

UNLOCKING Progress 2019-2023



Highlighting UNDP's Notable Achievements in Partnership with
the GoTG from 2019 to 2023

<https://www.undp.org/gambia>

WELCOME TO

Unlocking Progress

Welcome to a comprehensive booklet on UNDP's transformative journey in The Gambia since 2019. Delve into our remarkable initiatives and partnerships. Despite challenges, UNDP has empowered communities, improved livelihoods, and built resilience through collaborations with the government and local organizations. Explore the impact of the "Programme for Accelerated Community Development" (PACD) and our involvement in the "Migration Project." Witness our efforts in empowering youth and women in agribusiness, promoting economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social justice. Learn about our dedication to improving healthcare infrastructure, addressing the oxygen shortage, and combating COVID-19. UNDP's commitment transcends development, shaping a brighter future for The Gambia since 2019.



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Green-Recovery National Development Priorities

UNDP's pivotal role in The Gambia's National Development Plan (NDP 2018-2023) involved harmonizing efforts with the country's broader objectives. In the same vein, it contributed significantly to the formulation of a Green Recovery-Focused NDP (2023-2027) to address challenges posed by COVID-19, climate change, and debt risk.

UNDP facilitated extensive consultations across the nation, involving over 5,000 participants, making it The Gambia's most inclusive planning process. They supported 12 Sector Working Groups, involving over 200 participants, in identifying NDP priorities.

UNDP's commitment to capacity building equips Gambian institutions for effective NDP implementation. These NDP priorities will inform UNDP's forthcoming Country Programme Document, closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, reinforcing UNDP's dedication to The Gambia's sustainable and prosperous future.

ADVANCING

Transitional Justice & Human Rights in The Gambia

UNDP has been instrumental in advancing transitional justice and human rights, particularly through its support for the Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission (TRRC). Since January 2019, the TRRC has conducted 22 public hearings, hearing testimonies from 393 witnesses, including victims, perpetrators, experts, and virtual testimonies via Skype. Additionally, 2599 individuals provided statements, and about 50,000 Gambians were engaged through nationwide outreach programs.

TRRC's work also extended to reparations, with the finalization of policy and working documents and the establishment of a Victim's Reparations Fund, supported by government and public contributions. Interim reparations were provided to 144 individuals and 76 children. The Commission submitted a comprehensive final report to the President in November 2021, comprising 17 volumes with 427 findings and 218 recommendations.





The government's victim-centered approach paves the way for reconciliation, justice, reparations, and prevention of recurrence. Symbolic actions like renaming Arch 22 as the "Never Again Memorial Arch" pay tribute to victims. UNDP collaborates with OHCHR, government bodies, and civil society to support the TRRC recommendations. Initiatives include reviewing the Draft Victims Reparations Bill, strengthening human rights legislation, and building capacity in government institutions, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), and CSOs. UNDP also aids the NHRC in monitoring and advocating for TRRC recommendations, resulting in "A" status from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in March 2022. These efforts contribute to The Gambia's transitional justice, human rights, and national healing, fostering a more just and peaceful society.



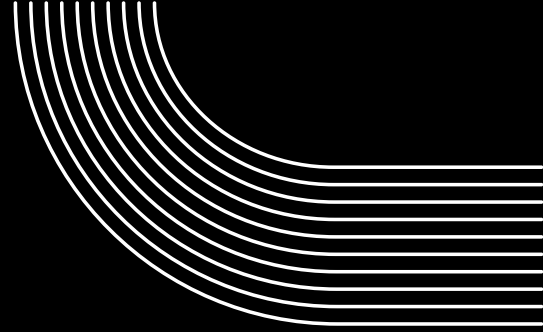


REVITALIZING

Democracy

The Inter-Party Committee (IPC) plays a crucial role in fostering political dialogue, cooperation, and democratic processes in The Gambia. It promotes national reconciliation, consensus-building on political and electoral issues, and unity among political parties, contributing to peaceful elections. Before 2016, the IPC was largely dormant due to disputes between government and opposition representatives, hindering its effectiveness. However, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), it was revived in 2016, bringing all Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)-registered political parties together to address political challenges ahead of presidential elections.





... a force for peace

A significant milestone was reached on March 7, 2017, when all parties signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Code of Conduct under the IPC's umbrella. This historic event reinforced their commitment to peaceful, democratic processes and paved the way for increased cooperation.

The IPC emerged as a vital force for peace and stability, coordinating inter-party relationships and fostering non-partisan discussions. However, challenges in capacity and funding hindered its progress until UNDP and partners stepped in.



