



GAMBIA FACTSHEET

January - March 2016

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

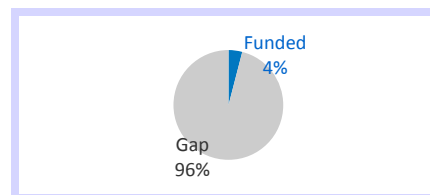
A total of **7,854** people of concern

By country of origin

Gambia	Total PoC
Senegal	7,392
Cote d'Ivoire	192
Sierra Leone	119
Others	151
Total	7,854

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.

Comment [U1]: Dear Anta, This budget information is the one from 2015. Since Gambia budget is embedded in RO budget, could you kindly provide the funding information for the current year?

UNHCR Presence

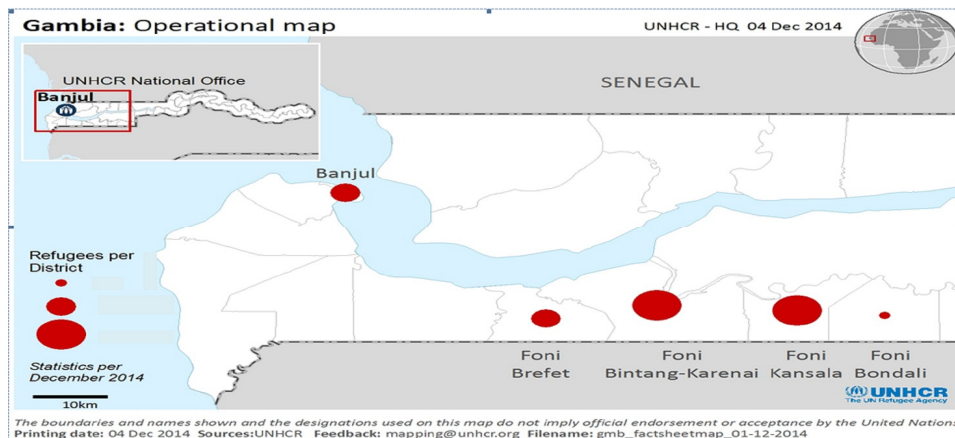
Staff:

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

- UNHCR in collaboration with the Regional Training Unit in Dakar and The Gambia Commission for Refugees has completed a three year training program for the training instructors. The training which centered on refugee law and protection for trainers of the state security and enforcement training schools was concluded on the 26th February 2016. The training was the third phase of a three year program for 21 security /law enforcement trainers. The program was meant to develop the capacity of the state security /law enforcement training instructors to train refugee law and protection as part of their curriculum.
- The Gambia Commission for Refugees in collaboration with the Refugee Sofora Association recently organized a joint sensitization campaign and awareness raising of the refugees and the host communities on drugs and related crimes from 13th to 19th March 2016. The forum was aimed to increase the level of awareness on drugs, possession, trafficking and its effect on the society.
- On Monday 14th March 2016, The Gambia Commission for Refugees in collaboration with the relevant government ministries and line departments (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Trade, Department of Labour, Gambia Revenue Authority, Office of the Vice President, Expatriate Quarter Tax Unit, Immigration Department) conducted a meeting on the sharing of information on the waiver of expatriate quarter tax and development of a comprehensive information sharing strategy targeting employers and other relevant stakeholders.

The information on the waiver of expatriate quarter tax is not acknowledged by some government authorities and employers therefore, this will make it difficult for refugees to be gainfully employed in The Gambia. It is in that regard that the GCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior conducted information sharing strategy meeting targeting relevant government authorities at the high level in order to reach out to the relevant stakeholders and the general public.

- 30th March 2016, The GCR in collaboration with the Local Government Authorities (Banjul City Council, Kanifing Municipal Council and Brikama Area Council) conducted a meeting on the sharing of information on the waiver of expatriate quarter tax and development of a comprehensive information sharing strategy targeting employers and other relevant stakeholders at the grass root level. This is geared towards disseminating the information on the waiver of expatriate quarter tax and the development of an information sharing strategy at the local level thereby making it possible for both skilled and unskilled refugees at the local level to be gainfully employed as their local authorities will be sensitized and the employers as well.
- 15th – 19th March, 10 communities with a high concentration of refugees visited and consultation meetings were held with community members including refugees. The agenda for the meeting was to sensitize both refugees and host to strengthen the peaceful co-existence and advice refugees to continue abiding the laws.

Education

- Jan – March 2016, 41 (22 girls / 19 boys) urban refugee children were supported with payment of school fees, books and uniforms. The support was given to increase access, retention and completion rates in education.
- Sensitization workshop promoting enrolment, retention, completion and exit strategy on education support to refugees was conducted on 22nd and 23rd March to increase awareness level of participants on the importance of education. Participants were also enlightened on the looming exit strategy on education support to refugees.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- GAFNA in collaboration with experts from the Food and Technology Services of the Ministry of Agriculture conducted training on Food and vegetable processing and preservation for 30 women (20 refugees and 10 hosts) from 22nd – 25th February 2016.

The training has provided the participants with new skills and knowledge on how to process and preserve Tomato Jam and pepper sauce. This will help them generate income and enhance food security at household level.

- Cash Voucher Assistance was given to 20 vulnerable refugees (18 female /2 male) to support them undertake business activities to enhance self- reliance & sustainable livelihoods. Beneficiaries supported received cash amounts of D10, 400.00 each and have embarked on business activities.

WASH

- 29th March - Drilling of one new domestic borehole to be fitted with German Mark II hand pump was started in Kusamai village to help improve access to potable drinking water for refugees and hosts. Over 700 people including host and refugee families will access clean drinking water from this water point. Drilling of the borehole is in progress and installation of hand pumps will be done after completion. This water facility will not only improve access to potable drinking water for humans, but to the animal population as well.
- 30th March – Drilling of 2 boreholes with solar reticulation system in Arangallen and Gikess Dando to help improve access to water supply for vegetable production to reduce drudgery and enhance productivity. Over 1,000 women and men including hosts and refugees will have access to water supply for vegetable production.

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, Tel: +220 446 4149, Cell +220 997 6066
Buramanding Jaiteh, Protection Associate, jaiteh@unhcr.org, Tel: +220 446 0850, Cell +220 981 9602