

**COMMITTEE ON THE
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

**WRITTEN REPLIES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GAMBIA
CONCERNING THE LIST OF ISSUES
(CRC/C/Q/GAM/1)
RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE INITIAL REPORT OF
GAMBIA
(CRC/C/3/Add.61)**

[Received on 16 August 2001]

CRC/C/Future...



REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

RESPONSE TO THE LIST OF ISSUES

FROM

THE CRC COMMITTEE

JULY 2001

Background

The government of the Gambia ratified the CRC on 3rd August 1990. According to Articles 43 and 44 of the CRC, state parties are obliged to submit Initial report on how they are implementing the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to the CRC committee in Geneva, two years after ratification and periodic reports every five years thereafter. Thus Gambia's initial report was due on 3rd August 1992. However it was not prepared until 1997 and submitted to the committee in 1999.

When state parties submit their initial reports, NGOs working in the area of child rights in the particular country are usually invited to prepare and alternative report on the implementation of the CRC from their own perspectives and to give a sense of the reality of the situation of children on the ground since the NGOs are expected to be working at grassroots level. The NGO Alternative report on the Gambia's initial report was written by TANGO, a coalition of NGOs in the Gambia and submitted to the Committee in January 2001.

At its 28th Session in June 2001, the pre-sessional working group of the CRC reviewed TANGO's alternative report on CRC Implementation in the Gambia. Taking the Gambia's Initial report and the NGO alternative report together, the committee came up with list of issues for the state party to respond to before its plenary session in October 2001 when it will consider the Gambia's initial report on the implementation of the CRC.

Below is the written response of The Government of The Gambia. It is divided into two broad parts. Part one relates to up-dating of data vis-à-vis children's rights issues from 1998 to 2000. Part two relates to the actual implementation of the CRC in the Gambia.

PART I

1. Demographic Data

In the Gambia the largest and most comprehensive source of demographic data is the census which is conducted every ten years. The last census was conducted in 1993 and the next one is due in 2003. Thus the following demographic data are projections based on the 1993 Census as the base year.

Estimated Population under 18 in Mid- 2001 by sex and local government area (LGA)

LGA	Total	Gender	
		Male	Female
The Gambia	729,386	363,221	366,165
Banjul	15,303	7,299	8,004
Kanifing	174,759	83,778	90,981
Brikama	176,348	88,343	88,005
Mansakonko	41,400	21,195	20,205
Kerewan	111,014	55,694	55,320
Kuntaur	42,311	21,498	20,813
Georgetown	57,273	29,257	28,016
Basse	110,978	56,157	54,821

Note: Data for population under-18 is for Mid-2001, and is projected using geometric growth rates obtained for the inter-censal period i.e. 1983-1993. Disaggregated by gender and LGA.

Source: Central Statistics Dept., 1993.

Birth Registration

Births are mostly unregistered. The 2000 nationally representative Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS2), among others, collected information on the birth registration status of children aged 0-59 months. Out of a sample of 3, 554 children, the following results were found:

Birth registration in 2000 by sex and residence.

Total registered births	32%
Male	34%
Female	30%
Urban	37%
Rural	29%

Source: MICSII

Children placed in welfare institutions

Welfare institutions are not many in the Gambia, thanks to the strong and widespread extended family system that acts as a form social security for children who otherwise would have to go to welfare institutions. However one such institution is the SOS Hermann Gmeiner International children's village. It caters for 85 children mainly those abandoned by their parents or orphaned.

Education Statistics

Primary GER and NER Disaggregated by gender and region (residence) 1998 – 2000.

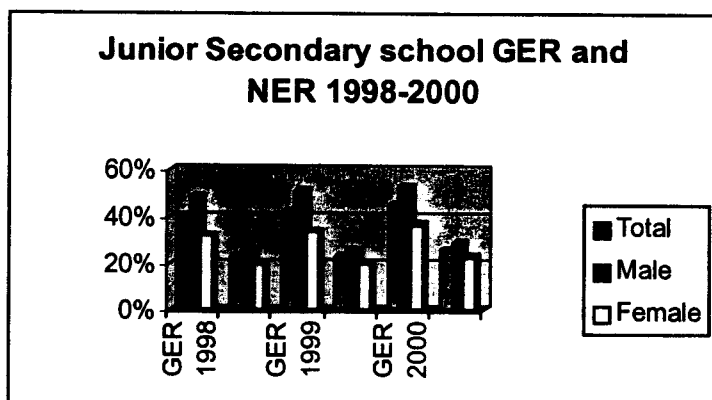
		1998		1999		2000	
		GER	NER	GER	NER	GER	NER
Region 1	Total	85.5%	73.5%	83%	69.5%	80.5%	68%
	Male	94.5%	81.5%	92.5%	75.5%	89.5%	75%
	Female	78.5%	67.5%	75.5%	64.5%	73%	62%
Region 2	Total	90%	75%	90%	71%	88%	71%
	Male	98%	80%	97%	75%	94%	74%
	Female	83%	70%	83%	67%	82%	67%
Region 3	Total	65%	52%	63%	48%	61%	49%
	Male	74%	59%	72%	54%	69%	54%
	Female	55%	45%	635	42%	54%	43%
Region 4	Total	89%	73%	84%	62%	81%	61%
	Male	97%	78%	91%	65%	86%	63%
	Female	80%	68%	77%	585	76%	59%
Region 5	Total	68%	56%	66.5%	52.5%	65%	50%
	Male	73.5%	60%	70%	54.5%	66%	50%
	Female	62%	52.5%	62.5%	51%	64.5%	50%
Region 6	Total	52%	44%	51%	43%	50%	40%
	Male	58%	49%	56%	46%	53%	42%
	Female	45%	38%	45%	39%	46%	38%
The Gambia	Total	73%	61%	72%	58%	70%	56%
	Male	79%	65%	77%	61%	74%	59%
	Female	67%	57%	67%	55%	67%	54%

Source: EMIS Database Version 3, DOSE, 2001.

Junior Secondary GER and NER Disaggregated by gender 1998 – 2000. (The Gambia).

	1998		1999		2000	
	GER	NER	GER	NER	GER	NER
Total	40%	23%	42%	23%	45%	26%
Male	48%	26%	51%	26%	53%	29%
Female	32%	20%	34%	20%	37%	23%

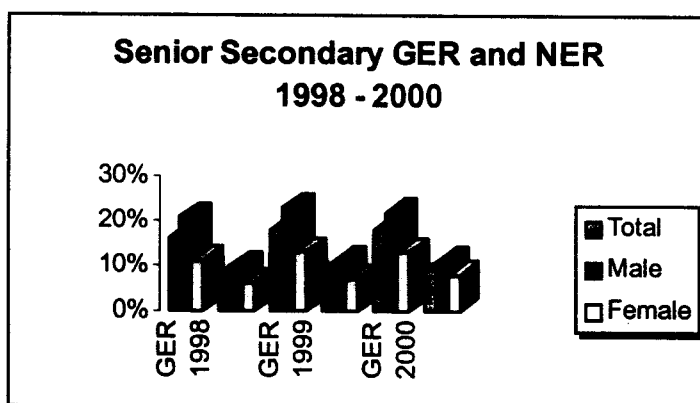
Source: EMIS Database Version 3, DOSE, 2001.



Senior Secondary GER and NER disaggregated by gender 1998 – 2000

	1998		1999		2000	
	GER	NER	GER	NER	GER	NER
Total	16%	8%	18%	9%	18%	9%
Male	21%	10%	23%	11%	22%	11%
Female	11%	6%	13%	7%	13%	8%

Source: EMIS Database Version 3, DOSE, 2001.



Enrolment in Madrassas (Islamic Religious) Schools by region and gender 1998-2000

		1998		1999		2000	
		GER	NER	GER	NER	GER	NER
Region 1	Total	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
	Male	3%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
	Female	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Region 2	Total	7%	5%	6%	5%	11%	8%
	Male	8%	6%	8%	6%	13%	9%
	Female	5%	4%	5%	4%	9%	7%

Region 3	Total	12%	9%	12%	9%	11%	8%
	Male	13%	10%	13%	9%	12%	8%
	Female	11%	9%	11%	9%	11%	7%
Region 4	Total	29%	14%	29%	14%	30%	17%
	Male	31%	15%	31%	15%	31%	17%
	Female	27%	14%	26%	13%	28%	16%
Region 5	Total	15.5%	11.5%	14.5%	11.5%	15.5%	11.5%
	Male	13%	9.5%	13%	9.5%	14.5%	10.5%
	Female	17%	13%	16.5%	12.5%	17%	13%
Region 6	Total	11%	9%	11%	8%	12%	8%
	Male	13%	10%	13%	10%	13%	9%
	Female	9%	7%	9%	7%	10%	7%
The Gambia	Total	10%	7%	9%	6%	10%	7%
	Male	10%	7%	10%	7%	11%	8%
	Female	9%	6%	8%	6%	10%	7%

Source: EMIS Version 3, DOSE, 2001.

Primary and secondary school Repetition, Promotion and Dropout Rates by division and gender 1998 – 2000.