ELECTIONS BILL 2020

The IPC established a headquarters, registered as a corporate entity, and increased inter-party dialogues. Notably, it played a key role in reviewing the Elections Bill 2020.



SEVERAL MILESTONES

The IPC achieved several milestones, including transparent press conferences, a Youth Branch for youth involvement, a Women's Branch to boost women's political roles, and a Mediation Committee for dispute resolution. .



DIALOGUE FOR DEMOCRACY

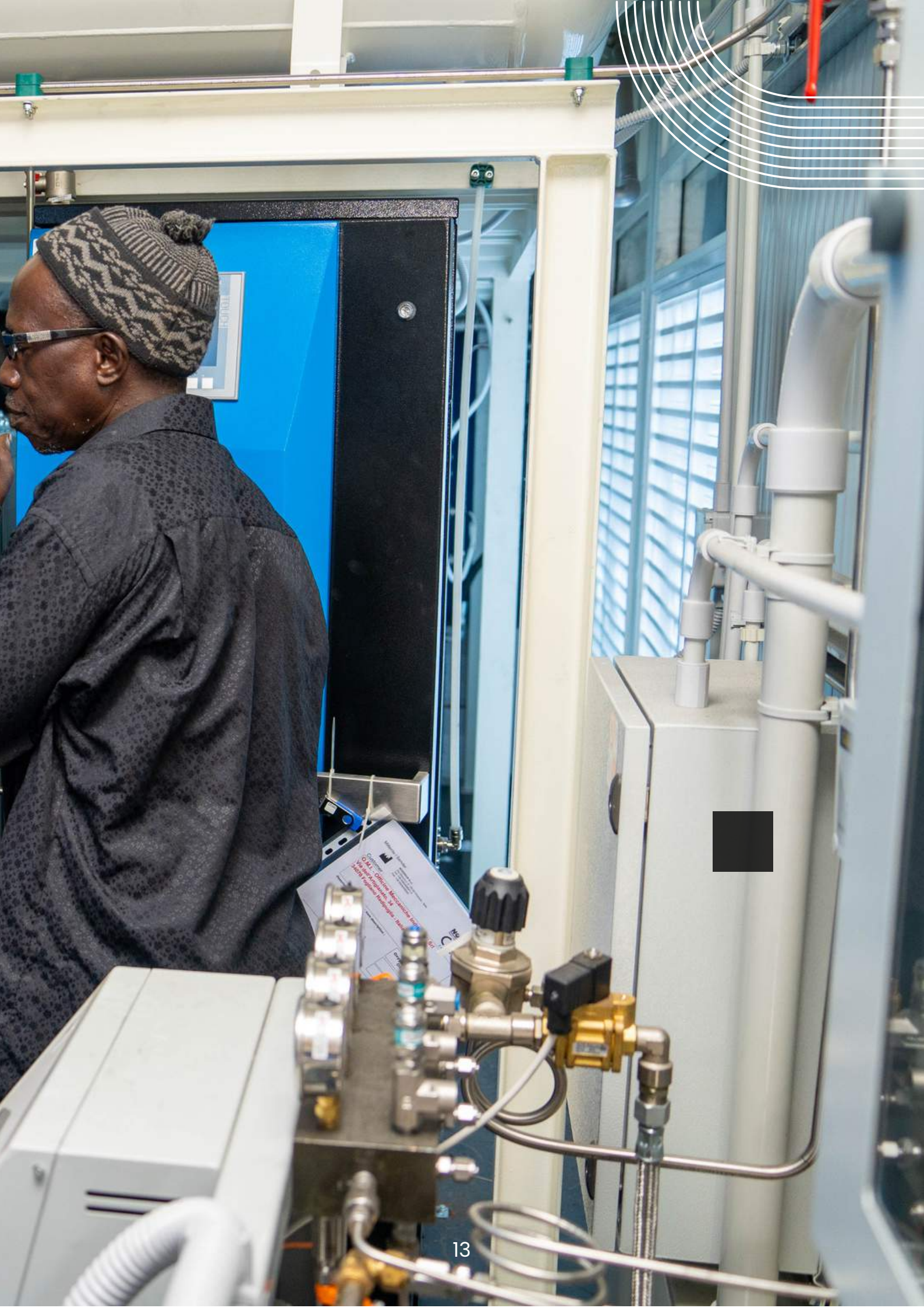
Collaboration with the University of The Gambia on electoral violence prevention research highlights their dedication to enhancing democracy and unity for a peaceful future in The Gambia, showcasing the power of dialogue and cooperation in advancing democracy.

A man in a white lab coat is seen from the side, looking at a piece of medical equipment. The equipment has various pipes and a black hose. In the background, there is a blue wall with some white text. The overall scene is a clinical or laboratory setting.

