



# THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

Gambia Bureau of Statistics - Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs



WHY THE GAMBIA  
NEEDS GOOD STATISTICS



**The role of statistics in national development and the fight against poverty cannot be over-emphasized.** The country is committed to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and has put in place a monitoring mechanism to measure progress. Any nation that is poised to realise its national development policy objectives and the MDGs must produce quality, relevant and reliable statistical information to enable decision-makers and other users make evidence-based decisions. This will ensure efficient planning and a follow-up of the development programmes in line with our Vision 2020 and our PRSP.

## • | VISION 2020

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To transform The Gambia into a financial centre, a tourist paradise, a trading export-oriented agricultural and manufacturing nation, thriving on free market policies and a vibrant private sector, sustained by a well-educated, trained, skilled, healthy self reliant and enterprising population and guaranteeing a well-balanced ecosystem and a decent standard of living for one and all under a system of government based on the consent of the citizenry.

# VISION 2020

# • | POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY PAPER (PRSP)

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**1)** The Government of The Gambia completed its second generation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP II) through a wide range of participatory processes and consultations in December 2006. This PRSP II is a five year national planning framework covering the period 2007-2011 to assist The Republic of The Gambia in its efforts to achieve the MDGs and the goals set in our Vision 2020.

**2)** The long term goal of the PRSP II is to eradicate poverty by increasing significantly national income through sustained economic growth and reducing income distribution inequalities through specific poverty reduction priorities. In this regard, the Government of The Gambia renews its commitment, made at the September 2005 World Summit to prepare and implement national development strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The MDGs, which set clear targets for reducing poverty, hunger, illiteracy, disease, discrimination against women and environmental degradation as well as requisite global partnerships in support of such efforts, are simply operationalising the objectives of sustainable human development.

**3)** The second National Poverty Reduction Strategy is the single medium term development planning framework for the attainment of economic growth, poverty reduction objectives and the MDGs. This is the main building block for the road to the realisation of our Vision 2020.

**4)** The PRSP II has five pillars of intervention:

- I)** Create an enabling policy environment to promote Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction.
- II)** Enhance the capacity and output of productive sectors: Agriculture, Fisheries, Industry, Trade and Tourism, with emphasis on productive capacities of the poor and vulnerable populations.
- III)** Improve coverage of the basic social services and social protection needs of the poor and vulnerable populations.
- IV)** Enhance governance systems and build the capacity of local communities and civil society organisations to play an active role in economic growth and poverty reduction.
- V)** Mainstream poverty related cross-cutting issues into poverty reduction.

**5)** The five development pillars are outcomes that are practically being translated in diverse programmes/projects interventions with various institutions: public, private and civil society organisations.

With the rapid development in the country, statistics are more important than ever. GDP growth has been between 5-6 percent per annum during the last five years. These developments are hoped to be sustained in the medium term. As such good statistics are needed for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring for the attainment of our Vision 2020. Hence the need for a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) as outlined below.

# • | NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS - NSDS -

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The objective of the National Statistical System (NSS) is to provide stakeholders and the public with timely and high quality statistics which have the confidence and full support of their users. Confidence in statistics depends on their credibility, relevance, integrity, accessibility and timeliness, and on the objectivity, reputation and professionalism of the agency producing them.

On that basis, the NSS of The Gambia has identified its vision, mission, core values and a number of strategic pillars in order to focus and guide the system over the next five years and answer the data requirements for our Vision 2020 and PRSP.

## • Mission

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Our mission is to lead in developing and producing statistical data and information of high quality, and to advance their effective use in both public and private policy decision-making. Our mission is the starting point for all of our programs and actions.

## • Vision

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Our vision is to be premier among better national statistical systems, producing impartial, timely, and accurate data which will inform the country policy decisions at all levels, thus advancing the quality of life and economic well being of all Gambians.

## • Core values

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Our core values will be focused in five key areas as follows:

- **Relevance:** the degree to which products and services are useful and responsive to the needs of The Gambia and other stakeholders.
- **Accuracy:** the correctness, validity, and reliability of data and information products.
- **Timeliness:** the timing of information releases.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** the cost-effectiveness of amounts used to produce data products and services.
- **Dissemination:** the availability, accessibility, and distribution of statistical products and services.