<i>Lower Basic Grades 1-6 Division Promotion, Repetition and Dropout 1998</i>																
Banjul	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
<i>Total</i>	96%	10%	-6%	95%	4%	1%	97%	4%	-1%	91%	4%	4%	110	7%	-17%	2%
<i>Male</i>	93%	11%	-4%	93%	5%	2%	95%	5%	1%	93%	5%	2%	104	9%	-13%	2%
<i>Female</i>	100	9%	-9%	96%	4%	0%	100	3%	-3%	89%	4%	7%	116	6%	-22%	1%
Kanifing Municipal Council	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
<i>Total</i>	94%	3%	3%	100	1%	-2%	93%	1%	6%	91%	1%	8%	89%	3%	8%	3%
<i>Male</i>	98%	2%	-1%	102	1%	-3%	89%	1%	9%	93%	1%	6%	89%	3%	8%	3%
<i>Female</i>	90%	3%	7%	99%	1%	0%	97%	1%	2%	89%	1%	10%	89%	2%	9%	4%
Western	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
<i>Total</i>	79%	13%	8%	86%	11%	3%	83%	8%	9%	80%	7%	13%	82%	7%	11%	2%
<i>Male</i>	80%	13%	7%	87%	11%	1%	85%	8%	7%	80%	8%	12%	86%	6%	8%	2%
<i>Female</i>	78%	13%	9%	85%	11%	4%	80%	9%	12%	80%	7%	13%	76%	8%	15%	2%
North Bank	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
<i>Total</i>	61%	27%	12%	79%	19%	2%	75%	20%	5%	73%	17%	10%	73%	16%	10%	7%
<i>Male</i>	64%	29%	8%	78%	21%	1%	77%	20%	3%	75%	16%	9%	76%	17%	7%	8%
<i>Female</i>	57%	26%	16%	80%	17%	3%	72%	20%	8%	70%	18%	11%	68%	16%	16%	7%
Lower River	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
<i>Total</i>	52%	22%	27%	88%	15%	-4%	88%	12%	0%	75%	9%	16%	68%	8%	24%	6%
<i>Male</i>	54%	23%	24%	97%	15%	-12%	92%	11%	-4%	74%	10%	16%	76%	8%	15%	6%
<i>Female</i>	50%	20%	30%	79%	16%	5%	82%	14%	4%	77%	8%	15%	56%	7%	37%	7%
Central River Jangjangbureh	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
<i>Total</i>	57%	15%	28%	81%	17%	2%	80%	14%	6%	64%	12%	24%	64%	11%	25%	5%

<i>Male</i>	56%	15%	29%	86%	16%	-2%	85%	13%	2%	69%	11%	20%	67%	11%	22%	5%
<i>Female</i>	57%	15%	27%	77%	18%	5%	75%	15%	9%	56%	13%	31%	60%	13%	27%	5%
Central River Kuntaur	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
<i>Total</i>	56%	28%	16%	84%	15%	1%	79%	12%	9%	52%	9%	39%	65%	11%	24%	6%
<i>Male</i>	61%	24%	15%	87%	14%	-1%	87%	11%	2%	56%	8%	36%	65%	11%	24%	6%
<i>Female</i>	52%	32%	16%	79%	17%	4%	68%	14%	18%	46%	10%	44%	66%	11%	23%	6%
Upper River	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
<i>Total</i>	44%	19%	37%	73%	16%	11%	72%	13%	15%	63%	10%	27%	73%	9%	19%	5%
<i>Male</i>	47%	19%	34%	70%	17%	13%	80%	15%	5%	65%	10%	25%	78%	9%	13%	6%
<i>Female</i>	40%	18%	41%	76%	16%	8%	61%	12%	27%	60%	10%	30%	63%	8%	29%	5%
<i>Grade + p: promotion, r:repetition, d:dropout rates</i>																
<i>Gambia EMIS Database, Dept. of State for Education</i>																
<i>Some schools report no repeaters, this can cause serious distortions in the reported rates</i>																
<i>Promotion rates over 100% are usually caused by inconsistent reporting of enrolment between years and cause the residual, the dropout rate to be negative</i>																
Lower Basic Grades 1 -6 Division Promotion, Repetition and Dropout 1999																
Banjul	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
<i>Total</i>	101	7%	-8%	97%	4%	-1%	89%	3%	8%	100	3%	-3%	92%	4%	4%	11%
<i>Male</i>	100	7%	-7%	95%	4%	1%	88%	3%	9%	99%	3%	-2%	94%	5%	1%	11%
<i>Female</i>	103	6%	-9%	100	3%	-4%	90%	3%	8%	101	3%	-3%	91%	3%	6%	10%
Kanifing Municipal Council	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
<i>Total</i>	97%	5%	-2%	95%	3%	2%	104	2%	-6%	89%	2%	9%	88%	3%	8%	1%
<i>Male</i>	96%	6%	-2%	95%	2%	3%	104	2%	-6%	90%	2%	8%	88%	4%	8%	2%
<i>Female</i>	98%	4%	-3%	96%	3%	1%	104	3%	-6%	88%	2%	10%	89%	3%	8%	1%
Western	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
<i>Total</i>	83%	14%	4%	84%	10%	6%	88%	9%	3%	86%	8%	7%	75%	8%	17%	3%
<i>Male</i>	84%	14%	2%	82%	11%	7%	92%	9%	-1%	85%	8%	7%	77%	7%	16%	3%
<i>Female</i>	81%	13%	6%	86%	10%	4%	84%	9%	7%	86%	7%	7%	74%	8%	18%	3%
North Bank	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
<i>Total</i>	63%	21%	16%	76%	17%	7%	83%	16%	0%	84%	13%	4%	77%	11%	12%	3%
<i>Male</i>	63%	20%	17%	79%	19%	2%	83%	16%	1%	84%	13%	3%	83%	10%	7%	4%
<i>Female</i>	63%	22%	15%	72%	16%	13%	84%	17%	0%	83%	13%	5%	70%	12%	18%	3%
Lower River	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
<i>Total</i>	64%	21%	15%	82%	9%	8%	89%	10%	1%	87%	10%	2%	79%	7%	14%	3%
<i>Male</i>	62%	21%	16%	87%	9%	3%	97%	11%	-8%	92%	10%	-2%	78%	6%	16%	4%
<i>Female</i>	65%	22%	13%	77%	10%	14%	80%	10%	11%	81%	11%	8%	81%	8%	11%	2%
Central River Jangjangbureh	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r

Total	74%	22%	5%	81%	12%	7%	77%	16%	6%	83%	11%	6%	68%	6%	25%	6%
Male	76%	22%	3%	87%	11%	2%	80%	14%	5%	86%	11%	3%	77%	6%	17%	5%
Female	71%	22%	7%	76%	12%	13%	74%	18%	8%	79%	12%	9%	57%	8%	35%	8%
Central River Kuntaur	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
Total	58%	21%	21%	83%	15%	2%	88%	13%	-1%	68%	12%	19%	55%	10%	35%	2%
Male	61%	19%	20%	85%	15%	-1%	94%	14%	-8%	73%	11%	16%	60%	10%	30%	2%
Female	56%	22%	23%	81%	15%	4%	81%	12%	7%	63%	14%	23%	47%	9%	44%	3%
Upper River	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
Total	64%	26%	10%	74%	13%	13%	80%	12%	8%	69%	8%	22%	67%	8%	25%	7%
Male	62%	26%	12%	78%	13%	9%	86%	12%	2%	72%	9%	20%	71%	8%	20%	8%
Female	66%	25%	9%	70%	12%	18%	73%	12%	15%	66%	7%	27%	60%	7%	34%	5%
<i>Grade + p: promotion, r::repetition, d:dropout rates</i>										<i>Some schools report no repeaters, this can cause serious distortions in the reported rates</i>						
<i>Gambia EMIS Database, Dept. of State for Education</i>										<i>Promotion rates over 100% are usually caused by inconsistent reporting of enrolment between years and cause the residual, the dropout rate to be negative</i>						
Lower Basic Grades 1 -6 Division Promotion, Repetition and Dropout 2000																
Banjul	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
Total	120	8%	-27%	93%	1%	6%	98%	1%	1%	98%	2%	0%	95%	4%	1%	4%
Male	107	9%	-16%	94%	1%	6%	99%	1%	0%	94%	2%	4%	99%	6%	-5%	4%
Female	135	6%	-41%	93%	0%	6%	98%	0%	2%	102	1%	-4%	92%	2%	6%	5%
Kanifing Municipal Council	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
Total	98%	2%	-1%	99%	0%	1%	99%	1%	0%	101	1%	-1%	90%	1%	9%	1%
Male	97%	2%	1%	99%	1%	0%	99%	1%	1%	104	1%	-4%	92%	1%	7%	1%
Female	100	2%	-2%	98%	0%	2%	99%	1%	0%	98%	0%	1%	88%	1%	10%	1%
Western	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
Total	87%	15%	-2%	87%	9%	4%	85%	10%	5%	88%	7%	5%	84%	9%	7%	3%
Male	89%	15%	-4%	89%	9%	2%	84%	9%	7%	92%	7%	0%	85%	9%	6%	3%
Female	85%	15%	0%	85%	9%	5%	85%	11%	4%	83%	7%	10%	83%	9%	8%	3%
North Bank	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
Total	71%	25%	4%	81%	14%	6%	83%	13%	3%	87%	10%	3%	90%	6%	4%	3%
Male	70%	26%	4%	82%	14%	4%	85%	13%	1%	88%	11%	2%	91%	6%	3%	3%
Female	71%	24%	5%	79%	14%	7%	81%	13%	6%	85%	9%	5%	89%	6%	5%	2%
Lower River	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
Total	68%	26%	6%	84%	10%	5%	89%	8%	3%	92%	8%	0%	93%	5%	3%	2%
Male	66%	28%	5%	85%	11%	5%	89%	8%	3%	99%	8%	-7%	102	5%	-6%	2%
Female	69%	23%	8%	84%	10%	6%	88%	8%	3%	84%	8%	8%	82%	4%	14%	2%

