



REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

PRESENTATION ON
SHARING EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE ON IMPROVING HUMAMN CAPITA L AND
ENHANCE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY

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Demography:

- ✓ The Gambia is one of the smallest countries in Africa surrounded by Senegal on the West Coast of the Atlantic Ocean with the Population of 1,336,068 in 2003 and total land area of 10,690 square kilometers with a growth rate of 2.7 percent (Census 2003, CSD).
- ✓ The population was projected to be 1,644,391 in 2010 and 1,689,487 in 2011 (GBoS)
- ✓ Population density was 142 in 2006, 146 in 2008, 150 in 2009, 154 in 2010 and 158 in 2011 respectively making it the most densely populated in mainland Africa
- ✓ The data for the Recent Population and Housing Census conducted in April 2013 is under analysis

Status of Poverty and Key Achievements

□ Introduction:

- ✓ Poverty in the Gambia is multidimensional and multifaceted and has proven to take great stride in the drive to meet its various economic and social development needs in order to reduce the adverse effects of poverty;
- ✓ With regards to the third- generation PRSP - (PAGE , 2012 -2015) focuses on achieving a higher level of economic growth that can significantly reduce poverty;
- ✓ The Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE), serves as policy directives and reiterates the commitment put forward in 1995 in Vision 2020 to transform the Gambia into a middle income economy with a GDP Capita level of more than 975 USD from 440 USD 2010.
- ✓ To sharpen The Gambia's competitive advantage and develop its industrial sector, the Government is tackling socioeconomic development through streamlining the improvement in the education sector committing to improve quality and reduce the drop out ratio which affects all countries in the sun-region and especially boys
- ✓ A further commitment to ensuring full access to secondary education for all young Gambians and increase the knowledge share in the country's drive to competitiveness and attending to the MDGs by 2015.

Status of Poverty and Key Achievements Cont'd

- ✓ Over the years, government has adopted a wide range of policies and programmes together with reformulated macroeconomic policies to target growth. Financial reforms to increase supply of credit to the economy and particularly employment –intensive activities with a view to enhance economic growth and reduce poverty
- ✓ In addition, more public investments are put in place to sustain more rapid growth and improvement in employment opportunities
- ✓ In order to measure the progress of reducing poverty, The PAGE and MDGs had identified several realistic and clear time bound indicators with targets meeting the said objectives
- ✓ To meet these targets, inline with the five pillars of PAGE and eight goals of MDGs, some constructive and concise programmes to generate economic growth and poverty reduction were formulated.
- ✓ This has been a great milestone towards the country's achievement in reducing poverty. In the same vein, huge amount of resources were allocated to poverty reducing amounting to 35 percent of the National budget and to key priority sectors in the past years and 2012 respectively

Poverty Status and Trend

- ✓ The progress made in tackling poverty in The Gambia is a testimony that the country's efforts are beginning to yield significant dividend.
- ✓ The Integrated Household Survey –Income and Expenditure Poverty Assessment – 2010 (December 2011 – GBoS), revised the head count rate from 58% 2003 (Census – CSD) downwards to 36.7 percent (for less than \$1/day) and 48 percent (for less than \$1.25 / day).
- ✓ The Gambia has made modest progress on the hunger target of MDG 1. Over the period 1996 -2010, the proportion of population under weight has decreased from 20.9 percent to 17.4 percent with wide geographical divergences.
- ✓ Poverty in the Gambia is a rural phenomenon, being much higher in the rural than urban areas. Many people in the rural areas depends on agriculture for their livelihoods particularly groundnut production.

Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, proportion of the population whose income is less than \$1.25 per day						
	1992	1998	2003 < \$1person / day	2008	2010<\$1/ person/ day	2010 <\$1.25/ person/ day
National average	31	69	58	55.5	36.7	48.4
2015 MDG Target	15					
Source: 1992 poverty study, 1998 poverty study, 2003 census and 2010 Integrated Household Survey						

Target 1c: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, proportion of the population who suffer from hunger

	1996	2000	2005	2010
National average	20.9	17.1	20.5	17.5
2015 MDG Target	10.4			

Source: 1996 MICS, 2000 MICS II, 2005 MIC III, 2010 MICS IV

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POVERTY REDUCTION AND PROGRESS