BUILDING

Healthcare Resilience

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the urgent need to strengthen The Gambia's fragile healthcare system to respond effectively to various illnesses. In collaboration with UN agencies, the government, and the private sector, UNDP initiated the rehabilitation of an abandoned health clinic to expand healthcare capacity during the pandemic. The Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital (EFSTH) Bakau Center was transformed from 24 to 88 beds, aiming to become a Center of Excellence for Health Science studies and a specialized hospital. This success reflects a fruitful partnership between UNDP, the World Bank (WB), World Health Organization (WHO), and the private sector, dedicated to bolstering healthcare infrastructure in The Gambia.



OXYGEN PLANT SUPPLIED WITH THE SUPPORT

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA
& PARTNERS**

GROUP & UNDP



GROUP



World Health
Organization



oxygen plants' initiative

In collaboration with the World Bank and WHO, UNDP facilitated the acquisition of The Gambia's first government-owned oxygen plant, marking a vital healthcare milestone. The country had faced oxygen shortages, relying on imports before the pandemic. In 2022, UNDP's support led to the installation of an oxygen plant at Ndemban Clinic, producing 50 cubic meters per hour. Two more plants, funded by the Global Fund with UNDP's procurement assistance, were installed at EFSTH Banjul and EFSTH Bansang, further strengthening healthcare and reducing dependence on external sources for oxygen.



SUPPORTING

Graduate Scheme

The Ministry of Youths and Sport and the University of The Gambia (UTG) with the support the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has launched an innovative Graduate Scheme Program. This program aims to provide recent UTG graduates with hands-on job experience across both the public and private sectors.

To optimize resource utilization and efficiency, UTG, supported by UNDP, established a dedicated recruitment center in 2021. This center streamlined the selection process for the graduate program. Additionally, an assessment tour was conducted to assess capacity needs in Local Government institutions, ensuring that graduates could offer services tailored to the specific requirements of each council. The pilot phase of the program spanned six months and covered various specializations, including Finance, Audit, Procurement, Planning and Development, Management, and Information Technology. The first phase engaged twenty-four students and graduates, with the second cohort including twenty-eight individuals.



This UNDP partnership has significantly improved the quality of services delivered in Municipalities/Area Councils and Governors' offices. Furthermore, it has exposed students and recent graduates to the world of development work, instilling a sense of selfless service to their communities.


The Graduate Scheme effectively bridges capacity gaps within the eight Local Government Area Councils and Governors' offices while simultaneously offering graduates valuable professional work experience and potential employment prospects.

The financial projection for the first cohort amounted to approximately D1,890,000 for graduate stipends, with D383,200 allocated to administrative expenses. This encompassed recruitment, deployment, induction training, psychometric tests, and logistical requirements.

The program has yielded numerous success stories, including the identification of payroll discrepancies, budgetary savings, and community engagement initiatives that extended beyond their assigned tasks. These graduates have been lauded as outstanding ambassadors and role models in the field of developmental work.

Key program results encompass active involvement in budget preparations, IT training for council employees, updates to council cashbooks, formulation of project proposals, need-based assessments, and performance appraisals. All these efforts contribute to enhancing council performance.


Ultimately, the Graduate Scheme has not only enriched the capacities of UTG graduates but has also provided them with a solid career foundation. This enables them to compete for employment opportunities and actively contribute to national development endeavors.



EMPOWERING

Communities for Sustainable Development

The Migration Project, titled "Addressing the drivers and causes of vulnerability in migration among border communities along the Trans-Gambia transport corridor," is a collaborative initiative involving several organizations, including UNDP. This effort is jointly executed by the International Trade Centre (ITC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and UNDP, in close partnership with the Gambian Government, represented by the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration, and Employment (MOTIE), and the Ministry of Interior (MOI).



UNDP's key role focuses on empowering border communities, especially youth and women, through agribusiness and entrepreneurship training. Collaborating with MOTIE, UNDP partners with Gambia Songhai Initiative (GSI) for comprehensive training in market gardening, poultry management, and sustainable waste-to-fertilizer practices. UNDP, in partnership with ITC, provides resources for poultry farming, avoiding duplication. It plans to mentor all 54 beneficiaries and offer significant entrepreneurship support to 30 participants. Additionally, UNDP supervises the rehabilitation of GSI's poultry house damaged by windstorms, reinforcing community development and resilience. These efforts enhance human capital, agricultural productivity, and socio-economic development, benefiting The Gambia.



Programme Target
Surpassed

Programme for Accelerated Community Development

The Programme for Accelerated Community Development (PACD) is a government-funded flagship initiative in The Gambia, launched under the leadership of the President and coordinated by the Department of Strategic Policy and Delivery within the Office of the President.