Central River Jangjangbureh	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
Total	74%	13%	13%	95%	10%	-5%	88%	9%	3%	82%	9%	9%	86%	6%	8%	1%
Male	75%	11%	14%	99%	9%	-8%	94%	8%	-1%	83%	6%	11%	95%	7%	2%	1%
Female	73%	14%	13%	91%	10%	-1%	83%	9%	7%	81%	12%	7%	76%	4%	20%	1%
Central River Kuntaur	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
Total	60%	24%	17%	82%	15%	3%	94%	13%	-7%	83%	9%	7%	65%	6%	29%	1%
Male	58%	23%	19%	87%	16%	-2%	106	12%	-18%	84%	8%	8%	73%	6%	21%	1%
Female	61%	24%	14%	77%	14%	8%	82%	14%	4%	83%	11%	6%	56%	5%	39%	2%
Upper River	G1p	G1r	G1d	G2p	G2r	G2d	G3p	G3r	G3d	G4p	G4r	G4d	G5p	G5r	G5d	G6r
Total	58%	37%	5%	76%	17%	7%	74%	14%	13%	74%	11%	15%	71%	9%	20%	2%
Male	63%	37%	0%	77%	17%	7%	79%	14%	7%	79%	9%	12%	74%	9%	18%	2%
Female	53%	37%	9%	76%	17%	7%	67%	13%	20%	67%	14%	19%	68%	9%	23%	3%
<i>Grade + p: promotion, r:repetition, d:dropout rates</i>							<i>Some schools report no repeaters, this can cause serious distortions in the reported rates</i>									
<i>Gambia EMIS Database, Dept. of State for Education</i>							<i>Promotion rates over 100% are usually caused by inconsistent reporting of enrolment between years and cause the residual, the dropout rate to be negative</i>									
Upper Basic Grades 7-9 Division Promotion, Repetition and Dropout 1998																
Banjul	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r									
Total	97%	0%	3%	115	0%	-15%	0%									
Male	92%	0%	8%	111	0%	-11%	0%									
Female	104	0%	-4%	120	0%	-20%	0%									
Kanifing Municipal Council	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r									
Total	96%	1%	3%	99%	1%	0%	2%									
Male	105	1%	-5%	100	1%	-1%	2%									
Female	88%	1%	12%	97%	1%	1%	1%									
Western	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r									
Total	86%	1%	13%	87%	2%	12%	3%									
Male	87%	1%	12%	87%	2%	11%	3%									
Female	85%	1%	13%	86%	1%	13%	2%									
North Bank	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r									
Total	65%	3%	32%	82%	6%	12%	11%									
Male	70%	2%	28%	83%	5%	12%	9%									
Female	57%	4%	39%	80%	8%	12%	16%									
Lower River	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r									
Total	95%	0%	5%	103	0%	-3%	0%									
Male	99%	0%	1%	111	0%	-11%	0%									

<i>Female</i>	88%	0%	12%	85%	0%	15%	0%
Central River Jangjangbureh	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r
<i>Total</i>	84%	0%	16%	74%	9%	16%	2%
<i>Male</i>	80%	0%	20%	83%	9%	8%	2%
<i>Female</i>	92%	0%	8%	59%	10%	31%	2%
Central River Kuntaur	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r
<i>Total</i>	85%	0%	15%	93%	1%	7%	1%
<i>Male</i>	95%	0%	5%	93%	1%	6%	2%
<i>Female</i>	67%	0%	33%	93%	0%	7%	1%
Upper River	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r
<i>Total</i>	55%	8%	36%	73%	10%	17%	0%
<i>Male</i>	58%	5%	37%	78%	8%	14%	0%
<i>Female</i>	50%	14%	36%	61%	15%	24%	1%
<i>Grade + p: promotion, r:repetition, d:dropout rates</i>				<i>Some schools report no repeaters, this can cause serious distortions in the reported rates</i>			
<i>Gambia EMIS Database, Dept. of State for Education</i>				<i>Promotion rates over 100% are usually caused by inconsistent reporting of enrolment between years and</i>			
				<i>cause the residual, the dropout rate to be negative</i>			
Upper Basic Grades 7 -9 Division Promotion, Repetition and Dropout							1999
Banjul	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r
<i>Total</i>	96%	0%	4%	102%	0%	-2%	1%
<i>Male</i>	108%	0%	-8%	100%	0%	0%	2%
<i>Female</i>	84%	0%	16%	104%	0%	-4%	1%
Kanifing Municipal Council	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r
<i>Total</i>	87%	0%	12%	88%	0%	12%	3%
<i>Male</i>	90%	0%	9%	89%	0%	11%	3%
<i>Female</i>	84%	0%	16%	87%	1%	13%	3%
Western	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r
<i>Total</i>	91%	2%	7%	95%	2%	3%	2%
<i>Male</i>	90%	2%	8%	99%	2%	-1%	2%
<i>Female</i>	92%	2%	6%	90%	-2%	9%	1%
North Bank	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r
<i>Total</i>	70%	2%	27%	77%	5%	18%	7%
<i>Male</i>	72%	2%	26%	82%	5%	13%	7%
<i>Female</i>	68%	3%	29%	68%	4%	27%	8%
Lower River	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r
<i>Total</i>	79%	0%	21%	86%	4%	9%	1%

<i>Male</i>	76%	0%	24%	97%	4%	-1%	2%
<i>Female</i>	84%	0%	16%	67%	5%	28%	1%
Central River Jangjangbureh	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r
<i>Total</i>	79%	0%	21%	88%	1%	11%	1%
<i>Male</i>	82%	0%	18%	85%	0%	14%	1%
<i>Female</i>	74%	0%	26%	94%	2%	4%	1%
Central River Kuntaur	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r
<i>Total</i>	100	0%	0%	100	0%	0%	0%
<i>Male</i>	92%	0%	8%	120	0%	-20%	0%
<i>Female</i>	118	0%	-18%	66%	0%	34%	0%
Upper River	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r
<i>Total</i>	67%	0%	32%	75%	0%	25%	1%
<i>Male</i>	74%	0%	26%	73%	0%	26%	1%
<i>Female</i>	54%	1%	45%	78%	0%	22%	2%
<i>Grade + p: promotion, r:repetition, d:dropout rates Gambia EMIS Database, Dept. of State for Education</i>				<i>Some schools report no repeaters, this can cause serious distortions in the reported rates Promotion rates over 100% are usually caused by inconsistent reporting of enrolment between years and cause the residual, the dropout rate to be negative</i>			

Source: EMIS Database Version 3, DOSE

Upper Basic Grades 7 -9 Division Promotion, Repetition and Dropout 2010									
Banjul	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r		
<i>Total</i>	89%	0%	11%	84%	5%	10%	6%		
<i>Male</i>	95%	0%	5%	81%	5%	14%	9%		
<i>Female</i>	83%	0%	17%	89%	5%	6%	3%		
Kanifing Municipal Council	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r		
<i>Total</i>	98%	0%	2%	80%	0%	20%	6%		
<i>Male</i>	97%	0%	3%	86%	0%	14%	6%		
<i>Female</i>	99%	0%	1%	75%	0%	25%	5%		
Western	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r		
<i>Total</i>	92%	2%	6%	94%	3%	4%	6%		
<i>Male</i>	93%	2%	5%	99%	2%	-1%	5%		
<i>Female</i>	90%	2%	9%	87%	4%	9%	6%		
North Bank	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r		
<i>Total</i>	81%	5%	14%	73%	5%	21%	11%		
<i>Male</i>	82%	5%	13%	76%	5%	19%	10%		
<i>Female</i>	80%	4%	16%	68%	7%	25%	11%		
Lower River	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r		
<i>Total</i>	69%	0%	31%	76%	0%	24%	1%		
<i>Male</i>	74%	0%	26%	76%	0%	24%	1%		
<i>Female</i>	62%	0%	38%	77%	0%	23%	0%		
Central River Jangjangbureh	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r		
<i>Total</i>	69%	0%	31%	99%	0%	1%	2%		
<i>Male</i>	71%	0%	29%	109	0%	-9%	2%		
<i>Female</i>	66%	0%	34%	84%	0%	16%	2%		
Central River Kuntaur	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r		
<i>Total</i>	89%	0%	11%	98%	1%	2%	15%		
<i>Male</i>	86%	0%	14%	94%	0%	6%	13%		
<i>Female</i>	96%	0%	4%	106	2%	-8%	19%		
Upper River	G7p	G7r	G7d	G8p	G8r	G8d	G9r		
<i>Total</i>	62%	1%	38%	65%	0%	34%	6%		
<i>Male</i>	64%	1%	35%	70%	0%	30%	3%		
<i>Female</i>	58%	1%	42%	55%	0%	44%	11%		

*Grade + p: promotion, r:repetition, d:dropout rates
Gambia EMIS Database, Dept. of State for Education*

*Some schools report no repeaters, this can cause serious distortions in the reported rates
Promotion rates over 100% are usually caused by inconsistent reporting of enrolment between years and cause the residual, the dropout rate to be negative*

Percentage of qualified teachers in the education system by level.

