



## HIGHLIGHTS

**238**

UNHCR secured ID cards have so far been issued this year to adult refugees

**142**

Persons with specific needs identified

**1595**

Refugee students received educational support this year

**29**

PLWHIV supported

### Population of concern

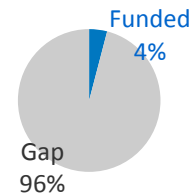
A total of **11,608** people of concern

#### By country of origin

Gambia	Total PoC
Senegal	11,036
Cote d'Ivoire	243
Sierra Leone	134
Others	195
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,608</b>

### Funding

**USD 54,654,054** requested



Budget embedded in the ExCom approved budget of the Regional Representation in Dakar which covers operations in: Benin, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

### UNHCR Presence

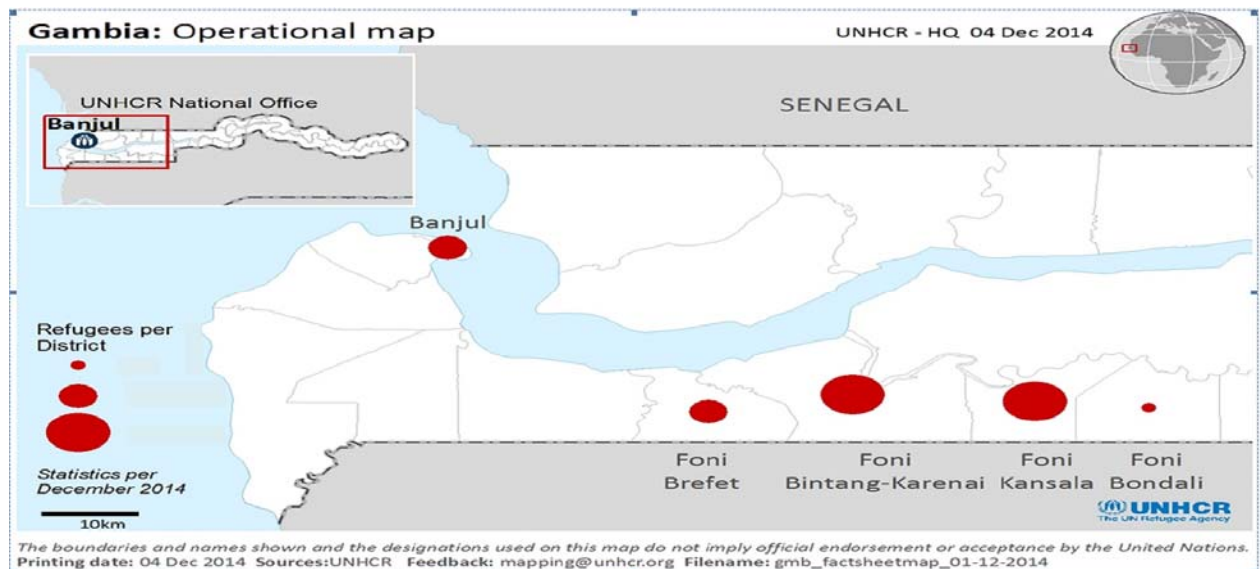
#### Staff:

07 national staff

03 national UNV

#### Offices:

01 office located in Banjul



## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

---

UNHCR works with 2 implementing partners, Gambia Food and Nutrition Association (sub-project with urban refugees) and The Ministry of Interior and The Gambia Commission for Refugees (protection of refugees). UNHCR is a member of the UN Country Team (UNCT) and regularly attends the UNCT weekly meeting where UN activities are discussed whilst also collaborating on various fronts with other UN agencies soliciting support and cooperation in highlighting refugee issues.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

---

### Protection

---

- The protection/community service monitoring, which included identification of vulnerable individuals/persons with specific needs, was also conducted. Three refugees from Eritrea and Senegal residing in the urban areas and who are awaiting resettlement in Canada were supported with some cash amounts ranging from D3, 000 to D7, 000 were supported to meet urgent medical and feeding needs. Another old urban refugee man was assisted with a cash amount of D20, 000 to undertake business activities in order to support his family with accommodation and feeding costs. The beneficiary lost his son last month who was the sole breadwinner of the family making the family to be very vulnerable.
- Stakeholders' Consultations on the child protection assessment for urban refugee children is ongoing. The last activities will be Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with parents and other select stakeholder organizations. The draft assessment report is expected after the conduct of these last activities.
- The Gambia Commission for Refugees embarked on a four days situational monitor tour from the 10th -14th August 2015. The purpose of this mission was to enable the commissioner to meet both the Refugees and the host communities in the five Districts of Foni so as to discuss with the refugees and local authorities with regards to the security and welfare of the refugees.
- The Gambia Commission for Refugees conducted two days training for forty security personnel (thirty –four male and six female) from 20th -21st August 2015. The two days capacity building helps to provide specific guidance on registration operation .The training has enhance the participants with required knowledge and skills in standards registration procedures and also underscore the importance of maintaining a standard registration procedure in emergence situation. The participants were drawn from GCR, Armed and Security officer from the various border posts.
- 24th – 26th July, 2015 – a 3-day weekend camp was organized with urban refugee and host children. This was a follow up to the Easter camp held in the rural area. The camp was aimed at building the capacities of children to be able to take care of their own protection needs through various techniques of assertiveness, further exposing them to SGBV reporting mechanisms. Twenty-one participants were drawn from both the refugee and host community with 11 girls, 10 boys, and 3 teachers (2 female; 1 male). As part of the follow ups, the children would be used in planned sensitizations with communities on various issues affecting them, so that together, we can end violence against children.
- 30th July – 2nd August, 2015 - The third field visit on continuous registration and identification of persons with specific needs was conducted. 21 persons were identified by CDAs and assessed in various locations. It was also used to visit some of the previously assessed individuals to see how they have been faring since the previous visit. Some counseling services were provided to the individuals and families visited. The following categories were assessed: 15 Children / adolescents at risk, 3 Women at risk, 2 people with health and disability, 1 older person at risk. All the risk categories identified were 'Low' except for one 'medium risk'. The figures although remain steady but still play an important role in identifying durable solutions to the plight of thousands of refugees residing in The Gambia. Subsequent field visits would help in ascertaining the number of Persons with Specific Needs, and the level of support given.
- 31st August – 04 September - UNHCR conducted an assessment mission to the Training of Trainers' of the 7 security training schools in The Gambia. The team comprised of UNHCR's Regional Office for West Africa, the Gambia Operation and the Gambia Commission for refugees (GCR) as a follow up to the second phase (intermediate) training on international protection and refugee law , held from 4-8 May 2015. The mission conducted classroom assessment/observation of the performance during the trainers' presentations to the topics covered at the second phase and also the ability of the trainers to share or pass the knowledge acquired.

