabinet for approval
A functional National Quality Centre	No	Yes	Yes
Number of Accredited laboratories	0	3	2
Accredited National Certification Body	0	1	0
Manufacturing share to GDP	2.0% (2021)	15.00%	No updated data available

Source(s): Gambia Bureau of Statistics (2023b, 2023c); Ministry of Trade, Regional Integration and Employment (MoTIE)

The West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP) provided funding for the development of the national laboratory policy and a national assessment of laboratories in the country has been completed. After the zero draft of the national laboratory policy had been finalised and shared with stakeholders for comments, it is now at Cabinet for approval.

Additionally, progress is being made towards the establishment of a national quality centre. WACOMP, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)/Global Environment Facility (GEF)-UNIDO/GEF6 project and the Ministry of Trade provided funding for two laboratories namely: the National Lighting Testing Laboratory and the National Reference Food Testing Laboratory, which are already completed, the lighting test centre is fully equipped and the equipment for the food lab is being procured. As part of the accreditation process, the Certification Body underwent an initial assessment by the Nigerian Accreditation System. The identified gaps are being addressed, and staff were trained to build their competency in the applicable standards i.e., ISO 17021, ISO 22000 - Parts 1 to 6.

Progress cannot be measured on the improvement of the manufacturing share to GDP, although the Ministry is actively pursuing the construction of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) along the Trans Gambia Bridge corridor. A feasibility study has been commissioned to assess the viability of this project, and efforts are underway to mobilise resources for the necessary infrastructure. Furthermore, the Ministry plans to establish three additional agropolis, to strategically focus on value chain crops along recognised trade corridors.

In terms of people newly employed, slow progress is being made towards attaining the target of 150,000 jobs by 2027. The Ministry has signed bilateral agreements with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Qatar for semi-skilled Gambians to be employed, and as such, the first batch of workers has already been deployed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The bilateral agreement between The Gambia and the Kingdom of Spain has also been signed. A National Employment Technical Committee has been established, and the ministerial subcommittee to advise on mainstreaming employment in private sector activities has been established, and the labour migration and management information system is under development.

13_Table 3.3: 2024 progress on a competitive and diversified tourism sector contributing to overall Inclusive growth, job creation and poverty reduction

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @2024
Tourist arrivals	182,795	336,787	226,657
Number of cultural heritage sites rehabilitated	6	12	6
Number of eco-tourism sites identified for upgrading to be more resilient and more attractive	5	11	5
Existence of a National Theatre	No	Yes	No
Existence of a comprehensive Tourism Development Area (TDA) land use plan	No	Yes	No
Existence of an inter-sectoral tourism Technical Working Group (TWG)	No	Yes	No
Number of research conducted on target market and their needs as well as their trends at local, regional, and global levels	0	5	1
Availability of a finalised Tourism Satellite Account (TSA)	No	Yes	No

Source(s): Ministry of Tourism and Culture (2022, 2023c, 2023a, 2023b, 2024)

In 2024, the tourism sector registered a slight improvement in arrival numbers as part of its ongoing post-COVID-19 recovery efforts. Compared to 2023, tourist arrivals increased by 9.5 per cent, bringing 19,661 additional visitors to Destination Gambia. Despite this positive growth, the sector fell short of its 2024 projection of 233,411 arrivals by approximately 3 per cent.

Several factors contributed to the increase in arrivals:

- The 2024/2025 tourist season witnessed the introduction of two new airlines to Destination Gambia—Apollo, targeting the Scandinavian market, and Overland, serving the Nigerian market. Apollo, a Danish-

based international tour operator, has facilitated the re-entry of Destination Gambia into the Scandinavian market.

- The growing promotion of Gambian culture through regional and national festivals has attracted greater domestic and international attention, contributing to a steady annual increase in tourist arrivals.
- The sector's active participation in major international tourism fairs—such as WTM (United Kingdom), ITB (Germany), and FITUR (Spain)—also played a key role in boosting visibility and arrivals.
- Ongoing marketing and promotional efforts, including public relations and influencer campaigns, joint marketing agreements, and the appointment of an additional Director of Tourism Promotion focusing on markets like Nigeria, have further strengthened destination marketing. A Marketing Intelligence Committee has been established to monitor social media trends and competitor activities.
- New niche markets—such as birding, community-based tourism, and eco-tourism—are being promoted, capitalising on growing global interest in sustainable travel. Infrastructure improvements, including road construction and the installation of solar streetlights within TDA 1, have enhanced accessibility and tourist movement.

2.4.2. Factors hindering progress

Enhanced fiscal and monetary policies, public financial management, inclusive growth, and poverty reduction

The uneven rainfall distribution and flash floods received in lowland areas affected the agriculture sector, affecting progress on real GDP growth. This has led to low groundnut yield and the inundation of some rice fields. As a result, groundnut and rice production fell below target. In addition, the lack of a proper jetty continues to undermine growth in the fisheries subsector. For manufacturing, the high cost and erratic electricity supply, multiplicity of taxes and competition from imports continue to weigh down on the sector.

The inflationary pressures have somewhat eased in 2024, but remain above the CBG target of 5 per cent. The high rate of inflation can be attributed to the heavy reliance on imports, global uncertainties, and the continuous depreciation of the dalasi.

Revenue share of GDP is progressing, although it faces delays in the implementation of reforms and finalisation of the Domestic Resource Mobilisation Strategy (DRMS), which seeks to modernise the tax system, such as VAT, and incorporate an appropriate balance between policy and administrative measures. Debt levels remain elevated, but continue to be sustainable. The increase in public debt was due to exchange rate depreciation, and higher than planned budget deficit in 2024.

Private sector-led growth with enhanced trade and services, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and increased employment

Progress is hindered by several factors, including a limited national quality infrastructure to support exports. On the supply side, challenges such as low production capacity, weak trade support institutions, limited productivity, and the high cost and difficulty of business formalization persist. Additional constraints include the lack of updated data from institutions, the limited capacity of local entrepreneurs, and inconsistent

stakeholder engagement. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) also face significant barriers in accessing financing, due to high interest rates and restricted access to international markets.

Funding for the food laboratory remains limited, as WACOMP is only covering the cost of small/light equipment and furniture. Accreditation of government laboratories is not mandatory; therefore, there is no commitment to allocate funding for their accreditation. Additionally, there is currently no national competency to build the necessary capacity for implementing the ISO 17025 Standard required for accrediting the National Metrology Laboratory. Furthermore, there is no regulation in place for lighting products, which is needed as a basis for enforcement.

High energy cost, new levies introduced by Food Safety Quality Authority (FSQA), misunderstanding of the application of new digital tax, delay in clearing of capital goods and raw materials all affect manufacturing contribution to GDP.

A competitive and diversified tourism sector contributing to overall Inclusive growth, job creation and poverty reduction

The absence of a Tourism Satellite Account (TSA), largely due to budgetary and capacity constraints, continues to hinder tourism’s contribution to employment. Low tourism arrival figures are attributed to limited promotion of the Nigerian market, delays in the compilation of arrival statistics, restricted air access, and the lack of a comprehensive marketing strategy. The sector’s continued reliance on the traditional "sun, sea, and sand" offering has weakened Destination Gambia’s competitiveness. The International Visitor Survey Report has shown that the airport security fee negatively influences tourists' decisions to visit The Gambia, with both the fee itself and the lengthy queuing times posing significant challenges to the sector.

Additionally, a persistent lack of funding continues to delay the rehabilitation of cultural heritage sites, the upgrading of resilient eco-tourism destinations, research on targeted markets, and the construction of a national theatre.

2.4.3. Recommendations on the outcomes

Enhanced fiscal and monetary policies, public financial management, inclusive growth, and poverty reduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite limited policy space, the ministry should implement targeted and well-sequenced structural reforms to reverse deteriorating medium-term economic prospects and support productivity Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and modernise the agricultural sector to increase output capacity. The sector is rain-dependent, which makes it vulnerable to inadequate rainfall and climate-related shocks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise liquidity management tools to address inflationary issues and complement decisions made by the Government, as real interest rates are negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct poverty studies every 3 years to ensure the availability of updated poverty data

Private sector-led growth with enhanced trade and services, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and increased employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely disbursement of funds for effective implementation of planned activities • Increase awareness of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) on the benefits of formalisation • Increase awareness and understanding of local content for all stakeholders • Coordinate project funds for labs in line with the lab policy under development to address duplication, wastage, inconsistency and inefficiency • Government to make it mandatory for any lab providing testing services to be accredited to ISO 17025. Funding should be made available for this purpose • Reduce the cost of energy and put a moratorium on the introduction of new levies to encourage the investment in manufacturing industries

A competitive and diversified tourism sector contributing to overall Inclusive growth, job creation and poverty reduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government to provide funding and capacity building for the creation and operationalisation of the TSA • Enhance the capacity of Immigration and GTBoard officials at the airports in compiling and inputting data for arrival statistics • Foster collaboration with Securiport for data sharing and harmonisation to avoid the delay in the production of tourism arrival statistics • MoTAC should speed up the finalisation of the Marketing and Branding Strategy for Destination Gambia. • The Government should work with IATA to ensure that the airport security fee is incorporated into tickets. • As cultural tourism is gaining a lot of international attention, the Government should invest in the cultural products to make them more attractive. MoTAC should also ensure that a percentage of the Tourism Development levy is allocated for the upgrading of the cultural sites for a specific period. • Develop a database for the storage, analysis and reporting of arrivals for spotting trends and understanding changes in the tourism sector • Seek alternative sources of funding, like Public Private Partnerships (PPP), to fund the construction of a national theatre

2.5 Pillar 4: Human Capital

Under this pillar, the government is committed to reducing poverty, creating more inclusive societies and improve overall national productivity by enhancing education, healthcare service, improve nutritional status of children under five years and women of child-bearing age and increase access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and hygiene, and enhance skills training to empower individuals. The Plan emphasises building a resilient

workforce, ensuring access to quality education, and strengthening healthcare systems to support sustainable development and promote quality life for the population.

The government highlights the urgent need to prioritise population and demography, migration, urban planning, and affordable housing. These critical areas have previously not received the attention they deserve in national planning, but addressing them effectively is essential for sustainable growth and social stability.

4_Box 4.1: Human Capital Development			
Outcomes	Dashboard (i.e. ratings on progress towards outcomes)		
	On track	Constrained	No Progress
Equitable access to quality and relevant education for all	✓		
Quality, accessible, and affordable health care services delivered for all		✓	
Improved nutritional status of children under five years and women of child-bearing age is assured		✓	
Increased access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and hygiene		✓	
Appropriate populations policies and strategies to harness the demographic transition		✓	
Socioeconomic benefits of migration enhanced for National Development and adverse consequences mitigated	✓		
Quality and affordable housing for all and urban planning improved			✓

Overall, the Pillar has been rated as constrained primarily due to the lack of updated data necessary to accurately assess progress. According to the Dashboard, 28.5% of the outcomes are classified as "on track," 57.2% are categorised as "constrained," and 14.3% showed no progress.

2.5.1. Progress made towards achieving the outcome- Highlighting significant accomplishments and milestone

14_Table 4.1: 2024 progress on equitable access to quality and relevant education for all

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target@2027	Status @2024
Human capital index	0.42	0.5	No updated data available
Proportion of communities within 2km access to Lower Basic Education	78.0%	88.0%	98.5%

Proportion of schools meeting Pupil Book Ratio of 1:1	65.0%	90.0%	100%
Proportion of ECD school infrastructure meeting the minimum standards	56.0%	70.0%	68%
Existence of a Language Policy	No	Yes	Yes
Introduction of competency curricula in all schools (Nursery, Lower Basic School (LBS), Upper Basic School (UBS) and Senior Secondary School (SSS))	No	Yes	Yes
Percentage of students with five credits in West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE)	16.4%	18.5%	Boys 22.18% Girls 18.02% Total 19.61%
Percentage of students with Aggregate ≤ 42 in Gambia Basic Education Certificate Examination (GABECE)	49.7%	51.7%	Boys 48.07% Girls 51.89% Total 50.34%
Percentage of accredited institutions by level, Non-Tertiary (Technical and Vocational Education and Training-TVET), tertiary and higher education	TVET: 37.0%	TVET: 80.0%	TVET: 80.76%
	Tertiary: 10.0%	Tertiary: 50.0%	Tertiary: 80.76%
	Higher Education: 63.0%	Higher Education: 100%	Higher Education: 80%
Proportion of tertiary (including TVET) and higher institutions in the provincial areas	11.0%	20.0%	14.70%

Source(s): *Education Management Information System (EMIS) and National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Authority (NAQAA)*

The education sector has experienced notable improvements across various areas. Policy advocacy focused on establishing schools outside a 2-kilometer radius of existing ones led to a 20.5 per cent increase in accessible communities, surpassing the 2027 target. Continuous enrolment campaigns and the successful implementation of projects have strengthened donor confidence. Regular curriculum reviews and access to qualified teachers, along with improved learning resources such as textbooks, have enhanced the quality of education. Learning assessment reforms and the School Improvement Grant (SIG) have contributed to better academic environments. The number of trained teachers has increased, promoting competitive and quality learning, which has been reflected in academic results, with GABECE performance improving by 0.6 per cent and WASSCE results by 3.2 per cent from the baseline.