Level	1998	1999	2000
Primary	72%	81%	73%
Jr. Sec.	81%	95%	85%
Snr. Sec.	102%	100%	98%

Source: EMIS Version 3, DOSE, 2001.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

In the absence of a comprehensive study on the prevalence of juvenile delinquency, it is difficult, if not impossible to give an accurate indication of the nature and scope of delinquency in the country. While cases of delinquency and juvenile offences reported to the police are recorded in the Police Diaries, these raw data are never compiled or processed to give any meaningful information. This, coupled with much under-reporting makes it difficult to get a true and complete picture of the prevalence of juvenile offending, the nature of the offences, the nature of the sanctions imposed by the courts and the rate of recidivism. The data below is only for those juvenile offenders or accused persons that get to court and end up in the juvenile wing either on remand or to serve their sentences. It is only a partial picture.

In the year 2000, a total of 23 juveniles aged 14 – 17 years were at the Juvenile Wing at one time or another. The average age was 15.95 years. Out of the 23, one was convicted of indecent assault and sentenced to 2 years deprivation of liberty. Nine of them were convicted of stealing and/or house breaking and they were sentenced to between one month to 2 years. Two were charged with murder and two others on arson charges were on bail. One person charged with murder has been on remand since May 2000. Six others were released on charges of stealing and suspected possession of stolen property. One 17 year-old was arrested on charges of being a rogue and vagabond. However he was later released. In the same year ten others ranging in age from 11 to 18 years were arrested during or after the student riot of 2000. Nine of the ten were non-Gambians.

In 2001, about 12 new juvenile offenders passed through the juvenile wing either on remand or to serve their sentences. The offences ranged from stealing to murder. Three of the twelve were accused of stealing and another three were accused of wilful damage to property. Another four were cases of assault causing

actual bodily harm. There was one case of accused murder, one of arson and two cases of stealing.

Budget Allocation to Juvenile Justice

In the year 2001, the total budget allocation to the Juvenile Wing is D130, 000. This is equivalent to about US\$8,125 (Eight thousand, one hundred and twenty-five United States Dollar)

BUDGET ALLOCATION TO THE SOCIAL SECTORS

Despite the unexpected additional expenditure in the face of receding domestic revenue levels in 2000 and early part of 2001, The Government of The Gambia (GTOG) has maintained the momentum towards realising its medium-term economic objective of poverty reduction. Budget expenditure in the social sectors in 2000 and 2001 has increased significantly. This includes substantial increases of social sector budget realisations (in 2000) and allocations (for 2001), including 8% and 17% increases of the realised¹ recurrent expenditure in education and health respectively in 2000. Development Budget allocations² for education and health were equally safeguarded during 2000, with a quadrupling of education and a doubling of health investment allocations in 2000 over realised 1999 levels.

The Government's determination to maintain its strategy for poverty reduction and growth has equally translated into consolidated spending plans for the social sectors in the 2001 budget: overall (including recurrent and development expenditure) the education sector budget has been allocated 15.3% more funds than in 2000 and the health sector budget has been increased by 13%³. This places social sector expenditure (both recurrent and development) at 32% of total expenditure (19% for education and 13% for health).

In addition, the supplementary 2001 budget funded from HIPC interim debt relief (a total of D68.01 million for 2001 of which D12 million has been received so far) has been approved by HILEC in June 2001: it earmarked additional allocations for basic education 21%, and the health care delivery system 16% - of the interim debt relief budget. **From the normal and interim debt relief budgets, expenditures allocated to education in 2001 will reach 5.2% of GDP and that to health, - 3.5% (as compared to 4.7% and 3.2% respectively for 2000).**

¹ Realised expenditure for 2000 are preliminary figures obtained from the first closure of 2000 accounts at end of December 2000. Figures of expenditure might be adjusted upwards in the second closure that will take account of some late payments.

² Realised expenditure for the 2000 development budget was not yet available for externally funded development expenditure: as a result, budget estimates for 2000 are compared to actual expenditure for 1999.

³ Recurrent expenditure allocation for education in the 2001 Budget has increased by 9% compared to 2000 realisations and that for health by 21%. Development budget estimates allocations for 2001 increased by 13% for education and by 8% for health compared to 2000 budget allocations.

Expenditure on education by level 1998 - 2000

Level	1998 (Actuals)	1999 (Actuals)	2000 (Approved list.)
Ministry	10.28%	6.74%	7.07%
Basic Education	54.58%	63.45%	65.45%
Senior Secondary	15.19%	13.68%	12.26%
Vocational/Technical	8.74%	4.76%	3.72%
Gambia College	4.43%	5.08%	6.51%
University of the Gambia	0.42%	0.67%	0.81%
Non-Formal Education	0.05%	0.12%	0.13%
Others	6.32%	5.52%	4.05%
Total	100%	100%	100%
Expenditure as a percentage of government expenditure			
Including Debt service	17%	15% (approved est.)	12% (approved est.)
Excluding debt service	27%	22% (approved est.)	22% (approved est.)
Expenditure on preservation of school buildings in Local currency (Dalasis ⁴)			
African Dev. Fund	23,079,000	0	10,980,000
Gambia Govt. (GLF)	500,000	0	500,000

Source: EMIS Version 3, DOSE, 2001.

Health statistics

Infant mortality has declined from a high of 127/1000 live births in 1983. This has been mainly due to the high immunisation coverage that the country has attained as can be seen from the tables below. However malaria still continues to be a major health problem for infants and children. It is estimated that 60.6% of all new admissions to the Paediatric Ward of RVH, the main referral hospital in the Gambia, are diagnosed for malaria. Malaria also accounts for 47% of all deaths in the same paediatric ward.

Although the prevalence rate is still relatively low, HIV is emerging as a problem. The data in Tables 1 & 2 are derived from one centre (the Medical Research Council) that cares for a significant majority of those living with HIV/AIDS. They refer to newly identified HIV cases only. Patients who have both HIV-1 and HIV-2 (DUAL INFECTION) have been excluded. Patient with a confirmed HIV infection, but with the HIV type not determined, also have been excluded.

Table 1: HIV Positive cases, 1988-2000 by age and sex.

Table 1a: HIV1 Positive cases

HIV-1						
Age Group	Female	% Female	Male	%Male	All	All (%)
0-14	46	5	57	7	103	6

⁴ The Exchange rate to the US Dollar is about 16 Gambian Dalasis to 1 US Dollar.

15-24	249	28	32	4	281	16
25-34	375	43	347	40	722	41
35-44	134	15	280	32	414	24
45-54	53	6	98	11	151	9
55-64	14	2	35	4	49	3
over 64	3	0	9	1	12	1
Unknown	6	1	7	1	13	1
Total	880	100	865	100	1745	100

Source: Medical Research Council (MRC)

Table 1b: HIV2 Positive cases

HIV-2						
Age Group	Female	% Female	Male	% Male	All	All (%)
0-14	20	3	18	4	38	4
15-24	92	15	15	3	107	10
25-34	255	41	113	26	368	35
35-44	158	25	133	31	291	27
45-54	69	11	98	23	167	16
55-64	24	4	46	11	70	7
over 64	3	0	10	2	13	1
Unknown	5	1	2	0	7	1
Total	626	100	435	100	1061	100

Source: Medical Research Council (MRC)

Table 2a: Annual HIV1 Positive case 1986: 2000. (Source: Medical Research Council (MRC))

HIV-1			
YEAR	Female	Male	All
1986	0	2	2
1987	1	2	3
1988	5	7	12
1989	6	12	18
1990	11	21	32
1991	30	41	71
1992	37	43	80
1993	55	56	111
1994	43	65	108
1995	68	71	139
1996	78	77	155
1997	109	89	198
1998	128	119	247
1999	148	135	283
2000	161	125	286

Table 2b: Annual HIV2 Positive cases 1986: 2000.