## Education

---

- One urban based refugee youth currently enrolled at the Strafford College of Management was assisted with an amount of D5, 200 in support of his transportation needs to enable him attend classes on a timely manner.

## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

---

- Training of 50 female rural refugees on mango juice, nectar and squash was conducted during the period 2nd to 10th July 2015. The training was aimed at equipping participants with the knowledge and skills on mango juice processing for income generation and also to enable the optimal use of mango during the peak mango season that always result in a glut.
- Refugees in The Gambia converged on 25th July 2015 to commemorate the 2015 the World Refugee Day with the theme: “Ordinary people living through extraordinary times.” The celebration brought together refugees residing in both the rural and urban areas and was hosted by refugees resident in the urban areas. The day was preceded with series of advocacy and information sharing activities moderated by personnel of UNHCR Implementing Partners (IPs) and refugees through the national television and radio and community radio in the urban and rural areas. Speeches centered on the theme were made by the UNHCR Head of Office, heads of IPs, refugee leaders and a representative of the Minister for the Interior whilst the day was graced with cultural activities, drama performance and sing and dancing.
- 25 members of the Kombo Kajamor Fishing Society-KKFS an urban based refugee income generating group engage in fishing activity were trained from the 11-14th of August 2015 on fishing and fish entrepreneurship development. The 25 members are representing a membership group of over 200 urban Senegalese refugees primarily engage in fishing activities in the urban areas for their livelihoods improvement. However, inadequate capacity and means of the group in terms of resources/ equipment and well functional group structure was recognized by UNHCR operations in the Gambia as key impediments to sustainably improve the livelihoods and self-reliance of members of the society. In this respect, UNHCR plans to support the society with fishing equipment while monitoring and observing the management and benefit sharing of the fishing activity to all members as outlined in the business plan and legal bidding documents.
- A four days training on marketing skills took place from 25th – 28th August 2015 targeting urban based refugees. The objective of this training was to provide participants with marketing skills to so that they can effectively and efficiently maximize profit. A total of 30 refugees (14 males and 12 females) attended the training.
- GAFNA office based staff embarked on monitoring of projects supporting urban based refugees. The objective of the monitoring visits was to gauge the progress of cash voucher and labor insertion support given to selected urban based refugees. A total of 14 refugee businesses were visited and were found to be doing very well as far as performance is concerned.

## WASH

---

- Construction work for the sinking of the 2015 contracted boreholes in Manyina, Bajana, Luluchorr have been completed and all fitted with hand pumps. Construction of protective fences around these water points have started. Villagers have started using the new facilities with satisfaction and appreciation for getting very good water supply.

## Health

---

- The official launching of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on medical assistance for refugees was presided over on August 26, 2015 by UNHCR. In attendance were selected staff from public / government health facilities in the rural and urban areas and members of the Referral Health Committee.
- GAFNA on 27 and 28 August 2015 provided transport fares support to 62 urban based refugees (40 females/22 males) comprising of 55 Senegalese, 5 Ivorian and 2 Congolese. This support is aimed at encouraging the refugees to access Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) services. So far results for 15 (10 females/5 males) are available and are all negative and the results for the rest are pending.
- On 28 August 2015 GAFNA facilitated nutritional support for food and non-food items for urban based refugees targeting 7 PLWHIVs (2 males and 5 females).
- GAFNA on August 31st and September 1st provided transport fares to 22 PLWHIVs (9 males/13 females) residing in the rural areas. This support has enabled them to timely access national health care programmes for treatment care and support and to participate in support groups activities.

- GAFNA on August 31st and September 1st provided 8 chronically ill PoCs (4 males/4 females) residing in the rural areas with support for food and non-food items. This support has contributed to the improvement of their nutritional status to mitigate conditions of severe hypertension, stroke, mental disorders, epilepsy, chest infection, asthma, sight and hearing defect and chronic arthritis.

## Shelter and NFIs

---

- GAFNA Community Development Assistants have completed doing an assessment of the damages done on the houses of 20 rural based refugees during the August 2015 windstorms. A detail reported has been compiled and shared with UNHCR and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA).

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [Canada](#) | [Denmark](#) | [European Union](#) | [France](#) | [Japan](#) | [Liechtenstein](#) | [Nigeria](#) | [Republic of Korea](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States of America](#) |

### Contacts:

Sekou K. Saho, Head of Office, [saho@unhcr.org](mailto:saho@unhcr.org), Tel: +220 446 4149, Cell +220 997 6066

Buramanding Jaiteh, Protection Associate, [jaiteh@unhcr.org](mailto:jaiteh@unhcr.org), Tel: +220 446 0850, Cell +220 981 9602