Significant progress has also been made in early childhood development, with a 12 per cent increase in school infrastructure meeting minimum standards. A language policy has been established, and competency-based curricula introduced across all school levels, including Nursery, Lower Basic School (LBS), Upper Basic School (UBS), and Senior Secondary School (SSS). Revitalisation of TVET centres in various regions has resulted in a 3.7 per cent increase in access to TVET institutions. Accredited TVET institutions grew by 43.8 per cent, tertiary institutions by 70.76 per cent, and higher education institutions by 17 per cent. These advancements highlight substantial progress in accessibility, quality, and overall performance in the education sector meeting the RF-NDP target for 2027 for TVET and Tertiary institutions.

15_Table 4.2: 2024 progress on quality, accessible, and affordable health care services delivered for all

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @2024
Life Expectancy (years)			
• National	63.4	66.3	No updated data available
• Women	65.9	68.9	No updated data available
• Men	60.8 (2013)	63.6	No updated data available
Under 5 Mortality Rate	56/1000 (2019-20)	34/1000	No updated data available
Infant Mortality Rate	42/1000 (2019-20)	21/1000	No updated data available
Neonatal Mortality Rate	29/1000 (2019-20)	17/1000	No updated data available
Maternal Mortality Rate	289/100,000 (2019-20)	135/100,000	No updated data available
Percentage of mothers receiving antenatal care from a skilled provider	98.0% (2019-20)	100%	No updated data available
Percentage of live births delivered in a health facility	83.8% (2019-20)	95.0%	No updated data available

Source(s): The data on life expectancy is from the 2013 Population and Housing Census Mortality Report. All the remaining indicators are from the 2019-20 Demographic and Health Survey

All indicators for this outcome are primarily assessed through household surveys, with life expectancy data extracted from the population and housing census. As these surveys are conducted periodically, and population and housing census take place every 10 years, there is currently no up-to-date data from the same sources used as the baseline to measure progress on these indicators. However, administrative data from the sector provides valuable insights into how these indicators are evolving.

The DHIS2 system reveals significant progress across key metrics. For instance, the under-five mortality rate has decreased from 56 per 1,000 live births to 23.4 per 1,000 live births, surpassing the 2027 target. Similarly, the infant mortality rate dropped from 42 per 1,000 live births to 5.9 per 1,000 live births, while the neonatal mortality rate declined from 29 per 1,000 live births to 14.7 per 1,000 live births. Additionally, the percentage of live births delivered in health facilities has increased to 98.4 per cent, reflecting substantial advancements. Collectively, these indicators demonstrate remarkable progress, achieving and exceeding the 2027 targets.

16_Table 4.3: 2024 progress on improved nutritional status of children under five years and women of child-bearing age is assured

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @2024
Stunting rate for children under 5years	17.5% (2019-20)	14.7%	No updated data available
Underweight for children under 5years	11.6% (2019-20)	9.7%	No updated data available
Wasting rate for children under 5years	5.1% (2019-20)	5.0%	No updated data available

Prevalence of anaemia in women of childbearing age	44.3% (2019-20)	35.0%	No updated data available
Exclusive breastfeeding rate under 6 months	53.6% (2019-20)	60.0%	No updated data available
Prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults	36.4% (2019-20)	21.6%	No updated data available

Source(s): *Demographic and Health Survey 2019-20*

The Gambia is committed to tackling the triple burden of malnutrition, which encompasses undernutrition, overnutrition, and micronutrient malnutrition. Undernutrition remains a significant public health challenge in the country, particularly affecting children under five years of age, who are among the most vulnerable to its impacts. Addressing these interconnected issues requires sustained efforts and targeted interventions to improve nutritional outcomes across all segments of the population.

The 2024 progress on improving the nutritional status of children under five years and women of childbearing age faces challenges due to the lack of updated data from the Demographic and Health Survey, which is conducted periodically. As a result, real progress comparable to the baseline data from DHS 2019-20 remains unclear. However, the National Nutrition Agency has provided insights through its sentinel surveillance report, offering a glimpse into the status of key indicators. The report shows that the stunting rate for children under five years has slightly improved to 17.4 per cent, while the underweight prevalence for the same age group has also improved to 14.6 per cent. Furthermore, the exclusive breastfeeding rate for infants under six months has surpassed the target, increasing to 61.1 per cent. These achievements reflect positive strides in certain areas. However, the wasting rate for children under five years has risen significantly to 8.4 per cent, indicating a worsening trend for this particular indicator. The absence of updated statistics highlights the need for enhanced data collection to effectively monitor progress and address gaps in nutritional outcomes for these vulnerable populations.

17_ Table 4.4: 2024 progress on increased access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and hygiene

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @2024
Proportion of the population with improved sources of safe drinking water	94.1% (2019-20)	100%	No updated data available
Proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water			No updated data available
National	33.8%	35.8%	No updated data available
Rural	1.9%	5.0%	No updated data available
Urban	49.8% (2018)	52.0%	No updated data available
Proportion of the population with access to improved sanitation facilities	71.5% (2019-20)	75.0%	No updated data available

Proportion of households with handwashing facility where water and soap or detergent are present			
• National	30.9%	75.0%	No updated data available
• Rural	29.0%	50.0%	
• Urban	31.8% (2018)	80.0%	

Source(s): *The Gambia Demographic Housing Survey (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)*

This outcome aims to provide equitable access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation facilities, and essential hygiene practices for all individuals. Achieving this objective will improve public health, reduce the occurrence of waterborne illnesses, and elevate the overall quality of life, especially for vulnerable populations in both rural and urban areas. These efforts align with broader development goals focused on health promotion, sustainable living, and human welfare.

The progress on increasing access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and hygiene in 2024 remains largely unclear due to the absence of updated data from the baseline indicators. The Demographic Housing Survey and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey serve as primary sources for tracking these indicators, but they are conducted periodically, leaving gaps in recent insights.

However, administrative data from the sector, as highlighted in the Progress Report Climate Smart Project, indicates modest improvements in key indicators. The proportion of the population with improved sources of safe drinking water and those using safely managed drinking water has risen by 1.22 per cent. Additionally, access to improved sanitation facilities has increased by 0.22 per cent.

18 Table 4.5: 2024 progress on appropriate population policies and strategies to harness the demographic transition

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @ 2027	Status @ 2024
Existence of a demographic dividend profile using the National Transfer Account (NTA) Model	No	Yes	Yes
Existence of National roadmap for harnessing the demographic dividend	No	Yes	A Comprehensive draft National Demographic Dividend Roadmap was developed, and a retreat was held to review the draft
Number of planners trained on integration of demographic variables	0	42	0
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR)	19.0% (2019-20)	35.0%	No updated data available
Teenage childbearing	14.0% (2019-20)	10.0%	No updated data available

Existence of integration Module and software for integration of demographic data	No	Yes	No
Existence of Demographic Dividend and gender sensitive Budgeting	No	Yes	No
Total Fertility Rate	4.4 /woman (2019-20)	4	No updated data available
Existence of a functional National Observatory on Demographic Dividend	No	Yes	No (Its establishment is incorporated in the 2024 National Population Bill, to ensure its legal operation)

Source(s): *National Population Commission Secretariat (NPCS) and DHS*

The 2024 progress on implementing appropriate population policies and strategies to harness the demographic transition shows mixed results. One significant achievement is the development of a demographic dividend profile using the National Transfer Account Model, which has been successfully established. Progress has also been made in drafting a comprehensive National Demographic Dividend Roadmap. Additionally, training planners on integrating demographic variables and the existence of an integration module and software for the integration of demographic data has received financial backing from the GLF, ensuring future development in this area.

However, the process to establish the demographic dividend and gender-sensitive budgeting has not yet started, highlighting a significant delay in this critical area. The establishment of a functional National Observatory on Demographic Dividend has progressed, with its incorporation into the 2024 National Population Bill to ensure its legal operation. While some strategic milestones have been reached, there remain gaps in implementation and data availability, underscoring the need for continued efforts and monitoring to achieve the targets by 2027.

19_Table 4.6: 2024 progress on socioeconomic benefits of migration enhanced for national development and adverse consequences mitigated

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @2024
Value of annual remittance flow (US\$)	\$712.5M (2022)	\$1.08 billion	\$775.6million
Diaspora voting in national elections	No	Yes	No
Existence of an amended Trafficking in Persons Act	No	Yes	Yes
Number of migrant returnees provided with return/arrival assistance by sex	National:7,774 Male: 7,550 Female: 224	National:2,700 Male: 2,623 Female: 78	National: 7,618 Male: 4,301 Female: 115
Number of returnees' reintegration assistant to training programmes disaggregated by sex	National: 6,035 Male: 5,819 Female: 216	National: 2,340 Male: 2,256 Female: 84	National: 2,031 Male: 1,997 Female: 34

Source(s): *GDHS, Independent Electoral Commission (Reamended Trafficking in Persons Act), NAATIP, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG)*

This outcome focuses on maximising the positive contributions of migration to national development while minimising its negative impacts. The goal is to leverage migration as a driver of economic growth and social

advancement while addressing challenges such as exploitation, exclusion, and lack of opportunities for migrants.

Annual remittance flow has significantly increased, reaching \$775.6 million, approximately 31.5 per cent of GDP. The amended Trafficking in Persons Act is now in effect, marking an important legislative milestone to prevent and counter trafficking in persons. However, diaspora voting in national elections remains a challenge. Assistance to migrant returnees has been maintained, with 7,618 individuals receiving support, though reintegration into training programs has decreased, involving only 2,031 returnees. Progress on key indicators reflects both achievements and areas requiring further attention to fully harness the developmental benefits of migration.

20_Table 4.7: 2024 progress on quality and affordable housing for all and urban planning improved

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @2024
Existence of a National Housing Policy	No	Yes	No
Existence of a National Programme for Low Income Housing	No	Yes	No

Source(s): *National Housing Policy, Department of Physical Planning and Housing, MoLRG*

The aim of this outcome is to ensure access to quality and affordable housing for all while enhancing urban planning to create sustainable and organised communities. It seeks to address housing challenges by developing a comprehensive National Housing Policy and establishing a National Programme for Low-Income Housing to cater for vulnerable populations. Implementation of the National Housing Policy and the National Programme for Low-Income Housing remains a challenge.

2.5.2. Factors hindering progress

Equitable access to quality and relevant education for all

The challenges in achieving this outcome include financial constraints, which limit the availability of resources such as the School Improvement Grants (SIG) infrastructure, teaching and learning materials. Insufficient support for students with disabilities and a lack of adequately trained teachers hinder the delivery of relevant and effective education.

Quality, accessible, and affordable health care services delivered for all

A key challenge in measuring progress towards this outcome is the lack of updated data, largely due to delays in conducting timely and relevant surveys. Additionally, insufficient funding significantly constrains the implementation of planned priorities under this outcome.

Improved nutritional status of children under five years and women of child-bearing age is assured

Poverty and low household income limit access to nutritious food and healthcare. Additionally, poor education and awareness among mothers and caregivers about nutrition and health practices, coupled with cultural norms that restrict dietary diversity, create further challenges. Inadequate funding and gaps in policy implementation hinder nutrition programs from reaching their targets.

Increased access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and hygiene

Insufficient funding and the periodic nature of conducting surveys significantly hampers the ability to assess progress towards this outcome.

Appropriate populations policies and strategies to harness the demographic transition

Limited funding and resources often hinder the development and execution of effective policies. Insufficient data and research on demographic trends make it difficult to design evidence-based strategies.

Socioeconomic benefits of migration enhanced for national development and adverse consequences mitigated

The absence of a legal bill on diaspora voting, inadequate infrastructure and services for migrants, such as healthcare, and education, are all constraints to this outcome.

Quality and affordable housing for all and urban planning improved

Challenges in achieving this outcome include the lack of decentralisation in land administration, the absence of e-land banking systems, and low technical capacity hinder the effective implementation of this outcome.

2.5.3. Recommendations on the outcomes

Equitable access to quality and relevant education for all

- Invest in teacher training programs to improve the quality of instruction in schools
- Provide a school feeding programme in all Lower Basic Schools
- Improve teacher retention allowance and provide adequate teaching and learning materials to schools.
- Establish and enforce policies that promote equity in education and inclusion for marginalised groups such as children with disabilities.
- Provide a minimum infrastructure standard for all ECDs
- There is a need for national dialogue and consultation to distinguish between TVET and tertiary institutions
- A need for capacity building or enhancement of the staff and faculty, including administrators of tertiary and higher institutions.
- Increase investment in tertiary and higher institutions in order to increase access and improve quality.
- Provision of teaching and learning materials, including laboratory and workshop equipment.

Quality, accessible, and affordable health care services delivered for all

- Use digital health tools like telemedicine to improve service delivery and enhance health information systems.
- Provide funds for the regular conduct of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)/Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) to enhance assessment of progress
- Allocate more resources for the procurement of essential drugs and equipment
- Train community health workers to improve service delivery

Improved nutritional status of children under five years and women of child-bearing age is assured.

- Promote dietary diversity by encouraging the consumption of diverse and nutrient-rich foods, especially for children.
- Provide funds for the regular conduct of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)/Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)

Increased access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and hygiene

- Increase public awareness by conducting hygiene education campaigns to promote practices like handwashing, safe water storage, and proper waste disposal
- Provide funds for the regular conduct of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)/Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)

Appropriate populations policies and strategies to harness the demographic transition.