This programme strategically aligns with key development frameworks, including the National Development Plan (2018-2021), UNDP's 2030 Agenda, and Africa Agenda 2063.

The primary goal of the PACD Model is to narrow the socio-economic infrastructure and services gap in marginalized and remote communities, with the ultimate aim of reducing disparities between rural and urban areas. It emphasizes social inclusion, sustainable development, and community ownership, with a particular focus on empowering women and girls as agents of positive change and social transformation.



In 2022, when it provided crucial socio-economic infrastructure and services to 79 communities. These interventions included clean water, electricity, labor-saving equipment, and dairy livestock, surpassing the program's target by 8%.



Notable achievements included the installation of Labor-Saving Devices, support for milk production, expanded electricity access, and GIS training.



Continued support for initiatives like the PACD is vital to address disparities, inequalities, and promote inclusive development in The Gambia, aligning with the SDGs.

PARTNERSHIPS

EU-UNDP GREAT Initiative

The EU-UNDP GREAT Initiative, aimed at supporting The Gambia's democratic transition, was unveiled during the Stakeholder Conference and Donor Roundtable on the Implementation of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) Recommendations. H.E. Adama Barrow, President of The Republic of The Gambia, officially introduced the initiative.

Initiative Overview



The EU-UNDP GREAT Initiative, funded by the European Union with 9 million Euros, will be executed in partnership with the Ministry of Justice from 2023 to 2027. It focuses on three key objectives:

- Promoting consensus on constitutional and legislative reforms.
- Enhancing transitional justice, human rights, rule of law, and human rights processes.
- Strengthening local governance structures.

The launch marks a significant milestone in The Gambia's democratic transition journey, highlighting the collaborative efforts of the European Union, UNDP, and the Government of The Gambia in promoting good governance and human rights. The initiative aligns with the National Development Plan (NDP) 2023-2027 Pillar II on Governance Reforms, reflecting the nation's aspiration for a transparent, accountable, and responsive democratic system.



...sive and Accountable
...c Transition

GREAT initiative

**Initiative was unveiled
2023 by His Excellency
...ent of The Republic of**

Gambia

...eriod: 2023-2027

...LION EUROS



CLIMATE PROMISE

Despite minimal contributions to global warming, The Gambia is highly vulnerable to climate change. UNDP, through the Climate Promise initiative, has significantly supported the revision of The Gambia's Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC2). This updated NDC is hailed as one of the most Paris Agreement-compliant. UNDP's role includes:

- Expanding quantified mitigation and adaptation targets beyond 2030.
- Broadening NDC2 to include transport, forestry, and various gases.
- Enhancing methods, data quality, and the MRV (Measurement, Reporting, and Verification) system.
- Evaluating the country's mitigation potential to inform the NDC.

This collaboration strengthens The Gambia's commitment to effective climate action.



RULE OF LAW & JUSTICE

UNDP supports initiatives aimed at reforming and modernizing the justice sector. This includes enhancing the capacity and efficiency of courts, improving legal aid services, and promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Its support plays a vital role in building a just and inclusive society where the rights of all citizens are protected, and the legal system operates effectively and fairly.



SMART CITIES

The Country Office was chosen as an implementing partner for the Smart Cities Pilot Project, in collaboration with the Singapore Center for Technology, Innovation, and Sustainable Development. In June 2022, the Smart Cities project was officially launched and handed over to the Banjul City Council.



AHUNNA EZIAKONWA, UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL, UNDP ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR AND UNDP REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA VISIT TO THE GAMBIA

During the visit of the UNDP RBA Director from November 21 to 23, 2022, key stakeholders, including the government, UNDP beneficiaries, the UNCT, and staff, were engaged. The mission objectives encompassed positioning UNDP within The Gambia's transition, highlighting initiatives like PACD, and enhancing staff morale through RD interaction.

The RD's mission aimed to:

- Assess The Gambia's development prospects in the face of global challenges, such as health and climate crises, while leveraging regional resources like the Sahel Offer and AfCFTA.
- Evaluate progress on The Gambia's development plan and promote UNDP's role in areas including PACD, Governance, Youth, and Renewable Energy.
- Explore UNDP's contribution to the country's development agenda and its role as the UNDS integrator.
- Discuss the utilization of democratic progress for regional integration, peace, stability, and SDG achievement.
- Review UNDS reform and identify innovative solutions for UNDP's integrator role.
- Review UNDP's progress and challenges to enhance staff morale and commitment.

The agenda comprised various meetings, site visits, and interactions aimed at addressing these objectives, and your participation was highly valued during this significant mission.