**The Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBOS) is the coordinating organ of The Gambia Statistical System. GBOS was established in 2005 by the Statistical Act replacing the defunct Central Statistics Department.**

## • | MAJOR STATISTICAL OPERATIONS

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### • 2003 Population and Housing Census

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The Population and Housing Census is conducted every ten years and the 2003 marked the fourth census since independence. A total of 14 volumes were prepared from this 2003 Census namely:

- Compound and Buildings/ Structures Vol. 1
- Fertility Analysis and Evaluation Vol. 2
- Mortality Analysis and Evaluation Vol. 3
- National Migration Analysis Vol. 4
- Spatial Distribution of the Population and Socio-Cultural characteristics Vol. 5
- Housing and household characteristics vol.6
- Economic Characteristics Vol. 7
- Education Characteristics vol. 8
- Gender Statistics vol. 9
- Directory of Settlement Profile vol. 10
- Children in The Gambia Vol.11
- Disability in The Gambia Vol. 12
- Elderly in The Gambia Vol. 13
- Access to Media in The Gambia Vol. 14

In addition, a settlement profile has been compiled that contains key socio-demographic indicators for every settlement in the country. This would be made available in CDs for data users.

### • IHS 2003-2004 Integrated Household Survey (IHS 2003-2004)

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The 2003/04 Integrated Household Survey (IHS) is the first of its kind ever conducted in The Gambia. The survey lasted for a period of more than one year which was meant to take into account the seasonal variations in some key indicators. It covers approximately 4,600 households randomly selected based on probability proportional to size across the 8 Local Government Areas (LGA) of the country. The primary objectives of the study were to monitor the determinants of poverty and its dynamics, provide the Gambia Government and other policy makers and planners with the necessary socio-economic data for poverty monitoring and policy formulation, to rebase as well as provide weights for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and to provide the necessary data to update the System of National Accounts (SNA) that will eventually lead to the move from SNA 1968 to SNA 1993. The IHS results were published in five reports namely: the poverty analysis, consumption of Gambian households, living standard analysis, the 2004 National Consumption Price Index of The Gambia and the methodology of the analysis.

- **Joint UNDP Rural Labour Force/World Bank Youth Employment Study/ Community Driven Development Project (CDDP) Baseline Survey 2008**

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This project seeks to identify policy recommendations for labor market reforms through a rigorous and nationally representative survey. All institutions share the same interest regarding employment outcomes in The Gambia, with UNDP focusing on rural areas and WB on youth employment and education issues covering all the regions of the country with the goal of developing policy recommendations for labor market reforms and the CDDP on consumptions, access to services and social networks in the rural areas.

- **Education impact evaluation survey 2008**

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This is part of the Africa Program for Education Impact Evaluation (APEIE), a World Bank program currently working with 11 countries to build in-country capacity to develop and implement rigorous evaluations of policy interventions to improve schooling and learning outcomes. The objective of APEIE is to enable policy makers to obtain solid evidence to shape education programs and position them to deliver results on the ground.

- **Economic census 2005-2006**

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Gambia Bureau of Statistics conducted its first Economic Census from March 2005 to July 2006, with 2004 as reference year. The main objective of the exercise was to solicit data on all economic activities (except crop production) undertaken within Gambian territory with the primary aim of providing information for planning and general use and to obtain benchmark data for compiling annual national accounts estimates and to ensure a smooth transition from SNA 68 to SNA 93. The Economic Census was carried out in two phases. The first phase dealt with the listing of establishments (the frame) for all economic activities and was conducted from March to October 2005. The second phase was the actual survey of a detailed enquiry of the value added, gross output, intermediate consumption and employment levels of all economic activities and was carried out from February 2006 to July 2006.

- **Migration and urbanisation survey 2009**

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Currently the data processing for a migration survey is underway. The last migration survey was conducted in The Gambia in the late 70s. This present survey will provide comprehensive information on migration trends, characteristics of migrants, reasons for migration as well as information on urbanisation. This project is part of a regional CILSS study on migration in the Sahel.

## • Core welfare indicator questionnaire survey (CWIQ) 2008

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The National Planning Commission in collaboration with the Gambia Bureau of Statistics for the first time in The Gambia conducted the CWIQ survey that measures changes in key social indicators for different population groups and specifically indicators of access, utilization and satisfaction with core social and economic services. When repeated annually, the CWIQ becomes a monitoring tool for assessing implementation effectiveness and the impact of programmes/projects on living conditions. The CWIQ is being used increasingly as one of the key tools for monitoring PRSP.

## • Gaminfo database 2008-2009

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The Gambia National Statistical System coordinated by Gambia Bureau of Statistics is adopting the DevInfo for organising, storing and displaying its data and is locally called as Gaminfo. UNICEF in collaboration with other UN agencies is behind the implementation of the software for capturing and monitoring development indicators. A resident UNV has been recruited for one year and is currently working on the implementation of the database package.