- Timely disbursement of funds support from the Sahel Women’s Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) + Project for implementation
- Provide funds for the regular conduct of DHS/MICS
- Partner and collaborate with key MDAs to support implementation of the outcome
- Increase GLF budgetary allocation

Socioeconomic benefits of migration enhanced for national development and adverse consequences mitigated.

- Implement programs to integrate migrants into host communities, fostering social cohesion and reducing discrimination.
- Develop strategies to retain skilled professionals and encourage migrant returnees to benefit the home country's development.
- Continuous engagement with the National Assembly, MoFA and IEC on diaspora voting
- Support youth and groups likely to undertake irregular migration or fall into the hands of smugglers or traffickers

Quality and affordable housing for all and urban planning improved.

- Enhance coordination for the establishment of an affordable housing scheme
- Decentralise land management and introduce e-land banking systems to streamline land acquisition and allocation processes.
- Provide capacity building on urban planning. Encourage collaboration between the government and non-state actors to mobilise resources and expertise for housing projects.

2.6 Pillar 5: Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change

The Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) sector continues to be a crucial driver of growth in the Gambian economy, providing livelihood opportunities for a significant proportion of the population. This sector creates employment, supports export earnings, ensures food security, and helps foster other sectors like tourism, contributing significantly to GDP.

The Government actively promotes modern, productive, and sustainable agriculture to ensure food security and stimulate economic growth. With the support of partners, the Government is committed to implementing strategies and programmes that foster transformation, modernisation, and sustainable commercialisation of the agricultural sector. Through the GIRAV, ROOTS, and other projects, the government has made efforts to establish small-scale agro-industries for processing, packaging, and storage facilities supporting agricultural value chain development and transitioning from subsistence to more market-oriented agriculture.

5_Box 5.1: Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change			
Outcomes	Dashboard		
	<i>(i.e. ratings on progress towards outcomes)</i>		
	On track	Constrained	No Progress
A modern, productive, and sustainable agriculture for food and nutrition security, economic growth and poverty reduction	✓		
A vibrant fisheries and aquaculture sector contributing to economic growth and employment creation	✓		
Sustainable environmental and natural resources management, enhanced climate action, and disaster risk reduction	✓		

Overall, all the outcomes under this pillar are on track to be achieved during the year under review.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) sector continues to be a crucial driver of growth in the Gambian economy, providing livelihood opportunities for a significant proportion of the population. This sector creates employment, supports export earnings, ensures food security, and helps foster other sectors like tourism, contributing significantly to GDP.

The Government actively promotes modern, productive, and sustainable agriculture to ensure food security and stimulate economic growth. With the support of partners, the Government is committed to implementing strategies and programmes that foster transformation, modernisation, and sustainable commercialisation of the agricultural sector. Through the GIRAV, ROOTS, and other projects, the government has made efforts to establish small-scale agro industries for processing, packaging, and storage facilities supporting agricultural value chain development and transitioning from subsistence to more market-oriented agriculture.

Box 5.1: Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change			
Outcomes	Dashboard		
	<i>(i.e. ratings on progress towards outcomes)</i>		
	On track	Constrained	No Progress

A modern, productive, and sustainable agriculture for food and nutrition security, economic growth and poverty reduction	✓		
A vibrant fisheries and aquaculture sector contributing to economic growth and employment creation	✓		
Sustainable environmental and natural resources management, enhanced climate action, and disaster risk reduction	✓		

Overall, all the outcomes under this pillar are on track to be achieved during the year under review.

2.6.1. Progress made towards achieving the outcome- Highlighting significant accomplishments and milestones

21_ Table 5.1: 2024 progress on a modern, productive, and sustainable agriculture for food and nutrition security, economic growth and poverty reduction

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @2024
Agriculture contribution to GDP	25.4% (2021)	30.1%	20.6 %
Annual Agriculture growth rate	13.7% (2021)	10.0%	-1.1%
Annual Value of rice imports (Metric Tonnes)	198,425	98,443	244,688 MTS
Annual Value of poultry imports in Gambian Dalasi (GMD)	825,065	0	1,246,032
Area of land under cultivation (Ha)			
· Rice (Ha)	44,241 (2021)	77,869	49,811
· Maize (Ha)	25,246 (2021)	40,665	27,688
Annual production (Metric Tonnes)			
· Rice (MT)	41,910 (2021)	194,674	52,548
· Maize (MT)	19,614 (2021)	81,330	25,817
Cereals yield (Metric Tons per Hectare)			
· Rice (MT/Ha)	0.95 (2021)	2.5	1.1
· Maize (MT/Ha)	0.78 (2021)	2	0.9
Volume of poultry meat produced annually Metric Tonnes (MT)	370.61 (2022)	1,150	578.157
Volume of vegetables produced annually Metric Tonnes (MT)	10,285.34	50,000	No updated data available
Volume of production of small ruminant meat annually Metric Tonnes (MT)	555.96	1,550	1004.908
Small ruminant mortality rate	40.0%	10.0%	20%
Area of land under irrigation practices	8,124.08	20,000	No updated data available

Source(s): Gambia Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (2024); Department of Planning (2024); Department of Livestock Services (2024), Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (2024)

Agriculture makes a significant contribution to the GDP, but its growth declines over the year under review, with 20.6 per cent compared to 23.4 per cent in 2023. Moreover, the sector’s growth rate decreases to -1.1 per cent, down from 3.7 per cent in 2023. This decline resulted from the erratic and temporal distribution of rain, dry spells, and inundation of rice and groundnut fields, which affected planting operations and crop production, particularly in the Upper River Region and parts of the Central River Region, leading to a poor cropping season. However, despite the adverse farming season, the sector continues to receive support from the government and development partners to achieve self-sufficiency in food production.

The sector continues to leverage projects to enhance the rice and maize value chains, expanding production and productivity, and boosting yields. These efforts align with the government's commitment to achieving rice self-sufficiency. There has been a significant increase in rice importation in 2024, which stands at 244,688 metric tons, notably by the public and private sectors, leading to competitive market prices, despite efforts aimed at local production and achieving rice self-sufficiency.

Additionally, there has been an increase in the number of small-scale poultry farmers across the country, with an increase in poultry meat produced in 2024, which stands at 578.157 tons compared to 308.85 tons in 2023. Poultry farmers and entrepreneurs, supported by projects and development partners like FAO and various NGOs, have contributed to the economy. Many youths, especially in urban areas, have taken up poultry farming as an enterprise, establishing their farms for self-employment and economic growth. These efforts are not enough to cater for the growing demand for poultry products in the country, leading to continued reliance on imported poultry products at higher costs.

Small ruminant rearing and meat production have also increased substantially from 447.31 in 2023 to 1,004.908 metric tons in 2024. This is as a result of the strategies put in place by the sector to optimise small ruminant production, as it aligns with broader efforts to enhance food security and resilience.

Mortality rates in small ruminants have decreased due to mass vaccinations, improved access to veterinary services, and ongoing awareness campaigns conducted by the sector. Furthermore, several projects support sheep fattening with improved breeds, coupled with regular monitoring for diseases that could affect production. However, comparing the figures from 2023, a 2 per cent decline was recorded because of susceptibility to disease infection.

22_ Table 5.2: 2024 progress on a vibrant fisheries and aquaculture sector contributing to economic growth and employment creation

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target@2027	Status @2024
Existence of inland Fisheries Masterplan	No	Yes	No (The TOR of the consultancy is finalised and adopted by the TWG set up by the Ministry. The EOI advertisement is to be sent to the print media in earnest)

Existence of National Monitoring Control and Surveillance Strategy	No	Yes	No (Draft Strategy Developed)
Number of Artisanal fish landing sites with modern postharvest management structures	11	30	11 (The procurement process for two additional onshore infrastructures (Platform) in Sanyang and Kartong is to commence. Approval has been granted for the construction to commence in Kartong)
Fisheries contribution to GDP	11.6%	15.7%	No updated data available
Existence of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture insurance policy	No	Yes	No (1. A sectoral subcommittee is constituted to develop and spearhead the policy formulation. 2. Engagements/consultations were done with several insurance companies on the process of developing the insurance policy)
Degree of IWRM Implementation	31.0%	100.0%	37%
Existence of National Water Policy	No	Yes	The ToR for the consultancy has been adopted.
Proportion of population having access to early warning information	60.0% (2023)	100.0%	65%

Source(s): *Department of Fisheries (2024); Department of Water Resources (2024)*

The sector continues to develop additional fish landing sites in the coastal villages of Kartong and Sanyang. If completed, these sites will help reduce spoilage and ensure higher-quality products for consumers and export markets. These facilities also create jobs, improve livelihoods, and empower coastal communities that depend on fisheries. Progress on the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), which offers a holistic approach to managing water resources sustainably, has stalled at 37 per cent since 2023. However, the Gambia acceded to the UN Watercourses Convention and the UNECE Water Convention in July 2023, signifying a strong political commitment to regional cooperation and international water law. These milestones are expected to significantly enhance IWRM implementation.

The development of the national water policy is ongoing as the evaluation report of the consultancy have been finalised and submitted to GPPA for approval. This policy, when developed, will serve as a blueprint to enhance productivity in the sector and address critical issues such as water allocation, quality standards, and infrastructure development. Access to early warning information has increased over the year under review, with an additional 5 per cent coverage compared to 2023, providing significant benefits to the population, particularly in mitigating risks and improving resilience.

23_ Table 5.3: 2024 progress on sustainable environmental and natural resources management, enhanced climate action, and disaster risk reduction

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @2027	Status @2024
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Existence of National Policy on Minimum Tree Cover	No	Yes	No (The policy is not still approved)
Creation of a Climate Change Budget Code	No	Yes	No (A project on developing climate expenditure and budget tagging codes in the System of National Accounts has already been launched)
Existence of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Secretariat	No	Yes	No (Final review sent to MOJ for their review)
Hectares of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas Gazetted	64,253ha	82,753ha	97,381.1ha
Existence of weather-based index risk financing mechanism	No	Yes	No progress

Source(s): Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (2024); Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change

Progress has been made in developing a policy for minimum tree cover, with the formulation of the cabinet paper; however, not much has progressed since 2023, when the policy was awaiting cabinet submission for approval. This policy is crucial for environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and biodiversity conservation, ensuring long-term benefits for environmental health and sustainable forestry practices.

Similarly, considerable advancement has been made in establishing an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Secretariat. The bill has been sent to the Ministry of Justice for legal advice, ensuring compliance with existing laws and regulations. The establishment of the ICZM Secretariat is expected to significantly enhance efforts to manage and protect coastal resources, ensuring their sustainable use and resilience against climate impacts.

There have been great strides in the area of coastal and marine protected zones, increasing from 64,253ha in 2023 to 97,381.1ha in 2024, surpassing the 2027 target. This progress results from the expansions of existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)- Bao Bolon, Kiang West, and Jokadu- and the designation of a new MPA, Kartong. This success is also attributed to enhanced community participation and involvement through co-management strategies for the sustainable use of natural resources.

2.6.2. Factors hindering progress

A modern, productive, and sustainable agriculture for food and nutrition security, economic growth and poverty reduction.

The outcome is constrained with key challenges such as: high cost of imported poultry feed, high susceptibility to disease, frequent theft, and high mortality rates, all of which reduce efficiency and profitability. The lack of cold chains contributes to post-harvest losses, particularly for perishable vegetables. The absence of robust value-addition measures further prevents producers from maximising their earnings. Research and development are also underfunded, especially in rice technology, which hinders innovation and the production of better crop types.

Land development remains costly, and traditional land ownership practices pose significant hurdles to

agricultural expansion. The lack of mechanisation stifles efficiency, keeping production largely at a domestic level rather than fostering commercial-scale farming. Agriculture is primarily rain-fed, and seasonal changes impact production and overall output. Small-scale farmers dominate the sector, growing crops mainly for household consumption rather than for large-scale production. Continuous soil cultivation has depleted fertility, leading to declining yields and reduced productivity. Addressing these constraints requires strategic investment, infrastructural development, and innovative farming practices to build a more sustainable agricultural sector.

A vibrant fisheries and aquaculture sector contributing to economic growth and employment creation

The fisheries sector faces difficulties in accurately disaggregating its contribution to the economy, as the percentage provided by the GBoS aggregates both agriculture and fisheries, making it challenging to assess its distinct impact. Additionally, the ineffectiveness of the subcommittee on artisanal fisheries and aquaculture insurance policy has hindered progress and decision-making within the sector, further complicating efforts to address key concerns. Delays in seeking approval from GPPA add another layer of inefficiency, slowing down necessary processes. Key priority programs, like insurance policy and contemporary post-harvest management systems, cannot be fully implemented due to a lack of resources.

Sustainable environmental and natural resources management, enhanced climate action, and disaster risk reduction

Accessing climate funds is hampered by stringent conditionalities, rigorous planning processes, and bottlenecks that delay their release, limiting timely interventions for climate resilience. Additionally, the slow pace of policy document review at the Ministry of Justice further delays administrative processes. The continuous management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is challenge by inadequate resources for effective governance and conservation. Furthermore, the technical nature of the creation of a climate change budget code demands high expertise and capacity, posing challenges in execution and sustainability.