HIV-2			
YEAR	Female	Male	All
1986	0	3	3
1987	7	6	13
1988	25	23	48
1989	31	32	63
1990	28	27	55
1991	43	39	82
1992	62	34	96
1993	68	24	92
1994	49	33	82
1995	37	32	69
1996	52	32	84
1997	66	34	100
1998	54	43	97
1999	55	38	93
2000	49	35	84

Source: Medical Research Council (MRC)

Harmful Traditional Practices		
	Findings	Source
FGM	No quantitative data available	
Early marriage	Of the 2452 adolescents surveyed 40% of all females and 41% of all males were already married by the age of 19 years	Adolescent health survey, 1999
Teenage pregnancies	Proportion of unmarried girls aged 14 to 19 years that were sexually active varied between 7 to 42 %	1993**
Indicator	Rate	Source
IMR	61 per 1, 000	State of the World's Children, 2000
U5MR	75 per 1, 000	
MMR	1050 per 100,000	Maternal Mortality Survey 1990
Sexually Transmitted Infections:	Amongst 258 rural Gambian girls aged 15-19 years Syphilis: 2.3%, HSV2: 16%; Trichomonas 5.3%; Candida: 1.3%; Chlamydia, 0.9% and gonorrhoea, 0	MRC, Farafenni 1999

**Jarsey, S. (1996) Reproductive Health Behaviour of Adolescents in the Gambia (Unpublished M.Sc. thesis)

Vaccination coverage rates:1998 and 1999

ANTIGENS	1998	1999
BCG	99.0%	96.3%
OPV3	95.2%	87.8%
DTP1	98.1%	96.6%
DPT3	96.7%	87.5%
HIB3	96.7%	87.5%
HEP B3	92.8%	87.6%
MEASLES	91.9%	87.9%
Y/FEVER	90.8%	85.6%
FIC<1 year	79.8%	64.1%
FIC<2 years	87.7%	78.6%
TT3	96.8%	70.6%

Source: EPI Unit, Department of State for Health & Social Welfare, June 2000.

Early marriages

Population Married by age group, sex and Local Government Area 1983 and 1993 Census.

LGA	1983						1993					
	Age <15			Age 15-19			Age <15			Age 15-19		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
The Gambia	667	2,532	3,199	845	18,381	19,226	313	2,188	2,501	1,005	21,516	22,521
Banjul	27	63	90	20	589	609	8	17	25	32	422	454
Kanifing	74	186	260	67	2,063	2,130	47	251	298	174	3,527	3,701
Brikama	129	353	482	151	3,335	3,486	57	301	358	157	4,129	4,286
Mansakonko	65	272	337	79	1,659	1,738	17	185	202	49	1,614	1,663
Kerewan	118	533	651	130	3,221	3,351	48	414	462	149	3,528	3,677
Kuntaur	50	278	328	96	1,849	1,945	32	242	274	99	1,992	2,091
Georgetown	67	389	456	126	2,390	2,516	33	348	381	114	2,440	2,554
Basse	137	458	595	176	3,275	3,451	71	430	501	231	3,864	4,095

Note: Married population, including divorced, separated and widowed, is used here as a proxy for 1983 and 1993; and is disaggregated by gender and LGA.

Source: 1983 and 1993 Population Census Reports, Central Statistics Dept.

Expenditure on health

Recurrent Budget Allocation for Health by expenditure item for 1998 – 2000 in local currency.

Expenditure Item	1998	1999	2000
Ministry	29,471,584	43,774,310	46,011,440
Support services	1,533,443	1,955,040	1,857,210
Directorate of Health Services	2,060,591	2,798,190	2,739,890
Drugs, dressings and Vaccines	9,000,000	9,450,000	11,450,000
Purchase of Vaccines	0	0	200,000
Directorate of Planning	535,216	624,270	490,500
Regional Health Offices	2,552,816	3,499,570	2,944,770
Health Centres	9,711,155	13,223,130	14,690,400
Dispensaries	2,887,190	4,724,040	4,953,590
Health Promotion	2,051,674	2,373,460	1,872,700
Family Health	361,902	966,120	953,050
Disease Control	484,279	697,810	1,353,910
Nurse Training	2,553,994	1,751,850	1,775,960
Cleansing Service	86,090	227,120	99,090
Total	63,289,934	86,064,910	91,392,510

Source: 2000 Estimates of Recurrent Revenue and Expenditure

Development estimates of the health Sector 1999 – 2001.

Programme	1999	2000	2001
Hospitals	1525000	2710000	14450000
Health centers	1500000	1843931	13450000
Department of Social Welfare		340000	
Participatory Health Nutrition and Population Project	31101900	36946815	32686470
Health Services Capacity Building	507500	35035880	22421000
Maternal and Child Health	198395		350
Primary health Care(PHC)	288895		75000
Medical & Health		75000	
Basic Health Services		350000	25000

Source: 2001 Estimates of Recurrent and Development Revenue and Expenditure

CHILD PROTECTION

Children orphaned by AIDS

There is no reliable data on the number of children that are orphaned by AIDS. The only data available is an estimate from UNAIDS which gave 9,600 AIDS orphans. However this cannot be verified.

Children separated from their parents

Children in domestic adoption

Age and Sex	Applications received			Applications Granted		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Not Indicated						
Female	1	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Male	1	2	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
0-1						
Female	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Male	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2-5						
Female	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Male	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6-11						
Female	1	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	1
Male	1	1	7	Nil	Nil	Nil
12-18						
Female	Nil	3	8	Nil	Nil	3
Male	Nil	4	9	Nil	2	2
Total	4	15	31	Nil	2	6

Source: DSW Records

For domestic adoption the data available is not disaggregated by urban/rural residence. For the applications granted, seven of the children were adopted by relatives and one child was adopted by a non-Gambian who is ordinarily resident in The Gambia.

Children in inter-country adoption

Age and Sex	Applications received			Applications Granted		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Not Indicated						
Female	N/A	1	1	N/A	Nil	Nil
Male	N/A	5	Nil	N/A	Nil	Nil
0-1						
Female	1	Nil	2		Nil	Nil
Male	1	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil
2-5						
Female	Nil	2	3	N/A	1	1
Male	2	Nil	2	N/A	Nil	Nil
6-11						
Female	1	1	4	1	1	1
Male	3	Nil	7	1	Nil	Nil
12-18						
Female	2	1	1	N/A	1	Nil
Male	Nil	2	2	N/A	2	Nil
Total	10	12	23	3	5	2

Source: DSW Records

For inter-country adoption the data available is not disaggregated by urban/rural residence. Five of the children who were granted inter-country adoption were adopted by their relatives. In all the cases in which applications for adoption were filed but adoption did not take place (either they were not pursued by the applicants or were rejected by the courts) the children are currently living with their families.

It is important to note that in The Gambia application to adopt becomes an inter-country adoption when the applicant is either a non-Gambian or non-resident. But if the applicant is resident in the Gambia, even though he/she may not be Gambian it is considered as domestic adoption.

Number of Children living in institutions⁵ by age in 2001.

	Ages				Total
	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	
	5	0	1	1	7
	3	3	2	1	9
	4	3	1	2	10
	2	3	1	1	7
	3	4	0	1	8
	4	1	2	2	9
	4	5	0	1	10
	2	3	2	2	9
	2	3	2	1	8
	2	3	3	0	8
Total	31	28	14	12	85

Source: SOS Village Records

Number of Abandoned Children by age, sex and rural/urban reported at Dept. Of Social Welfare

Age and Sex	1998	1999	2000	Totals
0-1				
Female	7	2	5	14
Male	4	3	Nil	7
2-5				
Female	2	Nil	Nil	2
Male	1	Nil	Nil	1
6-11				
Female	Nil	Nil	Nil	0
Male	Nil	Nil	Nil	0
12-18				
Female	Nil	Nil	Nil	0
Male	Nil	Nil	Nil	0
Total	14	5	5	24
Urban	14	5	5	24
Rural	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Source: DSW Records

⁵ From the SOS Village only.

Percentage of children 0-14 years of age in households not living with a biological parent, The Gambia, 2000

	Living with both parents	Living with neither parent			Living with mother only		Living with father only		Impossible to determine	Total	Not living with a biological parent	One or both parents dead	Number of children
		Father only live	Mother only alive	Both are alive	Both are dead	Father alive	Father dead	Mother alive					
Male	73.9	.7	2.0	5.0	.8	9.3	3.1	2.9	.7	3	8.5	7.3	6740
Female	71.3	.8	3.2	7.4	.5	9.3	3.5	1.7	.5	3	11.9	8.5	7007
Banjul	63.2	1.0	2.7	10.0	.4	15.9	2.1	1.8	.1	.8	14.1	6.4	184
Kanifing	65.0	1.1	3.3	7.1	.3	13.8	4.1	2.7	.7	.3	11.8	9.5	2977
Brikama	71.6	.5	3.2	6.8	.4	9.0	3.6	3.4	.3	.3	10.9	7.9	3983
Mansakonko	71.6	1.2	3.5	9.6	.7	7.0	2.1	1.6	.3	.9	14.9	7.6	503
Kerewan	74.6	.5	2.9	5.2	.7	7.7	3.1	1.5	1.0	.3	9.2	8.2	2274
Kuntaur	79.3	.3	2.2	5.4	.7	4.1	2.9	1.5	.6	.7	8.6	6.7	484
Janjanbureh	77.7	1.3	2.4	10.5	1.3	2.3	.9	1.7	.5	.8	15.6	6.5	604
Basse	79.0	.6	.8	3.7	1.2	8.5	3.0	1.3	.8	.2	6.3	6.4	2738
Urban	65.3	.9	2.9	7.7	.5	13.5	4.2	2.4	.6	.4	11.9	9.0	4830
Rural	76.5	.6	2.5	5.4	.8	7.0	2.8	2.2	.6	.3	9.3	7.2	8917
0-4 years	80.6	.2	.6	2.7	.3	11.5	1.6	.7	.3	.3	3.8	2.9	4341
5-9 years	72.3	.8	2.6	7.1	.6	9.2	2.9	2.9	.4	.3	11.0	7.3	5199
10-14 years	64.6	1.2	4.8	8.8	1.1	7.1	5.4	3.2	1.2	.3	15.9	13.7	4207
Total	72.6	.7	2.6	6.2	.6	9.3	3.3	2.3	.6	.3	10.2	7.9	13747

Source: MICSII (2000)

Expenditure on Foster Care and Welfare Institutions 1999 – 2001.