- ✓ The Government has made it a priority to increase investment in Agriculture sector to reduce the reliance on rainfall and ensure that the sector is modernized. In this regard, the agriculture and natural resources sector will continue to receive incremental resources from the government budget to gradually reach 10 per cent in line with the Maputo Declaration.
- ✓ Within the context of economic growth and employment, the Government of The Gambia seeks to strengthen the human capital stock. It will do this by linking capacity building initiatives to job market requirements, ensuring increased access to quality basic education, relevant tertiary and higher education, reducing morbidity and mortality, and increasing access to safe drinking water and sanitation services across the country
- ✓ To enhance development results and maintain the pace to reduce poverty, the government has strengthen the accountability framework holding service providers and duty bearers accountable for their management of national resources
- ✓ National Assembly structures such as the Public Accounts/Public Enterprise Committees along with Civil Society Organizations exert accountability from service providers.

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Post-2015 Development Agenda Consultations in The Gambia

- ✓ The Post-2015 development agenda consultations conducted in The Gambia based on participatory and quantitative approach, which led to a pro-poor growth strategy that will create decent jobs for the citizens especially the youths; a goal that careers for issues of climate change to take care of resilience of communities in relation to various vulnerabilities.
- ✓ The consultations were very inclusiveness targeting the vulnerable and less privilege in society leading to setting priorities in the areas of health, education and food security among the list . This will address the new development Framework after the MDGs by 2015. The stakeholders, WHAT?, WHY?, HOW and WHEN? Were all address on the different issues identified by all the stakeholders or target groups consulted.
- The country report finalized and submitted to the United Nations – New York Office.

EDUCATION – (primary, secondary and senior schools)

- ✓ In the area of Education, The Gambia made major strikes towards improving the access to all levels of education and recognized it as key to national development;
- ✓ There has been substantial progress in expanding access to primary education
- ✓ Between 2000/01 and 2010/11 academic years, enrolment increased by 26 percent notably in the urban areas partly due to urban migration effects;
- ✓ There was a slight drop in the proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 from 97 per cent in 2005 to 95.3 per cent in 2010;
- ✓ There is a room and concert efforts for improvement of enrolment rates for all children at all levels
- ✓ Net Enrolment Ratio (NER), at the primary level has increased from 60 per cent in 2000 to 72 per cent in 2011 and highest in the urban area
- ✓ The ministry of Basic and secondary Education has refocused its efforts on quality over the past few years. These efforts include the improvement of teacher and learning material, content, knowledge and improving in-service training opportunities

EDUCATION – (primary, secondary and senior schools) – CONT'D

GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION - Target 2A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Indicator	1990	2000	2005	2011	2015
Net Enrolment Ratio in Primary Education(%)	44%	60%	61%	72%	100%
Proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 who Reach Grade 5	88% (1991/920)	90% (1998)	96.6%	95.3%	100%

Source: EMIS, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2000, 2005 and 2010

EDUCATION – (Tertiary)

- ✓ Currently there are four public tertiary institutions in The Gambia; University of the Gambia, Gambia College, Management Development Institute and The Gambia Technical Training Institute. The University of The Gambia (UTG) offers degree programs in different faculties/ schools. The university also offers certificate and diploma in selected professional disciplines.
- ✓ Gambia College (GC) offers certificate and diploma programs or their equivalence in education, nursing and midwifery, public and environmental health and agriculture. Management Development Institute (MDI) offers programs in a number of courses including management, Business studies, Procurement, Accountancy, Information Technology and public administration. Gambia Technical Training Institute (GTTI) offers certificate and diploma programs in a variety of technical and vocational disciplines. Similarly, there are professional programs such as HTC technical and other technical related courses
- ✓ Under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (MoHERST), the National Training Authority (NTA) regulates, monitors and supervises all technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions.
- ✓ As the year 2012 was declared the Year of Science, Technology and Innovation, the Ministry embarked on the development of the STI policy that will serve as guide for all STI related activities in the country.
- ✓ *The Gambia Tourism and Hospitality Institute, offer courses in tourism and hospitality to the levels of Diploma and Higher National Diploma. This will provide graduates from the Institute the opportunity to*