2.6.3. Recommendations on the outcome

A modern, productive, and sustainable agriculture for food and nutrition security, economic growth and poverty reduction.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support private sector investment in poultry production • Encourage routine vaccination against NCD/gumboro /fowl pox. • Support pasture production and range land development • Support large-scale maize production to address poultry feed issues in the country.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance financial support for NARI to improve rice variety trials in different ecologies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a poultry production project to boost meat productivity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of new technologies for increased horticultural production

A vibrant fisheries and aquaculture sector contributing to economic growth and employment creation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the sector subcommittee on Artisanal fish landing sites to function properly to meet the target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide training to strengthen the skills and expertise of sector professionals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expedite the process of National Water Policy development Increase the Degree of IWRM Implementation Improve coordination, sector-specific data analysis, and streamlined approval mechanisms to enhance the effectiveness of fisheries management and development.

<p>Sustainable environmental and natural resources management, enhanced climate action, and disaster risk reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the bottleneck on acquiring climate funds Provide adequate funding and technical expertise for effective and efficient project implementation. Mobilise resources through proposal development and engagement of the private sector Promote stakeholder participation to foster inclusiveness and ownership Expedite Cabinet Paper to secure cabinet approval promptly Enhance resource allocation and capacity-building initiatives to improve efficiency and impact.

2.7 Pillar 6: Empowerment, Social Inclusion- Leaving No One Behind

This pillar aims to address issues such as empowerment and advocacy for social, economic, and political participation. The government is particularly concerned with empowering women, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly, as well as eradicating discrimination and stigma.

To address these issues and assure proper and effective implementation of programs, five (5) outcomes have been developed, and the rating of their implementation so far is shown below.

6 Box 6.1 Empowerment, Social Inclusion- Leaving No One Behind			
Outcomes	Dashboard		
	<i>(i.e. ratings on progress towards outcomes)</i>		
	On track	Constrained	No Progress
Empowered Gambian women economically, socially, and politically		✓	
Children are nurtured and enjoy their full rights and potentials in life		✓	

Enhanced economic opportunities and all-round social and cultural development for youth empowerment	✓		
Inclusiveness and care for persons with disabilities and older persons improved			✓
Inclusiveness, and care for Older Persons improved		✓	

There has been limited achievements registered under this Pillar in the year under review. Overall, 60 per cent of the outcomes are constrained, 20 per cent are on track and 20 per cent registered no progress.

2.7.1. Progress made towards achieving the outcome- Highlighting significant accomplishments and milestones

24_ Table 6.1: 2024 progress on empowered Gambian women economically, socially, and politically

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @ 2027	Status @ 2024
Proportion of women representation in cabinet	14.3%	30.0%	14.3%
Proportion of seats held by women in the National Assembly	8.6%	30.0%	The status remains the same, as the indicator is measured based on the election cycle
Proportion of seats held by women in Local Government Councils	14.0% (2023)	30.0%	The status remains the same, as the indicator is measured based on the election cycle
Proportion of Women in Managerial positions	36.1% (2022-23)	38.5%	No updated data available
Proportion of victims of sexual violence reporting their cases to competent authorities	1.5% (2020-21)	25.0%	No updated data available

Source(s): Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare (MoGCSW), Office of The President; National Assembly; Independent Electoral Commission (IEC); Gambia Bureau of Statistics (2023c) and MoTIE; and Gambia Bureau of Statistics (2021a)

The proportion of women's representation in the cabinet remains the same and is still below the recommended 30 per cent gender representation quota agreed during the 1995 United Nations Beijing Conference. Progress cannot be assessed on the increase in women's representation in the National Assembly and Local Government Councils because this can only be determined during the next election cycle, thus, their representation remains the same as the baseline. Similarly, for women in managerial positions and victims of sexual violence, there is no updated data available on these indicators. These can only be provided through the Gambia Labour Force Survey (GLFS) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) monitoring survey reports, respectively, and which reports are not readily available.

Progress made in this area includes women's economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods, and awareness on gender-based violence, including doing away with harmful traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriage. For the former, the practice was outlawed in the country in 2015, but the cultural belief and the practice persist. Notwithstanding, the government has adopted a National FGM Policy and Strategy for the Elimination of FGM in The Gambia 2022-2026 to end the practice in the country by 2030.

The increased advocacy and awareness programs on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment through the media, door-to-door campaigns, and extracurricular activities in schools helped improve progress under this pillar, especially for girls in education. Youth organisations also helped in advancing women's and girls' empowerment.

25_ Table 6.2: 2024 progress on children nurtured and enjoy their full rights

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @ 2027	Status @ 2024
Proportion of children under 5 who are registered at birth	59.0% (2019-20)	70.0%	No updated data available
Percentage of children attending the first grade of primary school who attended early childhood education	69.0% (2018)	89.0%	No updated data available
Number of childcare givers trained	0	300	60
Number of recreational centres built by region	0	7	0

Source(S): Gambia Bureau of Statistics; Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Welfare (2024); and Recreational centres built, MoGCSW; GDHS (2019/2020),

As of 2024, the data for children under 5 who are registered at birth is unavailable, as it can only be provided through DHS/MICS surveys. Therefore, progress on this indicator cannot be determined because these surveys were last conducted in 2019. Similarly, the latest data on children attending the first grade of primary school who participated in early childhood education is unavailable, since this data is derived from the said MICS survey. Furthermore, significant progress has been made in the number of childcare givers trained, rising from a baseline of 0 to 60 successfully trained childcare givers, which reflects substantial progress towards achieving the training goal. However, there is no progress made in building 7 recreational centres.

26_ Table 6.3: 2024 progress on enhanced economic opportunities and all-round social and cultural development for youths

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @ 2027	Status @ 2024
Youth (15-35 years) unemployment rate disaggregated by sex – (LU3)	National: 38.6% Male: 31.5% Female: 44.9% (2022-23)	National: 33% Male: 26.4% Female: 39.8%	No updated data available
Unemployment rate, by sex, age and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) (15 years and above) – (LU3)	National: 31.6% Male: 24.9% Female: 37.9% (2022-23)	National: 25.0% Male: 20.0% Female: 33.0%	No updated data available
Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) disaggregated by sex	National: 45.3% Male: 43.1% Female: 47.3% (2022-23)	National: 35.0% Male: 32.8% Female: 37.0%	No updated data available
Number of youth-owned businesses with access to finance	442	500	2060

Number of youth graduating from entrepreneurship trainings (National Youth Service Scheme (NYSS), National Enterprise Development Initiative (NEDI), President's International Award (PIA), by sex)	National: 1,110 Male: 631 Female: 479	National: 1,200 Male: 680 Female: 520	National: 2,815 Male: 2,438 Female: 377
Number of mini stadia built by region	5	7	6

Source(s): Ministry of Youth and Sports (2024); GBoS, LFS

Regarding the employment indicators, there is no updated data, and therefore, progress cannot be measured. The number of youth-owned businesses with access to finance showed a substantial increase, rising from a baseline of 442 to 2060 beneficiaries in 2024. This milestone increment reflects successful efforts to empower young entrepreneurs in determining the type of business to venture into, provide them with startup capital and expand their businesses, which is vital for economic growth and job creation.

The number of youths graduating from entrepreneurship training also showed a steady increment from 1,283 in 2023 to 2,815 in 2024. This shows an improvement in enhancing entrepreneurial skills among the youth. However, there is a gender imbalance, recommending more efforts to encourage young women's participation in these training programs to ensure equal benefits.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports has embarked on a mission of building a mini-stadium in each region to enhance sports infrastructure. From a baseline of five, the sixth mini-stadium is under construction in 2024, signifying progress. This development is crucial for promoting sports and physical activities among the youth, fostering community engagement, and providing venues for talent development.

27_ Table 6.4: 2024 progress on inclusiveness and care for persons with disabilities and older persons improved

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @ 2027	Status @ 2024
Employment to population ratio	Persons with Disability: 30.5% Persons without Disability: 40.8% (2022-23)	Persons with Disability: 35.0% Persons without Disability: 45.3%	No updated data available
Special Needs Schools built by Government in regions	0	3	0
Conduct a survey of public structures accessible to PwDs	0	1	0
Provision of disability service centres	1	3	1
Number of minibuses allocated to Special Needs School	2	5	0
Number of public transport services accessible to PwDs	1	3	1

Source(s): GLFS, GBoS and MoTIE; Survey report on public structures accessible to PwDs, Department of Social Welfare; Disability service centres, Department of Social Welfare (DSW); and public transport services accessible to PwDs, Gambia Transport Service Company (GTSC)

The status of the employment-to-population ratio for PwDs remains the same, with no updated data available. Currently, there is no special needs school built for PwDs by the government. The survey of public structures accessible to PwDs is yet to be conducted. Similarly, for the last three indicators on this outcome, no progress is registered due to the unavailability of funds.

28_ Table 6.5: 2024 Progress on Inclusiveness, and care for Older Persons improved

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @ 2027	Status @ 2024
Ratification of AU protocol on the rights of older persons	No	Yes	Yes
Existence of policy on older persons	No	Yes	No
Existence of research-based data on older persons in The Gambia	No	Yes	No
Availability of health insurance cover for older persons	No	Yes	No
Proportion of extremely poor households receiving formal transfers	16,966	36,966	18,966

Source(s): Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Welfare (MoGCSW); National Nutrition Agency (NaNA)

The ratification of the AU protocol on the rights of older persons has been successfully ratified, marking a key milestone in the protection and promotion of the rights of older persons. There is no data available on the indicators of the existence of policy on older persons, and research-based data on older persons. No progress has been registered on the availability of health insurance for older persons, however, there are plans for MoGCSW to include it in their 2025 work plan. The proportion of extremely poor households receiving formal transfers has registered significant progress, achieving up to half of the targeted number of beneficiaries.

2.7.2. Factors hindering progress

Empowered Gambian women economically, socially, and politically

The outcome is significantly constrained due to factors such as the untimeliness of surveys and delays in survey reports; lack of a quota system for appointments and elections; unreported cases of sexual harassment and gender-based violence; male dominance in decision-making; low political representation of women; low self-esteem; child marriage; religious, cultural, and traditional beliefs; limited income; and absence of infrastructural development schemes for women and girls.

Enhanced economic opportunities and all-round social and cultural development for youths

The absence of updated data makes assessing progress on employment indicators difficult. In terms of entrepreneurship training, there has been a tremendous improvement, but there is no gender balance due to the nature of the curriculum, which is largely male-related. Additionally, the training centres are predominantly located in the urban centres, making it difficult for those from rural areas to attend.

Children nurtured and enjoy their full rights

Some of the factors hindering progress include limited access to basic child’s needs such as early childhood education, public knowledge on child protection and the rights of the child unavailability of surveys to gauge the indicators monitoring child’s right; absence of recreational centres for children; and lack of tracking mechanisms for child abuse and exploitation.

Inclusiveness and care for persons with disabilities and older persons improved

Factors hindering progress include attitudinal barriers such as prejudice, discrimination, and stigma; environmental barriers that limit or pose challenges to PwDs accessing schools, public facilities, and public transportation; and institutional barriers that exclude or segregate PwDs from employment, the legal system, and health service provisions.

2.7.3. Recommendations on the outcomes

Empowered Gambian women economically, socially, and politically
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a quota system • Strengthen the implementation of the existing gender policy • Timely preparation for the conduct of SDGs surveys in 2025 • Conduct more advocacy programmes for women empowerment

Enhanced economic opportunities and all-round social and cultural development for youths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more grants and loans to the youth and ease the matching grant • The inter-agency collaboration between the state and local councils should be improved • Build more training centres in the regions to curb youth unemployment • Provide entrepreneurship training for young women to close the gender gap • Timely conduct of Labour Force Survey

Children nurtured and enjoyed their full rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular conduct of DHS/MICS to ensure data availability • Improve investment in public health education • Conduct sensitisation on child rights and needs

Inclusiveness and care for persons with disabilities and older persons improved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular conduct of DHS/MICS to ensure data availability • Provide a friendly and good working environment for PwDs • Improve the social benefits of PwDs • Conduct a study on public structures accessible to PwDs • Operationalise the Disability Fund

Inclusiveness, and care for Older Persons improved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate a policy for older persons • Conduct research on older persons • Fast-track the implementation of the planned activities for older persons • Provide funds for the implementation of the National Health Insurance Scheme for the benefit of older persons.

- Provide adequate funds to expand the scope of the family strengthening programme for older persons

2.8 Pillar 7: Energy, Infrastructure and Information Communication Technology (ICT) connectivity

The government recognises the crucial role of infrastructure and connectivity in economic transformation and, as such, will continue to consolidate efforts and implement strategic infrastructure projects in the areas of energy, transport, and ICT. The Pillar covers three clusters, namely: i. petroleum, energy, and minerals; ii. transport infrastructure and iii. ICT Digitalisation.

7 Box 7.1: Energy, Infrastructure and Information Communication Technology (ICT) connectivity			
Outcomes	Dashboard		
	(i.e. ratings on progress towards outcomes)		
	On track	Constrained	No Progress
Accessible and affordable energy for all and effective policies, legal and regulatory frameworks in place for sustainable development of petroleum and mining resources;		✓	
Land, river, sea and air transport expanded and strengthened for affordability, accessibility and competitiveness		✓	
A digital/ICT and broadband nation attained.		✓	

Overall, all the outcomes under this pillar are constrained.