A) Foster Care

Year	Amount in Local Currency	Equivalent In US Dollars
1999	D20,000	\$1,250
2000	D15,000	\$937.5
2001	D15,000	\$937.5
Total	D50,000	\$3,125

Source: Government Estimates of Recurrent Budget

B) Grant to Welfare Institutions

Year	Amount in Local currency	Equivalent In US Dollars
1999	D50,000	\$3,125
2000	D100,000	\$6,250
2001	D100,000	\$6,250
Total	D250,000	\$15,625

Source: Government Estimates of Recurrent Budget

Expenditure on Programmes for Children with disabilities

There are no programmes for disabilities as such. However there is a national budgetary allocation to disability unit of the Department of Social Welfare. The allocation is for the purchase of orthopaedic materials. The table below shows the allocation for 1999-2001.

Year	Amount in Local Currency	Equivalent In US Dollars
1999	D50,000	\$3,125
2000	D50,000	\$3,125
2001.	D50,000	\$3,125
Total	D150,000	\$9,375

Source: Government Estimates of Recurrent Budget

In addition to the allocation for orthopaedic materials, there is also a budgetary allocations to the following specialised schools in the form of subventions:

- St. John School for the Deaf and Hard of hearing
- Methodist Mission school for the mentally retarded children
- Campama school for the blind.

Budgetary Allocation to special schools for the disabled children in Local currency

School	1998	1999	2000	Equivalent in US Dollars
St. John School for the Deaf			D472,724	\$29,545.25
Methodist Mission school for the mentally retarded children			D201,268	\$12,579.25
Campama school for the blind.			Not available	

Source: Government Estimates of Recurrent Budget

Children with Disabilities

According to the results of the 1998 National Disability Survey conducted at the household level, disabled children (2-18 years) constituted 1, 310 out of a total disabled population of 4, 253 persons. It is important to note that all these disabled children live with their families at the time of the survey. A breakdown of their numbers by sex, age and residence is as follows:

Total	1, 310
Male	748
Female	562

Source: 1998 Household Disability Survey

Age and sex Distribution of Disabled Children

Age	Male	Female	Total
2-6	132	133	265
7-12	314	198	512
13-18	302	231	533
Total	748	562	1, 310

Source: 1998 Household Disability Survey

Disabled Children by type of residence

Type of Residence	Male	Female	Total
Urban	208	162	370
Rural	540	400	940
Total	748	562	1, 310

Source: 1998 Household Disability Survey

Child (2-18 years) Disability Prevalence Rate by Sex

Total	9.9 per 1, 000
Male	11.2 per 1, 000
Female	8.5 per 1, 000

Source: 1998 Household Disability Survey

Disabled children (4-19 years) currently attending regular schools, including religious schools

Total	505
Male	310
Female	195

Source: 1998 Household Disability Survey

Disabled children attending special schools

During the 1998 Disability Survey, an institutional questionnaire was administered to collect data, among others, on enrolment and dropout in the three special education schools (Methodist Mission Learning Difficulties Unit Campama School for the Blind and St. John's School for the Deaf). The enrolment for the three institutions from 1994/95 to 1996/97 was as follows:

Children with disabilities attending special school 1994-1997

Year	Male	Female	Total
1994/95	64	36	100
1995/96	74	52	126
1996/97	119	67	186

Source: 1998 Household Disability Survey

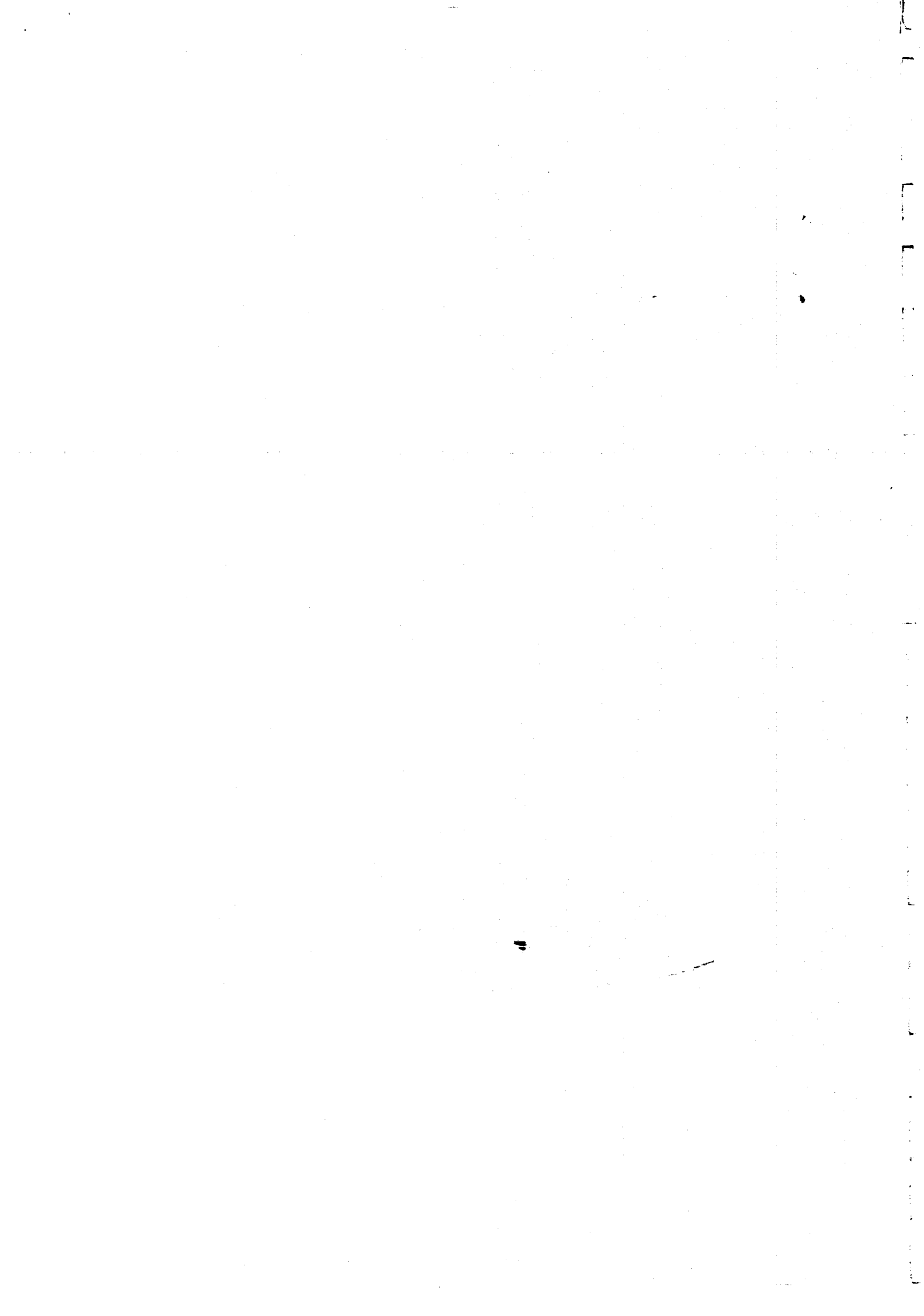
Children with disabilities attending special school by type of school and gender in 2001.