DevInfo is a software tool for monitoring human development. It includes a database for organizing, storing and displaying data in a standard format. It can also be used to produce tables, graphs and maps. DevInfo allows the sharing of data across government departments and UN agencies using the same system.

## • Planned surveys and Census

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- Integrated Household Survey 2009-2010
- Poverty and Social Impact Analysis 2009
- Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey IV (MICS IV) 2009-2010
- 2013 Population and Housing Census

**The government of The Gambia reaffirms its commitment to the development of statistics and will continue to uphold this commitment to achieve our statistics vision in collaboration with development partners.**



• | SUMMARY OF MDG STATUS 2007

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# SUMMARY OF MDG STATUS 2007





Target	Indicators	MDG target	Na-tional
<b>Goal 1 : Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger</b>			
Target 1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day	1.1. Proportion of population below \$1 purchasing power parity (PPP) per day	15%	58%
	1.2. Poverty gap ratio		25.1%
	1.3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	8%	8.8%
Target 1.b: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people	1.4. Growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) per person employed	NA	NA
	1.5. Employment-to-population ratio		0.38
	1.6. Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day	NA	NA
	1.7. Proportion of own-account and contribution family workers in total employment		0.79%
Target 1.C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	1.8. Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age	2.65%	3.9%
	1.9. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	NA	NA
<b>Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education</b>			
Target 2.A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	2.1. Net enrolment ratio in primary education	100%	64%
	2.2. Proportion of pupils strating grade 1 who reach last grade of primary	100%	96%
	2.3 Literacy rate of 15-24 years-olds, women and men	72%	62.9%
<b>Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women</b>			
Target 3.A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	3.1. Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education	1.0	1.06
	3.2. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	NA	NA
	3.3. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	33%	6.25%
<b>Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality</b>			
Target 4.A: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-5 mortality rate	4.1. Under-5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	67.5	99
	4.2. Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	42	75
	4.3. Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles	100%	92.4%
<b>Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health</b>			
Target 5.A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	5.1. Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	263	556
	5.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	63%	56.8%
	5.3. Contraceptive prevalence rate		13.4%
Target 5.B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to Reproductive Health	5.4. Adolescent birth rate	NA	NA
	5.5. Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)	100%	99.3%
	5.6. Unmet need for family planning		30%

Target	Indicators	MDG target	National
<b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases</b>			
Target 6.A: Have Halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	6.1. HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years	0.3%	2.8%HIV1 0.9%HIV2
	6.2. Condom use at last high-risk sex		54.3%
	6.3. Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS		39.1%
	6.4. Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years		87
Target 6.B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it	6.5. Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to retroviral drugs		NA
Target 6.C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	6.6. Incidence and death rates associated with malaria	NA	NA
	6.7. Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets and proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs	80%	49.0% ITN  52.4% treat with anti ma- larial drug
	6.8. Incidence and death rates associated with malaria	NA	NA
	6.7. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course	NA	NA
<b>Goal 7: Ensure Environmental sustainability</b>			
Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainability development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	7.1. Proportion of land area covered by forest	40%	45%
	7.2. Carbon dioxide emissions: total per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP) and consumption of ozone-depleting substances	0.18	4.42
	7.3. Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits		74.1%
	7.4. Proportion of total water resources used	NA	NA
Target 7.B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	7.5. Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected	10%	4.09%
	7.6. Proportion of species treated with extinction	NA	NA
Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	7.7. Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source	85%	85.2%
	7.8. Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility	92%	84.2%
Target 7.D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers	7.9. Proportion of urban population living in slums	NA	59.2%

Target	Indicators	MDG target	National
<b>Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development</b>			
Debt Sustainability	8.11. Debt relief committed under HIPC and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiatives		\$66.6m (HIPC) \$373.5m (MDRI)
	8.12. Debt services as a percentage of exports of goods and services		
Target 8.E: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable	8.13. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis	NA	NA
Target 8.F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications	8.14. Telephone lines per 100 population		4.83
	8.15. Cellular subscribers per 100 population		41.9
	8.16. Internet Users per 100 population		4.37





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Gambia Bureau of Statistics -Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs



THE GAMBIA BUREAU OF STATISTICS, Kanifing

Institutional Layout

P.O. Box 3504, Serekunda, The Gambia

Tel. (220) 437 7847/9 - Fax. (220) 437 7848

E-mail: [gamcens@qanet.gm](mailto:gamcens@qanet.gm)

Website: [www.gbos.gm](http://www.gbos.gm)