2.8.1. Progress made towards achieving the outcome- Highlighting significant accomplishments and milestones

29 Table 7.1: 2024 progress on accessible and affordable energy for all and effective policies, legal and regulatory frameworks in place for sustainable development of petroleum and mining resources

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @ 2027	Status @ 2024
Percentage of households with access to electricity	61.2% (2019-20)	100.0%	No updated data available
Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	2.5% (2019-20)	10.0%	No updated data available
Existence of Policy, Legal and Regulatory (PLR) reforms for the downstream petroleum sector	No	Yes	Yes
Existence of a mines and minerals policy framework	No	Yes	No progress

Source(s): Gambia Bureau of Statistics (2020); Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (2024)

Progress on the percentage of households with access to electricity and the proportion of the population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology cannot be measured due to the unavailability of updated survey data. However, the administrative data for these indicators shows a 65.60 and 50 per cent increase, respectively, from the baseline. This progress is attributed to the implementation of ongoing projects such as GERMP, ECOREAP, and GEAP also contributed to the recorded achievements.

30 Table 7.2: 2024 progress on Land, River, Sea, and Air Transport expanded and strengthened for affordability, accessibility and competitiveness

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @ 2027	Status @ 2024
Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road	63.4% (2021)	75.0%	No updated data available
Passenger volumes by mode of transport	Air: 356,865	Air: 500,000	Air: 446,070
	Maritime/River: 3,863,738	Maritime/River: 4,500,648	Maritime/River: 3,118,354
Existence of a National Multi-modal Transport System (NMTS)	No	Yes	No
Existence of a Multimodal: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) for the Greater Banjul Area (GBA)	No	Yes	No (Contract signed for the review of the Motor Traffic Act and draft inception report submitted)
Number of kilometres of urban roads constructed	261.56 (2021)	511.56	71.87km
Number of kilometres of rural roads constructed	64.3 (2021)	578.3	115.05km
Fourth Banjul port expansion programme implemented	No	Yes	No (A concession agreement with a private partner (Albayrak Group of Turkey) was signed)
Intermodal freight logistics terminal (Dry port) constructed	No	Yes	No (A concession agreement with a private partner (Albayrak Group of Turkey) was signed)
Number of ferries plying the Banjul/Barra Sea route	3	4	2
A revised air transport regulatory framework	No	Yes	No
Existence of a National Public Building and Facilities Authority	No	Yes	No
Number of government office complexes constructed	0	1	0
Number of Embassy complexes constructed	1 (2021)	4	1
Number of regional Governors' office complexes constructed	2	5	2

Source (s): Gambia Bureau of Statistics (2021a, 2022); Transport and Infrastructure Sector Newsletter (2024)

There has been an increase in passenger volumes by mode of transport. The sector during the year under review recorded 446, 070 and 3,118,354 for air and Maritime/River, respectively. This achievement is attributable to an effective and efficient safe and fully integrated transport system and public works infrastructure, which are responsive to the socio-economic needs of the public.

MoTWI is committed to the introduction of a Multimodal Bus Rapid Transit to reduce congestion and ease traffic flow. Finalisation of the procurement process of getting a consultant to conduct a Climate Resilient- Integrated Transport Master Plan (CR-ITMP) Study 2025 -2050 is at an advanced stage. The Contract is to be signed with the contractor by the end of April 2025, and an inception report is to be submitted one month after signing the contract agreement.

The number of kilometres of urban and rural roads constructed during the year under review is 71.87 and 115.05 respectively. MoTWI is committed to roads infrastructural development and construction of about 193km and 586km urban and rural roads respectively is ongoing which upon completion will facilitate the flow of goods and services to promote economic development.

The implementation of the Fourth Banjul Port expansion programme remains a priority for government. This will serve as a catalyst for strengthening The Gambia's position as a major trade and transport corridor hub within the Atlantic Trade Hub, thus improving economic growth. Progress registered was the signing of a concession agreement with a private partner (Albayrak Group of Turkey) to expand and rehabilitate the Port of Banjul and develop a deep-sea port in Sanyang.

In addition, the implementation of the intermodal freight logistics terminal (Dry port) is in progress. A concessionary agreement has been signed with Albayrak, which involves the development of logistics platforms in both Kaur and Basse to enhance trade.

Government plans to procure two additional green ferries and one of which has already been funded by the AFDB as part of the Fourth Port Expansion Programme. Additionally, contract has already been signed with Damen shipyard for a second green ferry and the upgrading of the Banjul Barra Terminal. The design and costing of the government office complex have been completed by a consultant. This will be followed by EOI and RFP drafting to be given to a contractor through a procurement process using PPP.

There were no new embassies constructed during the year under review however, request for Proposal (RFP) has been developed for the construction of Dakar and Abuja Embassies. The process for tendering is ongoing and the Embassy in Saudi Arabia model will be used as a baseline design for the construction of the above Embassies.

During the year under review, the design of the Governor's office complex in Upper River Region (URR) and the evaluation of the contract has been completed. Construction work has started with 31 per cent progress registered so far.

31_Table 7.3: 2024 progress on digital/ICT and broadband nation attained

Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target @ 2027	Status @2024
Proportion of individuals who own a mobile phone	81.0% (2019-20)	100%	No updated data available
Existence of a second undersea fiber optic landing cable	No	Yes	No (Evaluation of the technical and financial proposals of shortlisted firms is ongoing)
Existence of an integrated payment gateway system	No	Yes	No (A technical committee comprising key stakeholders has been established to expedite the implementation process)
Existence of a national tier-4 Data	No	Yes	No (MoCDE is currently finalizing the constitution of a dedicated high-level multistakeholder working group to spearhead this initiative)
Broadband internet subscription as a proportion of total internet subscription	59.0% (2021)	85.0%	No updated data available

Source (s): Gambia Bureau of Statistics (2020); Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy (2024)

There is no updated data to measure progress for the proportion of individuals who own a mobile phone (with mobile cellular subscription). However, administrative data from the sector showed that the country has surpassed the 2027 target to 130 per cent. This progress is attributed to a combination of factors such as the existence of digital infrastructure (base station (2G)) in strategic locations across the country, establishment of business-friendly policies for GSM companies to operate, desire for uptake and use of social media platforms, increased awareness on the benefits of using smart phones, advancement in e-commerce service among others.

A second undersea fibre optic has been earmarked to ensure the availability of additional bandwidth to meet connectivity needs across all sectors. This will help address the first-mile redundancy constraint. Recruitment of a transaction advisor to oversee the deployment of the cable is at an advanced stage. Evaluation of technical and financial proposals of shortlisted firms is ongoing. Furthermore, MoCDE is also committed to the implementation of the integrated payment gateway system to boost market access for traders especially Micro Small and Medium Enterprises thus ensuring seamless transactions for business and digital financial service providers. A technical committee comprising key stakeholders has been established to expedite the implementation process.

2.8.2. Factors hindering progress

Accessible and affordable energy for all and effective policies, legal and regulatory frameworks in place for sustainable development of petroleum and mining resources

The issue of updated data to track the status of implementation remains a challenge. Moreover, land compensation issues relating to access and affordable energy for all and inconsistencies between the Petroleum Exploration, Development and Production Act 2004 and some of the legislations that interact with the upstream petroleum subsector are also some of the challenges under this outcome.

Land, River, Sea, and Air Transport expanded and strengthened for affordability, accessibility and competitiveness

Availability of data remains a challenge to assess the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road. A study has not been conducted due to a lack of funding, which may affect the achievement of the Rural Access Index (RAI). The RAI is among the most important global development indicators in the transport sector.

The existing electrical supply system at BIA is not sufficient to cater for the increased power demand in the terminal building and beyond. At BIA, the ground-based navigational aid is obsolete and has outlived its useful lifespan. Currently, the Doppler VHF Omni Range (DVOR) is not functioning and this has potential effects on aircraft operations at the airport. The procurement process for the replacement has commenced. The high cost of spare parts and inadequate ready-made spare parts remain a critical challenge.

Slow progress in finalizing the revised air transport regulatory framework due to getting the bill adopted by Cabinet and subsequently enacted by the National Assembly. Furthermore, delays in payments of contractors also affect the timely completion of most of the infrastructural projects.

Digital/ICT and broadband nation attained

The challenges include: high cost of broadband services, inadequate digital skills, underutilization of the ACE capacity, unreliable electricity supply, ageing national ICT infrastructure and low prioritisation of ICT infrastructure development. Additionally, low ICT infrastructure in both public and private institutions, poor coordination, inadequate resources to support rollout, prolonged and protracted procurement process also contributed to the low progress.

2.8.3. Recommendations on the outcomes

Accessible and affordable energy for all and effective policies, legal, and regulatory frameworks in place for sustainable development of petroleum and mining resources

- Develop new regulations and strengthen existing policies on LPG
- Develop the Petroleum Revenue Management Act for the effective management of petroleum resources.
- Increase GLF allocation to conduct regular MICS/DHS

Land, River, Sea, and Air Transport expanded and strengthened for affordability, accessibility and competitiveness

- The Ministry of Finance to allocate resources for the SDG survey to be conducted (to account for RAI)
- Upgrade electrical facilities at BIA and procure a new DVOR system
- Procure additional ferries to improve ferry services
- Embark on advocacy and resource mobilisation targeting bilateral and multilateral partners to carry out more infrastructural developments
- Separate regulatory and operational functions of GCAA in line with international standards

Digital/ICT and broadband nation attained

- Prioritize scaling up digital skills and literacy to ensure rapid adoption and utilisation of ICT solutions
- The government and partners should invest resources to improve the ICT infrastructure, ICT innovation ecosystem, and research and development
- MoCDE should put in place responsive policy and regulatory frameworks to improve ICT service delivery
- Strengthen collaboration among key stakeholders and promote a whole of government approach to the deployment of the national payment switch

Chapter 3

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

3.1 Overview of RF-NDP Financing

The Government of The Gambia developed a Recovery-Focused National Development Plan (RF-NDP) 2023-2027; locally branded “YIRIWAA”, with the overarching goal of “*consolidating gains in democratic governance, accelerate green economic and social transformation and build resilience to shocks and crises*”. The Plan mainstreams Agenda 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063. The RF-NDP was approved by Cabinet in April 2023 and Cabinet Sub-Committee; chaired by the Vice President, was formed to oversee the implementation of the Plan. The Plan has three Strategic Objectives which are:

Following Cabinet approval of the Plan and official launching, the Government of The Gambia developed a Financing Strategy to serve as a framework for mobilizing resources and building partnerships to implement the RF-NDP. The estimated funding requirement for the **optimistic funding scenario** for the RF-NDP Financing Strategy is **US\$ 2.80 billion**, whilst the **conservative funding scenario** is estimated to have a funding gap of **US\$ 2.213 billion**. The Financing Strategy clearly outlined the required resource envelope to implement the plan’s underlying Strategic Objectives, Pillars, programmes and expected outcomes.

3.2 Donor Financing Development Partners Investments

The Plan and the accompanying Financing Strategy take into consideration the challenging external environment triggered by the global economic, climatic and other shocks, developments in the international development financing landscape, as well as the domestic financing context, as described in the sections that follow. Despite these challenges and the fact that a donor roundtable is yet to be convened to mobilise resources to finance the plan, the Government has, in the first two years of the Plan, been relentless in its efforts to mobilise committed and anticipated resources at both domestic and international levels.

As shown in Table 1 below, as at end 2024, about US\$789.6 million have so far been mobilised and invested in the implementation of the RF-NDP from 2023 to 2024. Similarly, US\$ 351.2 million and US\$ 438.4 million were invested towards the implementation of RF-NDP in 2023 and 2024, respectively.