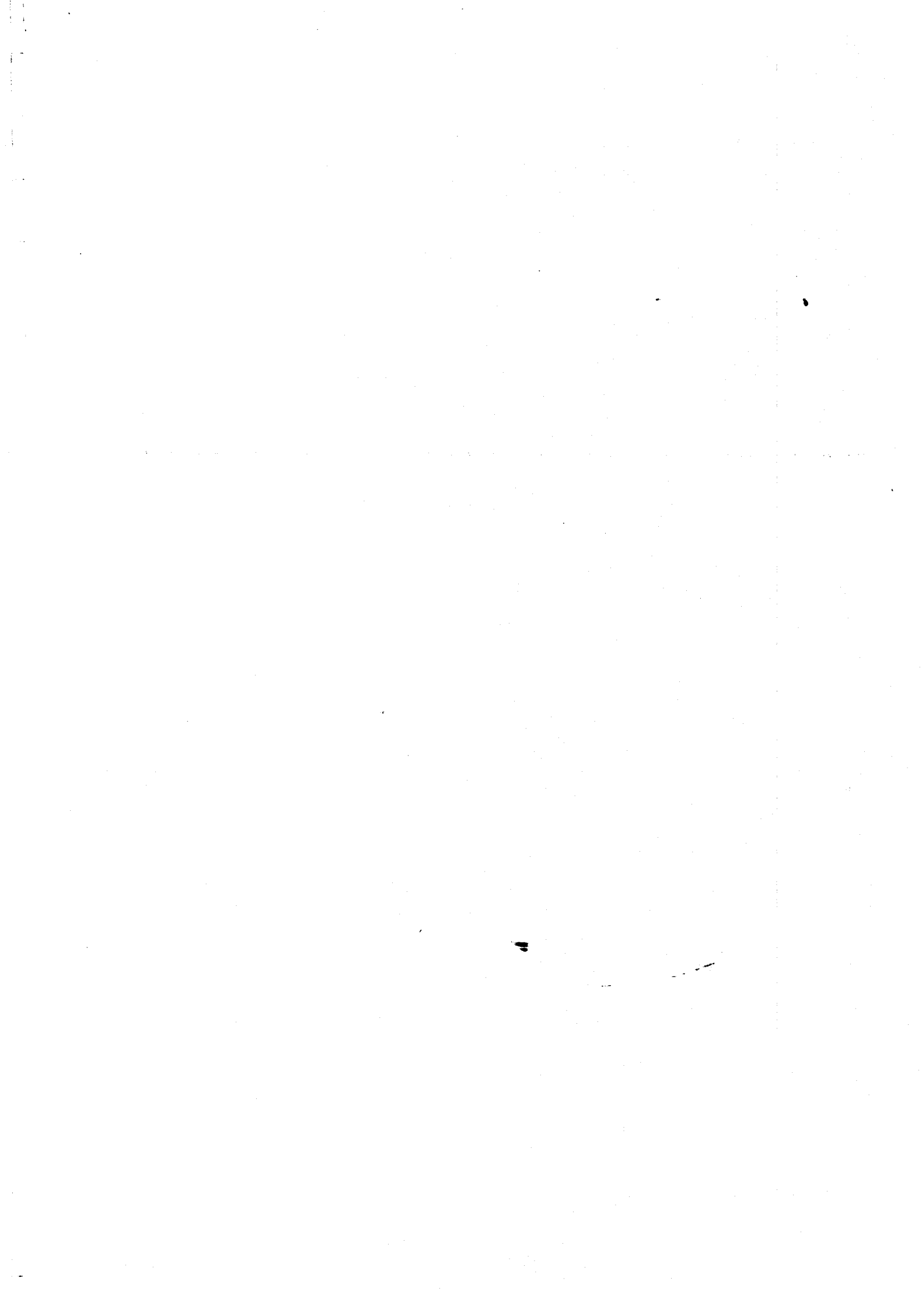
School Type	Female	Male	Total
St. John School for the deaf	57	73	130
Campama School for the blind	9	12	21
Methodist School for mentally retarded children	23	35	58
Total	89	120	209

Source: School Record compiled by DSW

Number of disabled children by type of disability in the junior secondary school.

Divisional Grade 7 and Total Junior Secondary Gross and Net Enrolment Rates Year:													2000 Special All Schools	
Need Students Summary Report - Aids and Special Needs														
National Totals														
Number of Students In Listed Special Needs Categories														
Total SN Students	Vision	Hearing	Speaking	Mobility	Limb Manipulation	Feeling	Fits	Mental Illness	Learning Difficulties	Behaviour Difficulties	Other	Emotional		
Male: 853	201	148	159	123	23	29	48	17	59	23	4			
Female: 550	148	102	66	66	7	19	43	9	43	15	2			
Total: 1403	349	250	225	189	30	48	91	26	102	38	6			
Number Of Students Using Listed Special Needs Aids														
Total SN Students	Padded Chair	Reading Stand	Table for Wheelchair	Hearing Aid	Braille Machine	Long Cane	Wheelchair Crutches	Artificial Limb	Other					
Male: 853	2	13	2	94	5	4	18	8	55					
Female: 550	11	4	2	57	5	1	18	0	38					
Total: 1403	13	17	4	151	10	5	36	8	93					
Tot = Total, Rep = Repeaters, Pr = Promoters, G En R: Gross Enrolment Ratio, N En R: Net Enrolment Ratio NB/ #Error or #Num denotes missing data or division by zero														
Gambia EMIS Database, Dept. of State for Education														
26 July 2001														
Source: EMIS database Version 3, DOSE														





2003. The National Programme of Action analysed the overall situation of children in the Gambia, identified their unmet needs and set priorities which were then phased over three development planning periods. However due to lack of funds and weak co-ordination, the inter-ministerial committee and the multi-sectoral technical working group failed to function and eventually died.

International Co-operation

Since the World Summit for Children and the signing and subsequent ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, the government of the Gambia, aware of the limited resources available domestically, has actively sought for additional resources through international and bilateral co-operations, grants and loans. These include co-operation with UN agencies most notably UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, WHO, FAO and WFP. It has also secured several loan agreements with World Bank, and the African Development Bank in the areas of health and education, the most recent of which is the Third Education Sector Programme and the Participatory Health Population and Nutrition Project.

Some major project-type initiatives embarked in the social sector to address pertinent priority concerns include the following:

I. Third Education Sector Project

The third education sector project has the objective of increasing gross enrolment especially at the basic level, improve quality, develop programmes for early childhood education, facilitate private sector participation in education service delivery etc. It has the following components:

Expansion of Basic Education

- Girls' Education Programme
- Improving Quality and Relevance of Basic Education
- Early Childhood Development and Care
- Secondary School Development
- Programme for the Improvement of Education Sector Management etc.

The project cost is approximated at SDR15, 100,000 (about D242, 808, 000) and is to last till October 31, 2002.

II. Participatory Health, Population and Nutrition Project (PHPNP):

The objective of this project is to improve the quality of, and access to, family health services, including reproductive, infant and children health services, nutrition services and the management of such services in the Gambia.

The project is composed of the following parts:

- A. **Maternal Health Services:** aimed at improving the geographical coverage and quality of maternal health services in the country, as well as increase knowledge and awareness on issues relating to maternal health; Prevention of Unwanted Pregnancies; and the Prevention and Control of STIs and HIV.
- B. **Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI):**
- C. **Management and Implementation of Family Health Programmes:** This entails policy development, capacity building, upgrading and maintenance of health infrastructure.
- D. **Nutrition Policy and Services for Women, Infants and Children:** involving the formulation and strengthening of a nutrition policy and conducting research and making such research information public through IEC with the aimed of preventing and controlling micro-nutrients deficiencies in women and children. ***This component is being executed by the National Nutrition Agency (NANA) and has the mandate of formulating:***

The National Nutrition Policy 2000-2004, to guide the incorporation of nutrition into our national development plan. The vision of the Policy is to improve the nutritional status of the Gambian population, particularly women and children. The goal of the Nutrition Policy, which is to attain the basic nutritional requirements of the Gambian population, will be realised through seven substantive priority areas:

- ◆ Protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding.
- ◆ Improving food security at the national, community and household levels.
- ◆ Improving food standards, quality and safety.
- ◆ Preventing and managing infectious diseases.
- ◆ Preventing and managing micronutrient malnutrition.
- ◆ Preventing and managing diet related non-communicable diseases.
- ◆ Caring for the socio-economically deprived and nutritionally vulnerable.

There are four principal instruments to address these areas:

- ◆ Nutrition Information, education and communication.
- ◆ Assessing, analysing and monitoring nutrition situations.
- ◆ Incorporating nutrition objectives into development policies and programmes.
- ◆ Institutional arrangements for policy implementation.

The project cost is estimated at SDR13, 400, 000 (about D215, 472, 000) and is expected to be completed by 30 June, 2003.

III. HIV/AIDS Rapid Response Project (HARRP)

This project is in response to the threat of HIV/AIDS. There is little need to dwell on the impact of HIV/AIDS on children. In a bid to avert this threat, GTOG has with the assistance of the World Bank embarked on this project to curb - the spread of AIDS, the suffering those living with AIDS and ensure care for those orphaned by AIDS, increase access to prevention and care services through the following components:

- A. **Capacity Building and Policy Development:** entailing the development of a national HIV/AIDS strategy, strengthen capacity at all levels of authority – National, Divisional and District levels for the implementation of the strategy, support NGOs as well as monitor and evaluate impact of programmes.
- B. **Multi Sectoral Response for Prevention and Care:** this aims at providing staff at the various departments with training on HIV/AIDS and STI education, condoms and other support services to encourage HIV/AIDS avoidance behaviour and care for people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHAs)
- C. **Health Sector Responses to STI/HIV Management:** To strengthen health institutions for the diagnosis, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS, TB and STIs.
- D. **Community and Civil Society Initiatives (CCSI):** To provide grants for the financing of CCSI HIV/AIDS related subproject initiatives.

