

UNDP-GAMBIA COUNTRY OFFICE



BRIEF NOTE ON PARTNERSHIPS

- UNDP is widely recognized by Government, development partners, academia, private sector and civil society as a key knowledge provider and convener of multiple actors on security, economic and peace-building reforms, to guarantee the rights of women and men and ensure inclusive economic growth. For instance, efforts on domesticating the UNDP Global Gender and Macro-Economic Policy Management Initiative (GEPMI), have facilitated analytical studies and policy dialogues on the gender impacts associated with external borrowing and the debt burden.
- Perhaps the highest point of UNDP's collaborative efforts with IMF and World Bank on the economic reconstruction of the Gambia, was the policy advice and implementation support towards the **institutionalization of value-added tax in 2015**. Tax to gross domestic product ratio increased from 15 per cent in 2007 to 17 per cent in 2015, as per the Gambia policy brief on domestic resources mobilization, 2015. This came to fruition partly through UNDP's policy advice and institutional capacity development towards domestic resource mobilization, in line with the follow-up commitments of the Third Conference on Financing for Development that took place in Addis Ababa between 13th and 16th July 2015.
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment has been fundamental in opening policy dialogue and communication campaigns that highlight women's role in the economy, and in regional trade and the informal sector, with evidence in form of visuals, profiles and success stories, such as that on Try Oyster Women's Association, which depicts women's role in balancing economic with environmental sustainability, through harvesting of oysters and cockles without damaging the coastal defence system provided by the mangroves see: www.gm.undp.org.
- UNDP in partnership with IOM, is known for coordinating different actors on issues of illegal migration amongst the youth, sex and human trafficking as well as violence against women and girls. UNDP has provided knowledge, partly through the National Human Development Report and Media Op-eds, to influence public discourse and policy-making on migration and development.
- The most pertinent partner for UNDP in Gambia's gender equality landscape is the Ministry of Women and the Vice President's Office since the early 1990s. UNDP has significantly invested in institutional strengthening for the Women's Bureau under the Vice President's Office, through capacity building and gender training that are linked to public sector reforms and national priorities. Policy-advice and technical support has been provided towards the visibility of Gambia's gender commitments and achievements at International Platforms, such as the Beijing +20 review, the Annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), and the localization of the Africa Gender and Development Index (AGDI), as reporting mechanisms on global gender targets.
- Through partnership with the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), UNDP-Gambia is one of the first Country Offices in Africa that have taken lead in adopting the Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme for Private Enterprises across Africa. On 16th and 17th July 2018, the Gender Equality Seal initiative (GES) was launched in the Gambia, under the coordination of GCCCI, The Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), the Women's Bureau under the office of the Vice President, the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment.

- As an active member of the UN inter-agency group on gender and human rights, and the Development Partners Group on Gender and Youth, UNDP has provided strategic advice to UN agencies and development partners on the delivery of gender results for the UNDAF and in line with Gambia's National Development Strategy. Together with UNFPA and UNICEF, UNDP has invested in the implementation of National Plan of Action on Gender Based Violence (2013-2017), under which there has been a significant reduction in social tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C). UNDP has worked with UN Human Rights and the Gambia National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to re-build and restore public confidence in the judicial system, through citizen involvement in policy dialogues on the Human Rights Commission Act and decentralization of legal aid services.