32_ Table 8.1: Development partners Investments into the RF-NDP in 2023 and 2024

Source	Disbursement 2023 US\$	Disbursement 2024 US\$
<i>Multilaterals/Bilateral loan</i>	102,824,711.59	82,613,439.00
<i>Multilaterals/Bilateral Grants</i>	169,984,229.22	144,752,301.33
<i>European Union</i>	47,933,128.26	27,143,326.01
<i>UN System</i>	30,460,447.21	31,841,909.97

<i>GLF</i>		152,093,640.67
Total	351,202,516.28	438,444,616.98
	Grand total	789,647,133.26

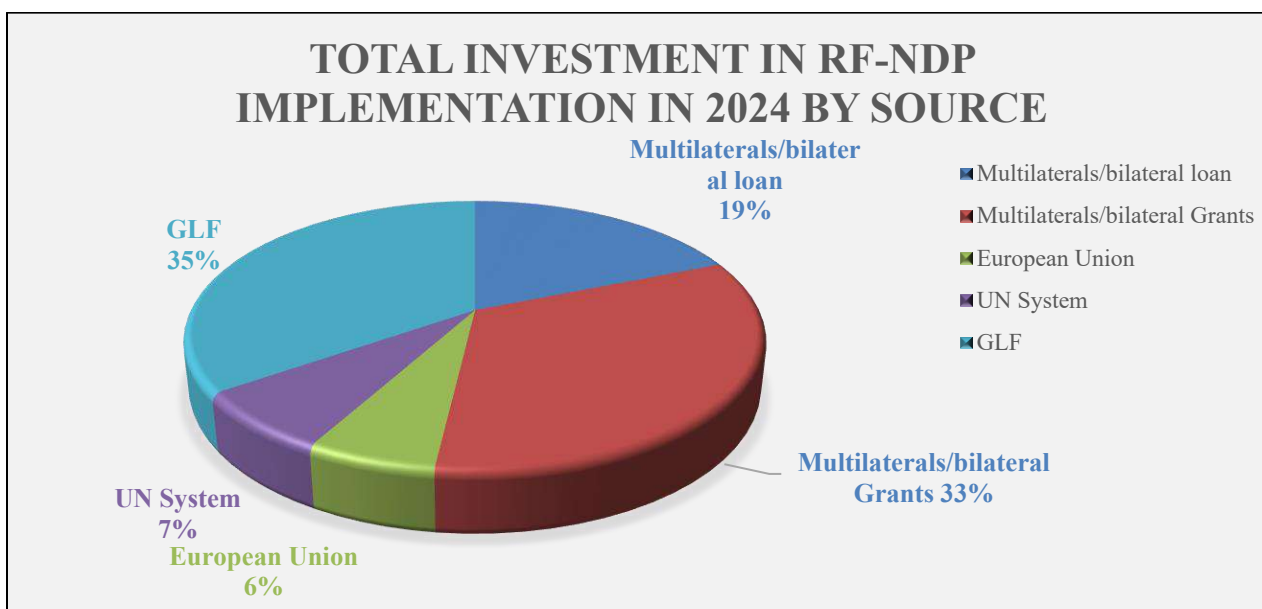
Development Partners and GLF Investments

On its part, the Government also made substantial investments during the one-year period, investing close to US\$ 152.1 million towards the implementation of the Plan. Overall, government investment constituted about eight per cent (35%) of the total investments, as seen in Table 2 below

33_ Table 8.2: Overall RF-NDP Investments (Development Partners and GLF)

Source	Total Disbursement 2024 US\$	Percentage (%)
Multilaterals/bilateral loan	82,613,439.00	19
Multilaterals/bilateral Grants	144,752,301.33	33
European Union	27,143,326.01	6
UN System	31,841,909.97	7
GLF	152,093,640.67	35
Grand Total	438,444,616.98	100

Figure 2: Financial Investments in RF-NDP 2023-2024



Bilateral and Multilaterals/Grants

In terms of Multilateral and bilateral grant support, mainly Pillar III *Macroeconomic Stability and Growth*, which received the highest disbursement. This could be attributed to the budget support received during the year under review, mainly geared toward improving macroeconomic stability. However, the resources may be allocated or earmarked for investment in other pillars. Also, two of our key development partners, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, are now offering only grants and a very small amount of highly concessional loans. Details are shown in Table 3 below.

34_ Table 8.3: Multilateral and Bilateral Grants by Pillar

RF-NDP PILLARS	Disbursement 2023 (US\$)	Disbursement 2024 (US\$)	Total	Percent
Pilla I Resilience to Shocks and Crises	0	0	0	0.00%
Pilla II Governance Reforms	13375760	0	13375760	4.25%
Pillar III: Macroeconomic Stability and Growth;	61828947	51273899	113102846	35.94%
Pillar IV: Human Capital Development.	36192895	40706785	76899681	24.43%
Pillar V: Agriculture, Environment, Natural resources and Climate Change	36859620	25081837	61941457	19.68%
Pillar VI: Empowerment, Social Inclusion	6448534	624147	7072681	2.25%
Pillar VII: energy, infrastructure, (ICT) Digital connectivity	15278473	27065633	42344106	13.45%
TOTAL	169984229	144752301	314736531	100.00%

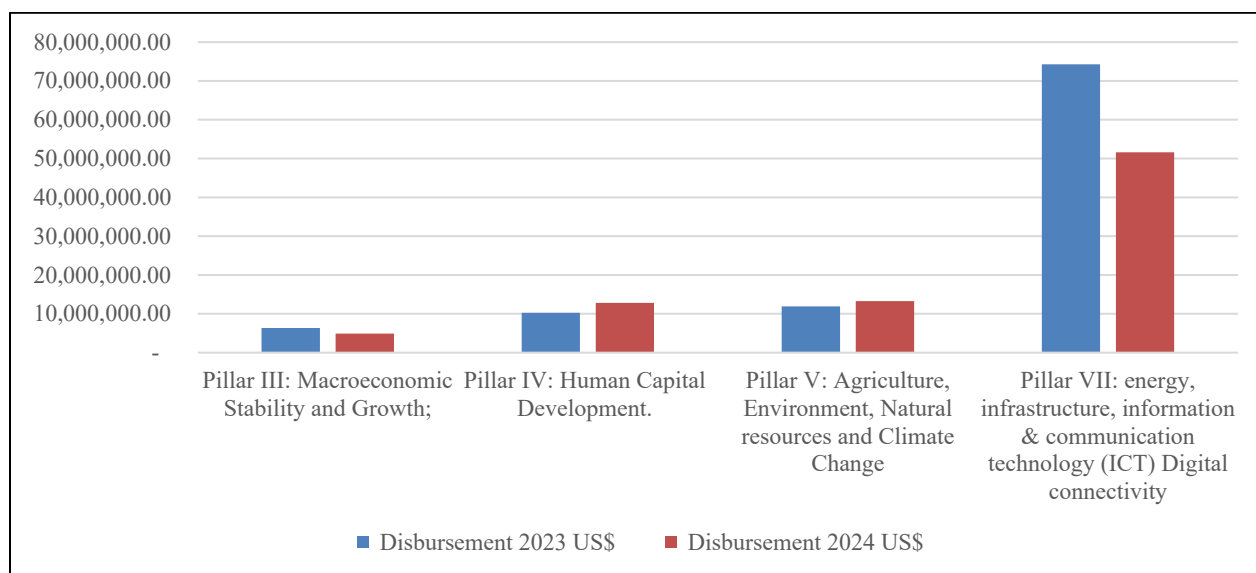
Loans

In terms of Multilateral and bilateral loans support, mainly Pillar VII, *Energy, Infrastructure, (ICT)/Digital Connectivity* received the highest investment due to the capital-intensive nature of the Pillar, largely driven by roads and bridges construction, ICT connectivity, energy and infrastructure (building constructions – UTG, USET). Details are shown in Table 4 below.

35_ Table 8.4: Multilateral and Bilateral support for RF-NDP Implementation

PILLAR	Disbursement 2023 (US\$)	Disbursement 2024 (US\$)	Total	Percent
Pilla I Resilience to Shocks and Crises	0	0	0	0.0
Pilla 2 Governance Reforms	0	0	0	0.0
Pillar III: Macroeconomic Stability and Growth;	6343618.471	4897226.024	11240844.5	6.1
Pillar IV: Human Capital Development.	10283888.65	12824573.64	23108462.29	12.5
Pillar V: Agriculture, Environment, Natural resources and Climate Change	11911967.36	13288899.69	25200867.05	13.6
Pillar VI: Empowerment, Social Inclusion	0	0	0	0.0
Pillar VII: energy, infrastructure, (ICT) Digital connectivity	74285237.11	51602739.64	125887976.8	67.9
Total	102824711.6	82613439	185438150.6	100.0

Figure 3: Multilateral/Bilateral Loan Support to the RF-NDP



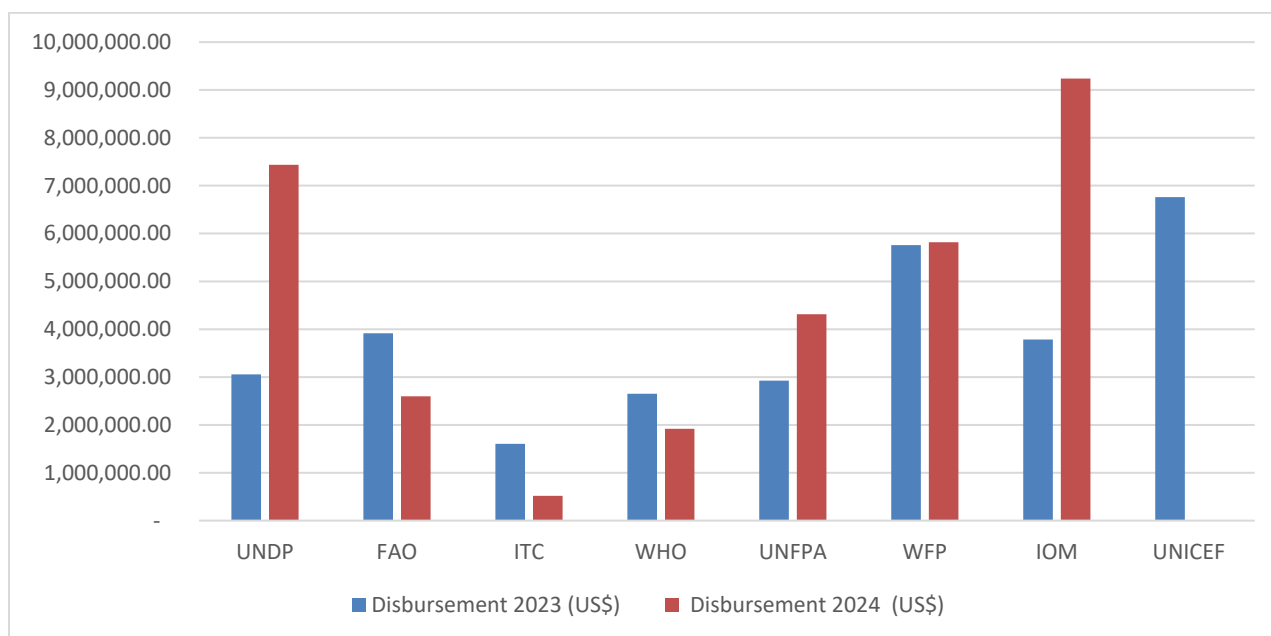
UN System Support

Total UN system support towards the RF-NDP Implementation from 2023 to 2024 amounted to US\$ 62,302,357.18. It should be noted that some bilateral supports are channelled through the UN System for implementation.

36_ Table 8.5: UN total disbursement (2024)

UN Agencies	Disbursement 2023 (US\$)	Disbursement 2024 (US\$)	Total
UNDP	3,056,198.34	7,437,252.62	10,493,450.96
FAO	3,916,479.00	2,598,312.00	6,514,791.00
ITC	1,605,201.47	517,408.13	2,122,609.60
WHO	2,651,851.00	1,919,930.00	4,571,781.00
UNFPA	2,926,088.36	4,311,577.03	7,237,665.39
WFP	5,757,602.02	5,818,933.00	11,576,535.02
IOM	3,784,744.02	9,238,497.19	13,023,241.21
UNICEF	6,762,283.00	0	6,762,283.00
TOTAL	30,460,447.21	31,841,909.97	62,302,357.18

Figure 4: UN Agencies Support to the RF-NDP



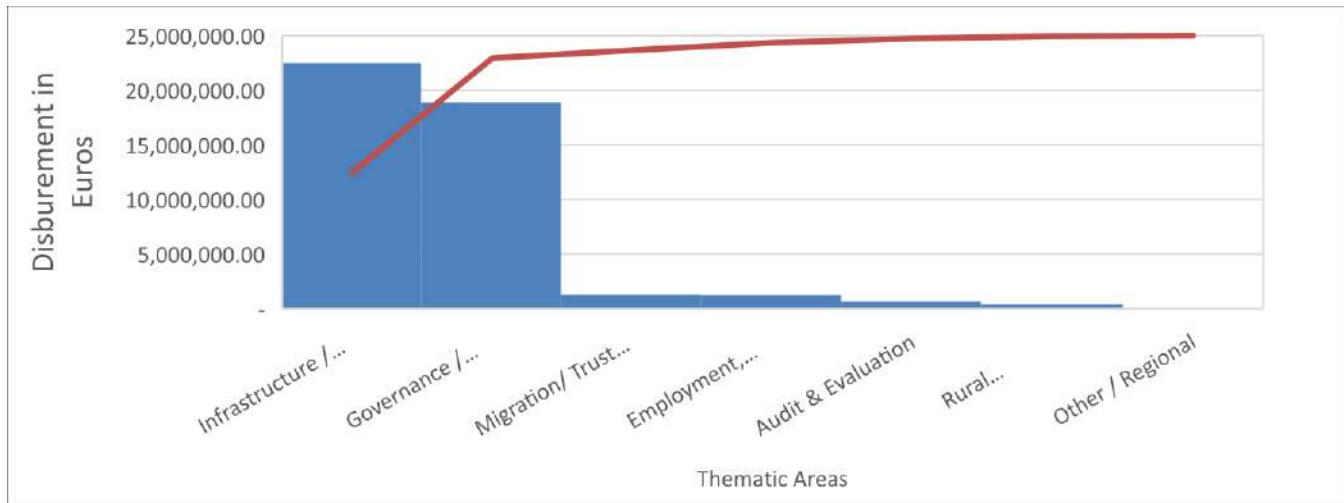
EU Support

Total EU support towards the RF-NDP Implementation from 2023 to 2024 amounted to €70,683,413, predominantly in Governance / Security / Rule of Law and Infrastructure / Energy / Climate change / Transport Thematic Areas. It should be noted that some EU support is channelled through the UN System and Multilaterals for implementation.