The project is estimated to cost SDR11, 800,000 or \$15, 000, 000 and last till June 30, 2005.

In addition government has also benefited from several bi-lateral grants from DFID and the European Development Fund of the European Union mainly in the area of Education, Health and Local Government Reforms and Good Governance. Each of these address the rights of children directly by providing health and education for them or indirectly by addressing the overall development of the country the benefit of which invariably filters down to children, advise government on child rights issues and advocate for allocation of more resources to child right programmes.

UNICEF Programme Funding Allocation by Source, 2001 (in US dollars)

Programme	Source of Funding		
	Regular Resources	Other Resources	Total
Health & Nutrition	299, 000	390, 763	689, 763
Basic Education	368, 000	440, 023	808, 023
Water Supply & Environmental Sanitation	219, 000	---	219, 000
Advocacy, Social Policy & Programme Development	106, 772	---	106, 772
Programme Support	122, 660	---	122, 660
Grand Total	1, 115, 432	830, 786	1, 946, 218

UNDP Programme allocation in US Dollars

Programme/Project	TRAC	SPPD/STS	Other Resources	Totals
EMCBP	1,416,612	77,138	552,719	2,046,469
Governance	371,218	10,450	0	38,668
Poverty	5,057,111	664,209	363,715	6,085,035
Total	6,844,941	751,797	916,434	8,513,172

Source: UNDP Records

Mandate of the National Commission on Children's Rights

The National Commission on the Children's Rights will be an independent and autonomous institution and will consist of representatives of relevant government departments, NGOs and civil society organisations. Its overall mandate shall be to create awareness of the CRC, monitoring the implementation of the CRC in the country, co-ordinate the works of public institutions, government departments involved in child rights programme, assist in formulating plans and mechanisms for implementing child-related policies and programmes.

Specifically the Objectives Shall Include:

- To see the general welfare and development of children.
- Co-ordinate all essential services for children in the country which will promote the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child.

- To work hand-in-hand with the various agencies concerned with the implementation of policies and programmes for children.
- To encourage and assist in regulating the establishment of crèches, day-care centres and homes for children as well as children's play ground.
- To encourage the establishment of centres offering diagnostic and welfare services to children.

However at this stage it is not planned that the commission will take individual complaints of violations of the rights of children. This will have to be the mandate of children's Ombudsman, which may have to be created. But as of now there are no plans to create a children's ombudsman. The other possibility is to expand the mandate of the present Ombudsman to include complaints of individual violations of the rights of children.

Mandate Of the Office of the Ombudsman

The mandate of the office of the Ombudsman is to receive complaints from aggrieved persons against Government agencies or officials. It has powers to investigate complaints, recommend corrective actions, issue reports and enforce orders. The Ombudsman can investigate government at all levels, including local and central governments. They can investigate any person performing a public function; e.g. the security services like the army, police, the NIA, the prison services and corporations or companies where the state is involved. What the Ombudsman can investigate include the functioning of the Public Service Commission, cases of injustice, corruption, abuse of power, discrimination, mal-administration, mismanagement of public funds and unfair treatment. Thus the mandate of the Ombudsman are restricted to the areas above and does not cover violations of the rights of children at family level. However one area in which the mandate of the Ombudsman may be deemed to cover children is when children have problems with the Police or the Army.

Awareness Creation on the CRC

To create greater awareness on the rights of children, committees on children's rights have been formed at both the national and local levels. However the divisional committees could not meet regularly due to lack of local human resources and the committees are largely dysfunctional. The Day of the African Child has been regularly celebrated in June of every year and the celebrations are characterised by awareness raising activities on the rights of children. During the celebrations of the Day of the African child in 1992, a National Parliamentary Media Taskforce called on the government to adopt a programme for the protection of the rights of Gambian children and to make the necessary changes to national legislations to bring them in line with the CRC, propose new laws that will enable parents to ensure their children enjoy the best possible conditions for their development and for parliament to review national law and practice as they

concern Juveniles, to ensure that they comply with the Beijing Rules on Juvenile Justice.

Training on specific aspects of the CRC has been conducted for some professional staff. Magistrates, Judges, the Police, staff of the Department of Justice and staff of the Department of Social Welfare have been trained in Juvenile Justice. About 50 teachers have also been given one-week orientation on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with support from UNICEF. However the vast majority of teachers need to be trained on the CRC. There is still a need for training of media practitioners, NGO staff, youth, children, religious, traditional and community leaders, members of the community in child rights issues.

In terms of introduction into school curriculum, a Rights and Civic Education Syllabus has been produced in 2001 with support from UNICEF. The syllabus will be finalised and introduced into the school curriculum next year. A Population and Family Life education has been introduced into the school curriculum.

New Laws, Policies and Programmes since between 1998 and 2000.

Since the initial report of the government of the Gambia was written and submitted no new laws for children were passed. However a separate wing for male juvenile offenders was opened in 2000. In terms of policies and programmes, a draft social welfare policy has been produced. However it is yet to be finalised and adopted by government. A National Nutrition Policy And Programme has been formulated and launched. With loan from the World Bank a \$15 Million HIV/AIDS Rapid Response Programme (HARRP) was launched this year to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS among the population including children. Another new programme that was launched is the third Education Sector programme to increase access to education and improve the quality and relevance of education. In the health sector the Participatory Health, Population and Nutrition Project was launched with loan from World Bank and the African Development Bank. The Poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) has been drafted and it will be finalised in December 2001.

CONSTRAINTS

While the government of the Gambia is aware of and accepts its responsibility and commitment as a signatory to the CRC, since 1990 there were many constraints which hampered the full realisation of the rights of children and the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Gambia. These constraints include the following:

Limited Resources: The Gambia is one of the poorest and smallest countries in the world. Despite this, it has one of the highest population growth rates in Africa. The annual population growth was 4.2% from the 1993 Census. The rate of

economic growth is however less than this. It also has a very youthful population with about 50% of the population below the age of 18. The country mainly depends on exports of groundnuts, tourism and the import/export trade. Thus the population does not match the resource base and as a result government has not been able to ensure the rights of all children.

Inadequate Institutional Framework: The inadequacy of existing institutional capacity for programme development, management, monitoring and evaluation in the area of child rights has hindered progress in areas critical to their wellbeing. The problem is compounded by the absence of an institutional mechanism for the implementation and monitoring of the CRC in the Gambia.

Socio-cultural Beliefs and Practices: The Gambia has deeply entrenched socio-cultural beliefs and practices, some of which are obstacles to the full realisation of the rights of children.

The Absence of a Corporate Body of Laws on Children: The absence of a corporate body of laws on children hampers the harmonisation of the domestic laws with the CRC. In addition there is no specific law to guarantee the rights of refugees children in The Gambia.

Limited Data: The capacity to plan requires reliable data. There is shortage of child-specific data.

Gender inequalities: The low status of women in society results in inequalities in access to basic education especially for girls.

Poverty and Debt Burden: There is widespread poverty. According to the 1998 Household Poverty Survey, about 69% of population and 55% of households fell below the poverty line. Although the government is committed to poverty reduction, external indebtedness and the burden of repayment continues to short shrift The Gambia's ability to meet set targets, particularly in programmes which give priority to children.

Inadequate Inter-agency Collaboration and Co-ordination: Weak inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination among actors in the delivery of child-specific programmes results in duplication of efforts and lack of consistency.

CONCLUSION AND THE WAY FORWARD.

The Gambia is among the African countries that reiterated its commitment to Poverty Reduction Strategy to achieve a reduction in poverty, thus macro-economic growth is linked to pro-poor policies. The Poverty reduction Strategy serves as the first building block for operationalising the Vision 20/20, all development projects and programmes financed or implemented by government, donors, NGOs, Civil Society would have to be integrated into the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

The Gambia is committed to the respect of fundamental human rights both nationally and internationally. With the 1997 national constitution serving as the basis and source of inspiration Government will, in collaboration with its partners and other stakeholders, intensify its efforts at both national and international level in ensuring the Survival, Protection, Development and Participation rights of children as set in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Considering the constraints encountered and the progress made so far towards the implementation of the CRC and the goals of the World Summit for Children, Government plans to implement the following strategic actions:

- ✎ Creation of a National Commission on Children's Rights as a matter of priority and to provide it with the necessary resources for its operations.
- ✎ Review of the 1992-2003 National Programme of Action using relevant social indicators relating to the wellbeing of children and which will incorporate the New Agenda for Children in the 21st Century.
- ✎ Harmonisation of the existing national legislations with the CRC and the enactment of new legislations to fully cover the entire rights of the child as enshrined in the CRC.
- ✎ Ensuring greater involvement of civil society in the development and implementation of child rights-based programmes.
- ✎ Mobilisation of additional resources at the national and international levels for the implementation of programmes in favour of children using UNDAF and Round Table Donor Conferences.
- ✎ Conversion of debt relief under the HIPC facility for investment in the social sector as a matter of priority to provide for and protect the physical and intellectual well-being of children, ensure universal access to good quality basic services for every child and create the national legal, policy and budgetary framework to facilitate and promote the full realisation of children's rights.