HEALTH

- ✓ Health is one of the priority sector of government and has achieved notable progress . The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare provides comprehensive healthcare and social welfare packages in partnership with all relevant stakeholders in addressing the following programmes :
- ✧ Ensure high coverage of basic healthcare services
- ✧ Achieve staff training and retention of health staff
- ✧ Ensure a reduction of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity with the decrease of (IMR) from 93 deaths per 1000 live births in 2005 to 81, deaths per 1, 000 live birth in 2010., while under-five mortality rate also decreased from 131 per 1000 births in 2005 to 109 per 1000 live births in 2010.
- ✧ Ensure reduction of communicable and non-communication diseases
- ✧ Strengthen and support Health and Social Welfare Communication Programmes
- ✧ Ensure reduction in the frequency of environmental health and safety related problems and diseases
- ✧ Ensure and establish a mechanism health services financing and risk protection for all and provide quality welfare to the vulnerable and needy persons

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HEALTH Cont'd

MDG Target 4A: Reduced by two-third, between 1990 and 2015, the Under -Five Mortality Rate : Infant Mortality

Indicator	1990	2000	2005	2010	MDG Target (2015)
Under-Five Mortality	135 (1993)	98	93	81	67.5
Immunization against measles	80		92.4	87.4	100

Health and Progress Registered

- ✓ Several programmes were implemented by the Ministry Of Health and Social Welfare of TB Clinics
- ✓ Support through WHO/IST provide financial and technical assistance to the implementation of health related programmes
- ✓ Free maternal and child health services across all health facilities
- ✓ Improved access to reproductive and child health services
- ✓ Conducted Joint Need Assessment on Tobacco Control and support the fight against Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and WASH Promotion, Promotion of Iodize salts in the country
- ✓ Provision of medical Doctors to all the the health facilities

Health and Progress Registered

- ✓ Improvement in the cold-chain to improve vaccine facilities
- ✓ Strengthened the National Pharmaceutical Services for increased stock of essential drugs
- ✓ Reduction and eventual elimination of mortality and morbidity due to malaria by increasing access to insecticides treated bed nets and the introduction of residual spraying and treatment
- ✓ The Government of The Gambia addresses the epidemic using a holistic approach by embarking on a multi-sectoral response with complementary from development partners (WHO, World Bank, UNAIDS, UNFPA , Global Fund and UNDP)
- ✓ A strong HIV Surveillance systems among TB patients has been established since 2006 with high uptake of HIV counseling and testing , some put on CPT and 48% on ART
- ✓ Accelerated training of nurses and some health technicians
- ✓ Built the capacities of health staff on Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) and data management and processing
- ✓ Support Epidemic preparedness and response to outbreaks and emergencies through the support of WHO

Health, Water and Sanitation

MDG Target 7C: Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Indicator	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015 (MDG Target)
Percentage of Population with sustainable access to improved water source	69%	NA	85.1%	85.8%	85%

MDG Target 7D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Indicator	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015
Percentage of people having access to improved sanitation	84%		87.9%	76.3%	92%
Percentage of people with access to secure tenure ship of land	NA	NA	65%	NA	NA

Health, Water and Sanitation

- ✓ The Government's Commitment to increase the proportion of population using an improved water source cannot be overemphasized since it is very crucial for poverty reduction
- ✓ The government with partnership to its development partners increased access to quality water source and The Gambia can easily boost to have already meet the MDG Target
- ✓ The Department of Water Resources with support from JICA, GOTG and UNICEF Country Programme, Saudi Sahelian Project, UNDP Country Program Action Plan, CAP 2015, CCF, CDDP and EDF – (NIP/RIP) registered great progress regarding access to water.
- ✓ It is evident that the table below shown an achievement in the proportion of households with improved water source as 84 per cent in 2005, increased by slightly 85.2 per cent in 2005 and further increased slightly in 2010 to 85.5 per cent respectively

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Conclusion and recommendation

- Address the issues and challenges that the COMCEC Member Countries are encountering and sharing of best practices and actions to remedy the specific constraints
- Implementation of growth strategies, costing, budgeting and financial management issues, institutionalizations of the participation, national capacity needs and harmonization of donor support
- The African countries will not meet the 7 per cent growth if not tackle the millennium Development goals to reduce poverty
- Promote inclusiveness in the planning process in order to meet the aspirations and needs of the less privilege to be involve in the decision-making process