37_ Table 8.6: Total EU disbursements by sectors (in US Dollars)

Thematic Area	Disbursement (2023) Euro	Disbursement (2024) Euro	Total
Rural Development/ Agriculture/Food security	408,582.70	1,825,443.15	2,234,025.85
Governance/Security/Rule of Law	18,904,449.49	12,957,604.24	31,862,053.73
Employment, inclusive sustainable growth/ Trade	1,252,030.83	1,257,173.72	2,509,204.55
Migration/Trust Fund	1,295,542.45	1,753,127.00	3,048,669.45
Infrastructure/ Energy/Climate change/Transport	22,507,722.72	7,104,899.15	29,612,621.87
Other/ Regional	81,065.43	565,462.09	646,527.52
Audit & Evaluation	678,964.83	91,346.00	770,310.83
Total	45,128,358.45	25,555,055.35	70,683,413.80

Figure 5: EU Support Towards RF-NDP Implementation (2023 and 2024)



3.3 GLF budget allocations and expenditures

An analysis of expenditure on the RF-NDP initiatives reveals an amount of Ten Billion, Five Hundred and Six Million, Six Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety-Seven Dalasi and Thirty-four bututs (GMD10,506,628,697.34) was spent by the Government in the fiscal year 2024. This represents 42 per cent of the total Government expenditure and net lending over the period. Most of these poverty-reducing expenditures (39.04% amounting to four billion, one hundred and two million, three hundred and three thousand, three hundred and one dalasi and seventy-four bututs (GMD4,102,303,301.74)) were in the education sector. Expenditure included support for the school feeding program for Basic Education, which was one hundred and eighty-eight million, three hundred and ninety-nine thousand, seven hundred and six dalasis, and ten bututs (GMD188,399,706.10 million), and the School Improvement Grant (SIG) amounting to three hundred and sixty-five million, one hundred and seventy-nine thousand, two hundred and seventeen dalasi (GMD365,179,217.00 million).

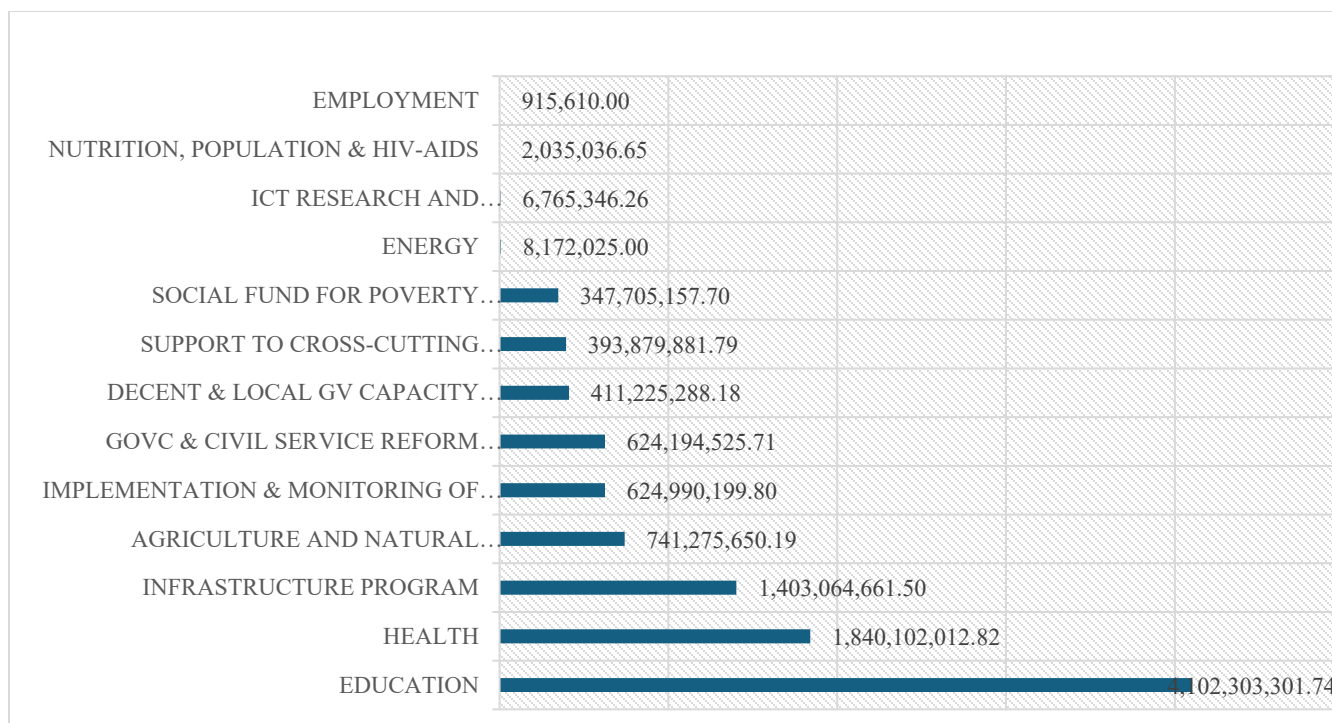
Health expenditures amounted to one billion, eight hundred and forty million, one hundred and two thousand, twelve dalasis, and eighty-two bututs (GMD1,840,102,012.82), representing 17.51 per cent of poverty-reducing expenditure. In contrast, spending on agriculture amounted to seven hundred and forty-one million, two hundred and seventy-five thousand, six hundred and fifty dalasi, and nineteen bututs (GMD741,275,650.19), representing 7.06 per cent of poverty-reducing expenditure. Expenditure on health supports hospitals and agencies, which usually benefit from transfers from the national budget. This amounted to nine hundred and fifty-one million, eight hundred and twenty-eight thousand, two hundred and forty-two dalasis, and thirty-two bututs. GMD951,828,242.32.

For agriculture and natural resources, most of the expenditure was on input subsidies, including support for organic fertilisers and seeds for farmers. These expenditures amounted to three hundred and eighty-one million, one hundred and forty-three thousand, six hundred and seventy-eight dalasis (GMD381,143,678.00).

Infrastructure spending was also high, amounting to one billion, four hundred and three million, and sixty-four thousand, six hundred and sixty-one dalasis, and fifty-bututs (GMD1,403,064,661.50), representing 13.35 per cent of total expenditure on the RF-NDP initiatives. Full details of the spending on the RF-NDP initiatives are listed in Table 3.1.1 below.

Note that these expenditures only relate to those from locally generated Government revenues or Government Local Funds (GLF).

Figure 6: Total Spending (in Dalasi)



3.4 Analysis of financial performance against targets

38_ Table 8.7: 2024 budget analysis on RF-NDP initiatives (in Dalasi)

NDP INITIATIVES	BUDGET	TOTAL SPENDING	% OUTTURN	% of POVERTY BUDGET
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AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES	1,000,768,192.00	741,275,650.19	74.07	7.06
EDUCATION	4,383,867,555.00	4,102,303,301.74	93.58	39.04
HEALTH	1,924,029,465.00	1,840,102,012.82	95.64	17.51
NUTRITION, POPULATION & HIV-AIDS	3,595,000.00	2,035,036.65	56.61	0.02
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM	2,170,383,176.00	1,403,064,661.50	64.65	13.35
SOCIAL FUND FOR POVERTY REDUCTION	400,640,385.00	347,705,157.70	86.79	3.3
IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING OF SPAII	1,142,835,350.00	624,990,199.80	54.69	5.95
SUPPORT TO CROSS-CUTTING PROGRAMS	388,016,623.00	393,879,881.79	101.51	3.75
ICT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	10,920,000.00	6,765,346.26	61.95	0.06
DECENT & LOCAL GV CAPACITY BUILDING	537,192,991.00	411,225,288.18	76.55	3.91
GOVC & CIVIL SERVICE REFORM PROGRAM	769,151,768.00	624,194,525.71	81.15	5.94
EMPLOYMENT	6,285,000.00	915,610.00	14.57	0.01
ENERGY	13,724,700.00	8,172,025.00	59.54	0.08
TOTAL POVERTY PROGRAM	12,751,410,205.00	10,506,628,697.34	82.40	100.00

Source(s): Budget Performance Report - Poverty for End of Year 2024

Chapter 4

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR COORDINATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

4.1. Introduction

The institutional framework is to ensure that all stakeholders play their roles in the implementation of the National Development Plan for a strong accountability and results. Government, Civil Society organisations, the private sector and development partners all have roles to play, and the extent of their collaboration will determine the achievement of the objectives of the plan.

This chapter provides the findings and recommendations on the review of the institutional arrangement and monitoring and evaluation framework around the RF-NDP.

4.2. Coordination arrangements for implementation

There are various committees within the institutional arrangement which aim to provide, among others, coordination, leadership, strategic guidance, oversight support, budget scrutiny, resource mobilisation, monitoring of milestones, and reporting during the implementation of the plan. The relevant committees are as follows:

- i. The Cabinet Sub-Committee provides policy support and strategic direction,
- ii. The National Assembly Select Committee provides oversight and budget scrutiny
- iii. The National Technical Steering Committee provides strategic guidance and direction for the overall implementation of the RF-NDP
- iv. Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) undertakes bi-annual policy dialogue with policymakers, civil society, and private sector organisations to discuss development priorities, align strategies, and coordinate efforts.
- v. Sector Working Groups coordinate all sector activities relating to national development plan formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- vi. The National Monitoring and Evaluation Platform will be established to facilitate monitoring and reporting of the RF-NDP.
- vii. The Regional Technical Advisory, Ward Development Committee (WDC) and Village Development Committees (VDC) ensure regional and local development plans are aligned with the national development plan as well as the SDGs
- viii. The Directorate of Development Planning (Secretariat) is the coordinating body for all the committees and oversees the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the RF-NDP.

39_ Table 8.8: 2024 Annual Review of the Institutional Framework of RF-NDP

Structure	Status	Assessment of Functionality	Key Challenges	Recommendation
Cabinet Sub-Committee	Established	The committee has overseen the national launch of the RF-NDP and also reviewed and approved the roadmap leading to the resource mobilisation conference	Irregular meetings	There is a need for regular meetings
National Assembly	Not Established	Although a specific committee has not been established, but National Assembly coordinates sector-specific development agendas, which are anchored on the RF-NDP	This committee has not been engaged in its oversight function of the RF-NDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a sensitisation with the select committee and inform them about their oversight function in the implementation of the RF-NDP.
National Technical Steering Committee	Not established, but members identified	Not functional, however, the coordination is happening through the PSS' Quarterly Retreats, which are anchored on the progress report of the implementation of the RF-NDP	Financial constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expedite the setting up of the national steering committee Conduct regular meetings to assess RF-NDP implementations Continue using the Permanent Secretary's (PS) retreats and develop a follow-up mechanism to monitor progress on RF-NDP implementation. Provide funding for the establishment and functionality of the committee
Development Cooperation Forum	Not held	The development cooperation forum has not been organised since the launch of the RF-NDP	Coordination issues	MoFEA needs to ensure that DCF is conducted before the end of 2025
Sector Working Groups	Established	Functional, they participate in the formulation, implementation, and assessment of the RF-NDP	Due to the large membership, resource is a challenge	Allocate resources to facilitate quarterly meetings
National Monitoring and Evaluation Platform	Established	Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System through DHIS2 is under development	Delay in getting the required resources to implement the DHIS2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building for planners in various MDAs MoFEA needs to follow up with the EU to strengthen the functionality of the DHIS2 Also, create a budget line for administrators under DDP
Regional Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Established	Although not effectively engaged, Regional Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) are established and coordinating region-specific development agendas, which are anchored on the RF-NDP	The TAC members have not been sensitised about their roles	MoFEA needs to notify the TAC through the Ministry of Lands, Regional Government, of this new role.

The above assessment shows that four out of the eight RF-NDP implementation institutional structures have been established during the year under review, and as such, there is an urgent need for the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs to ensure that the remaining structures are established and operational. These structures are key to strengthening coordination, partnership and collaboration in the implementation of the RF-NDP.

4.3. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation cut across the institutional arrangement underpinning the implementation of national development plans. M&E will be conducted at executive, sectoral, and regional levels to ensure transparency and accountability in the management of national resources.

The M&E processes are an integral part of implementing the RF-NDP. An M&E plan including a results matrix was developed where each pillar has a set of outcomes, indicators (disaggregated to appropriate levels) with baselines and targets to facilitate the tracking and reporting of implementation progress. A comprehensive metadata for the RF-NDP indicator framework has been developed.

Monitoring and evaluation capacity is relatively weak due to limited expertise in the civil service. To enhance monitoring and reporting, DHIS2 will be strengthened through EU support to facilitate real-time, accurate, timely, and transparent tracking of progress on development results on the RF-NDP. The support also includes technical assistance and capacity building of the Planning Cadre to ensure effective operationalisation of the system.

Additionally, annual progress reviews, mid-term and end-term evaluations will be conducted by the Directorate of Development Planning and supported by the Sector Working Groups.

Chapter 5

CONCLUSION

5.1. Summary of key Achievements, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

The Annual Progress Report 2024 assessed progress, challenges and lessons learnt across different pillars of the RF-NDP

Pillar I: Resilience to Shocks and Crises: Government, in collaboration with partners, is committed to supporting communities and households recover from shocks and crises and build resilience. Progress cannot be measured for this Pillar due to the delay in the commencement of the PACD Phase II as a result of resource constraints. The government should build upon existing initiatives and ensure the implementation of PACD Phase II to achieve the desired outcome of the Pillar.

Pillar II: Governance Reforms: The governance sector continues to register steady progress towards putting up necessary institutions and legal and regulatory frameworks to ensure effective, accountable and inclusive governance at national and regional levels. Also, during the year under review, progress has been registered in reforms in the area of LGAs public finance management, security sector, climate change governance, transitional justice, implementation of TRRC recommendations and civil service governance. However, delay in the adoption of the new constitution and revised Local Government Act, limited technical and financial resources, as well as lack of up-to-date data, impeded progress in the sector. Government, through the relevant institutions, will continue to intensify efforts to strengthen transitional justice, climate change governance and security sector reforms to deliver the desired outcomes.

Pillar III: Macroeconomic Stability and Inclusive Growth: Macroeconomic stability and inclusive growth are a top priority of the Government, as sound monetary and fiscal policies are important for poverty reduction, social equity, and economic growth. Economic growth has, over the year under review, improved due to a stabilising macroeconomic environment, constituted by both the government and the private sector, and recovery in tourism related activities.

The manufacturing sector faces viability challenges such as high cost and erratic electricity, multiplicity of taxes, and competition from imports. Also, the private sector's growth is hindered by limited national quality infrastructure and high formalisation costs. Overall, high debt levels and inflationary pressures continue to affect fiscal stability in the economy.

To address these challenges and consolidate the gains, the government will continue to monitor the performance of key sectors such as services and agriculture, as the country strives to expand and diversify the economy.

Pillar IV: Human Capital Development: Government is committed to the advancement of human capital development by enhancing education and healthcare service delivery, improving the nutritional status of children under five years and women of childbearing age and increasing access

to safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and hygiene. In light of this, the government is making progress on achieving the outcome of equitable access to quality and relevant education for all, quality, accessible and affordable health care services delivered for all. However, despite these gains, the sector faces challenges related to resource constraints, the absence of updated data and inadequate capacity.

Pillar V: Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change: This sector creates employment, supports export earnings, ensures food security, and contributes significantly to GDP. The Government actively promotes modern, productive, and sustainable agriculture and natural resources management to ensure food security and stimulate economic growth. The impact of climate change continues to pose a challenge to the sector. However, with the support of partners, the government is committed to implementing strategies such as climate-smart agriculture, value chain addition, and sustainable commercialisation of the agricultural and fisheries sector.

Pillar VI: Empowerment, Social Inclusion and Leaving No One Behind: The government will continue to implement strategies and priorities under this pillar to enhance empowerment and inclusivity. Also, the Government is making efforts to enhance women's representation at the decision-making level, both at the national and regional levels. Increased advocacy and policy reforms in the sector have enhanced gender empowerment and bolstered women's rights. The lack of sufficient data to assess progress on this pillar remains a challenge.

Pillar VII: Energy, Infrastructure, and ICT Connectivity: Government recognises the crucial role of infrastructure and connectivity in economic transformation and, as such, will continue to consolidate efforts and implement strategic infrastructure projects in the areas of energy, transport, and ICT. Advancements in energy access and ICT infrastructure are notable through multiple electricity and ICT infrastructure-related projects. Delays in energy procurement processes and limited ICT infrastructure development due to resource constraints and coordination issues among stakeholders remain a challenge.

In conclusion, the report highlights a steady progress in the actualization of the RF-NDP targets. Despite these achievements, there is need for more collaborative efforts from all stakeholders to address the constraints affecting progress in the implementation of the Plan. More investments, data availability and capacity building efforts are required to strengthen the drive towards the realisation of the desired outcomes.

Chapter 6

WAY FORWARD

6.1. Recommendations for Policy Adjustments or Interventions

1. **Stronger Partnerships, Coordination, And Collaboration:** The country should continue to strengthen a robust system of coordination that includes both the political and technical arms of government as well as stakeholders in civil society, private sector and the international development partners. Additionally, the government should ensure committees under the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Plan are established and functional to strengthen monitoring and reporting.
2. **Focusing On Domestic Resource Mobilisation and Innovative Financing:** The ongoing global crisis makes access to funds to finance development a challenge. There has been a paradigm shift as more attention is given to countries that are going through wars and other natural calamities to rebuild and restore hope in the minds of victims and vulnerable families. It will therefore be imperative that the financing of the RF-NDP becomes a priority for the country to explore the best possible means of harnessing local resources innovatively.
3. **Promote Investments on Agriculture, Fisheries and Natural Resources:** The government should provide the necessary infrastructure that will promote investment in agriculture, fisheries and natural resources to improve the country's socio-economic development.
4. **Accelerate Legal Reforms:** Accelerate the approval and enactment of critical policies such as the Climate Change Act, National Waste Management Act, and Forestry Act. Mobilise resources and streamline processes to ensure effective implementation.
5. **Strengthen Decentralisation and Local Governance:** The existing Local Government Act needs to be revised to align with ongoing decentralisation and local governance reforms. Strengthen LGA capacity in public finance management to promote efficiency and accountability.
6. **Improve Data Availability and Capacity Building:** Provide resources to address the inadequacy of up-to-date data and enhance capacity building for effective data management and reporting.
7. **Strengthen Efforts on Migration Management:** The Government should put in place policies and programmes that will promote investment opportunities to create youth employment.

6.2. Strategies for Improvement Based on Lessons Learned

1. **Resource Mobilisation and Advocacy:** Strengthen advocacy and resource mobilisation efforts to raise the required resources for the RF-NDP implementation.
2. **Strengthen Coordination and Monitoring:** Encourage regular meetings for all the committees under the institutional arrangements and ensure the development of the DHIS2 for effective monitoring and evaluation of the RF-NDP outcomes.
3. **Foster Stakeholder Participation:** Foster stakeholder consultations and inclusivity to gather their perceptions and opinions on issues related to national development. This will help enhance ownership and accountability, thus ensuring the sustainability of development gains.
4. **Facilitate Legal and Administrative Reforms:** Digitise administrative processes to reduce

bureaucracy and improve efficiency and effectiveness. Expedite the timely formulation of policies and legal documents to aid the ongoing legal and administrative reforms.

These recommendations and strategies aim to address the challenges faced during the reporting period and provide a clear path forward for achieving the goals outlined in the RF-NDP.

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ANNEX 1: DONOR COMMITMENT AND DISBURSEMENT BY SECTOR

Creditor Name	Instrument Title	2023 Total US\$	2024 Total US\$	2023 Total (GMD)	2024 Total (GMD)
PILLAR 1					
PILLAR 2	STATE AND RESILIENCE BUILDING CONTRACT (SRBC 4) FOR THE GAMBIA	13,375,759.51	-	836,520,000.00	
sub-total		13,375,759.51	-	836,520,000.00	-
Pillar 3	INCLUSIVE GROWTH PROMOTION INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROJECT	-	181,265.18		12,521,798.40
	GAMBIA FISCAL MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT 2	7,799,312.78	3,663,366.73	487,769,021.01	253,065,373.92
	Gambia Inclusive and Resilience Agricultural Value Chain Development Project	17,098,612.59	8,140,893.26	1,069,347,231.46	562,372,906.09
	Tourism, Diversification, and Resilience in The Gambia Project	-	4,203,160.21		290,354,307.60
	Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa Advance Agreement	23,832.12	-	1,490,460.80	
	Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa - Series of Projects 1 (HISWACA-SOP)	3,459,231.38	8,421,317.05	216,340,330.40	581,744,581.82
	PUBIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAM (PFM-ERP) PHASE 1	6,758,560.34	-	422,680,363.89	
	2023 French Budget Support to Macroeconomic Stabilization	2,072,273.74	-	129,600,000.00	
	AFD 2024 BUDGET SUPPORT - No CONVENTION AFD CGM 1022 02H	-	5,414,881.30		374,060,000.00
	sub-total		37,211,822.95	30,024,883.73	1,904,547,043.67
Pillar 4	Technical Assistance for financing the services of an Arab expert in teaching Arabic language	81,294.28	65,395.04	5,084,144.41	4,517,489.15
	Potable Water Supply for Rural Schools in The Gambia	77,786.48	30,024,883.73	4,864,766.40	
	Climate Smart Rural WASH Development Project - 2018005	148,644.70	504,080.35	9,296,239.42	34,821,870.25

	The Gambia Essential Health Services Strengthening Project	10,296,311.91	-	643,931,346.59	
	Second Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence for Development Impact Project	3,407,438.11	1,850,042.95	213,101,179.40	127,800,966.82
	Additional Financing for the Essential Health Services Strengthening Project	12,660,679.35	22,129,454.18	791,798,886.51	1,528,702,694.62
	Sub-Saharan Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project Advance Agreement (PPA)	203,637.34	-	12,735,479.29	
	The Gambia Resilience, Inclusion, Skills and Equity Project	-	11,273,035.51		778,741,293.10
	The Gambia Resilience, Inclusion, Skills, and Equity Project - TRUST FUND \$1.9Million	-	140,628.81		9,714,638.53
	The Gambia Resilience, Inclusion, Skills, and Equity Project - Trust Fund	-	771,406.52		53,288,762.18
	The Gambia Second Boosting Resilience and Unlocking Productive Potential DPF	-	29,219,331.75		2,018,471,436.96
	Third Additional financing for The Gambia COVID-19 Vaccine Preparedness and Response Project	4,684,684.27	-	292,980,154.10	
	Climate Smart Rural WASH Development Project - 201800601	269,094.96	238,411.35	16,829,198.67	16,469,456.32
	Cilmate Smart Rural Wash Development Project	-	14,194.26		980,539.64
	Sub-Saharan Africa Womens Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Plus Project	3,470,132.78	1,695,326.05	217,022,104.37	117,113,123.23
	Second Additional Financing for The Gambia Essential Health Services Strengthening Project-173287	1,041,835.91	2,528,890.44	65,156,418.00	174,695,751.53
sub-total		36,341,540.09	100,455,080.92	2,202,778,732.76	2,846,846,585.37
PILLAR 5	Gambia Agriculture and Food security Project	4,080,027.99	2,940,404.31	255,164,950.73	203,123,129.56
	Additional Financing - Rice Value Chain Transformation Programme (RVCP)	3,070,442.83	33,986.68	192,025,494.33	2,347,800.00
	Transition Support Facility (TSF)	521,633.61	170,576.97	32,622,965.81	11,783,457.35
	Climate Smart Rural WASH Development Project - Additional Financing	1,713,051.50	3,507,857.49	107,134,241.01	242,322,795.31
	Rice Value Chain Transformation Programme	225,060.45	26,517.64	14,075,280.62	1,831,838.63
	Rice Value Chain Transformation Programme (RVCP) - TSF Pillar I	31,189.90	-	1,950,616.19	

	GAMBIA INCENTIVE- BASED RISK SHARING SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURAL LENDING ESTABLISHMENT PROJECT	172,371.39	1,544,008.59	10,780,107.00	106,660,113.38
	GAMBIA AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM - TRUST FUND	-	1,768,407.26		122,161,573.76
	Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project (ROOTS) - DSF Grant	5,931,049.80	-	370,927,854.36	
	Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project - AFD	980,607.61	-	61,327,200.00	
	Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project 2023	719,991.64	-	45,028,277.46	
	Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project 2024	-	2,693,477.13		186,065,400.00
	West Africa Coastal Areas Resilience Investment Project 2 - GM	1,716,844.12	2,707,604.44	107,371,431.31	187,041,314.49
	The Gambia First Boosting Resilience and Unlocking Productive Potential DPF with Cat DDO	41,194,102.64	-	2,576,279,178.90	
sub-total		60,356,373.48	15,392,840.51	939,565,011.35	1,059,157,783.85
pillar 7	The Gambia Electricity Access Project	971,725.92	1,214,599.84	60,771,738.85	83,904,556.67
	The Gambia Electricity Access Project (GEAP) - TSF PILLAR I	3,381,646.28	4,124,904.29	211,488,158.66	284,948,388.69
	Banjul Port 4th Expansion Project - ADF Grant	-	2,617,653.99		180,827,537.38
	Vulnerable Youth and Women Support Project	-	624,147.43		43,116,104.60
	The Gambia Electricity System Rehabilitation and Expansion Project- 2100155042818	-	13,318.25		920,025.00
	Gambia Electricity Restoration and Modernization Project	434,305.10	-	27,161,441.06	
	The Gambia Social Safety Net Project	6,448,533.83	-	403,291,305.89	
	GAMBIA ELECTRICITY RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION PROJECT (GERMP)	10,801,239.34	11,177,504.46	675,509,508.44	772,142,008.29
	Western Africa Regional Digital Integration Project	653,306.61	-	40,857,795.11	
	Digital Transformation for Africa/ Western Africa Regional Digital Integration Program SOP1	-	8,887,224.91		613,929,496.66
	The Gambia Electricity System Rehabilitation and Expansion Project (GESREP)	-	13,318.25		920,025.00
	Trans-Gambia Corridor Project (River Crossing)	7,976.10	231,708.46	498,825.16	16,006,420.61

	Grant in Relation to The Gambia River Basin Development Organization (OMVG Energy Project)	-	-		
sub-total		22,698,733.18			
			28,904,379.89	1,391,918,506.95	1,814,046,975.52
Grand Total		169,984,229.22	174,777,185.05	7,275,329,294.73	7,794,170,312.57