

# **First National Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in The Gambia**

## **Final Report on the Progress of Implementation**

**May 2021**

### **1. Introduction and Methodology**

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) is an effort, led by Member States, to set out a range of principles, commitments and understanding among UN Member States regarding the governance of migration in all its dimensions. It elaborates a comprehensive international cooperation framework on migrants and human mobility, grounded in the existing normative framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). The Government of The Gambia (GoTG) was among the 164 Member States that adopted the GCM at the United Nations General Assembly on 19 December 2018. This report presents the Government of The Gambia's progress in the implementation of the GCM following The Gambia's decision to undertake a national review. This review will contribute to the 2021 Africa Regional Review to serve as an input to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) to be conducted in 2022. The primary areas covered in the report are as follows:

- Initial assessment of progress made by National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) and with participation of relevant stakeholders in line with the guiding principles and objectives specified in GCM;
- Identified priority objectives, key findings and achievements;
- highlighting challenges and gaps, identifying national priorities and recommendations in fulfilment of GCM

The report presents the analysis of the policies, reports, and inputs from the national stakeholders, primarily government entities with technical support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), reflecting whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches indicated in the guiding principles of the GCM.

A UN Network on Migration (UNNM) was established globally in May 2018 to ensure effective, coordinated UN system-wide support to the implementation of the GCM. In June 2019, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in The Gambia endorsed the transformation of the then-existing UN Migration Working Group into the UNNM in The Gambia to support the Government of The Gambia in the implementation of the GCM as well as effective migration management and protection of human rights of migrants in The Gambia. The UNNM, led by IOM with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as co-leads, meets regularly to coordinate UN Gambia's migration interventions aimed to foster the implementation of GCM objectives.

Aligned with the vision and the overall goal of the National Development Plan of The Gambia (2018-2021) in restoring good governance, respect for human rights, and rule of law, the

National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) was established on 6 November 2019 under the leadership of the Office of the Vice President (OVP). With the establishment of the NCM with technical support from IOM, the Government of The Gambia has put in place a coordination structure to ensure a whole-of government approach on migration governance. The NCM launch also included a GCM prioritization exercise where the Government selected fifteen (15) out of the twenty-three (23) objectives of the GCM as priority objectives to address in short- to mid-term.

Under the overall guidance of the OVP as the lead for the NCM, the first voluntary national review was technically led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad (MOFA), with technical assistance of IOM in The Gambia. The national review process to engage all stakeholders working on migration issues was launched on 26 November 2020. . The following Government entities who are actively taking part in the NCM provided valuable inputs that became the basis for this report:

- Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS)
- Gambia Commission for Refugees (GCR)
- Gambia Immigration Department (GID)
- Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Affairs and Gambians Abroad (MOFA)
- Ministry of Health (MoH)
- Ministry of Information, Communication, and Infrastructure (MoICI)
- Ministry of Trade, Industry and Employment (MoTIE)
- National Agency Against Trafficking In Persons (NAATIP)
- National Youth Council (NYC)
- Office of the President (OP)
- Office of the Vice President (OVP)

## **2. Policy and Enabling Environment**

Since the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), The Gambia has embarked on effectively aligning the SDGs with its medium-term National Development Plan (NDP 2018-2021). Importantly, the government has expressed its willingness and commitment to the mid-term and annual review and implementation of the NDP, coupled with ensuring proper assessment of the significant steps taken in the attainment of the SDGs.<sup>1</sup> The NDP has been noted as the first among a series of plans that will help localize the implementation of the SDGs in The Gambia.

Critical both to the SDGs and NDP is the issue of migration. The Government of The Gambia is committed to ensuring that migrants enjoy their fundamental human, social and economic rights and leveraging diaspora remittances and investments thereby contributing to GCM's Objectives 19 (Create conditions for migrants and diaspora to fully contribute to sustainable development) and 20 (promote faster, safer, and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants), respectively. Although the NDP does not yet capture migration

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

as a cross-cutting theme, it however highlights the need for enhancing the role of Gambian diaspora in national development.

In December 2020, a milestone was registered through the official launch of the first stand-alone National Migration Policy (NMP) 2020-2030 in The Gambia. Cognizant that the migration is a phenomenon that is ever present in the lives of many in The Gambia, both Gambian and non-Gambian, the Government of The Gambia demonstrated its commitment to manage migration, address challenges of irregular migration and maximize the benefits of well-managed migration through the NMP. Fundamentally, the launch of the policy document reveals the government's commitment to abide by both national and international principles related to the plight of migrants.<sup>2</sup> The NMP is a comprehensive and forward-looking document that seeks to provide a national framework for progressive migration management system. It addresses all issues around migration and mobility, including but not limited to: border management, diaspora engagement, environment and climate change migration, forced displacement, internal migration, labour migration, migration data, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, return and reintegration, and national-level coordination, and calls for necessary revisions of migration-related legislations to comply with current global norms on migration management.

The NMP is also gender-responsive and stresses the importance of gender mainstreaming throughout the policy document. Specifically, the NMP calls for improved nationwide services for vulnerable female migrants and provides a mechanism for a gender analysis to improve the working conditions of female migrants.

The Government of The Gambia, led by the Ministry of Interior (Moi) with technical support of IOM, started the NMP development in August 2017, in line with the regional and global frameworks. The NMP is envisioned to provide governance on specific and overall aspects of migration policies and framework as a means to manage migration in a way that is beneficial to national development; promotes safe and orderly migration; reduces irregular migration through effective border management; ensures protection of Gambian migrants and immigrants in The Gambia; encourages participation of The Gambian diaspora; promotes effective coordination of migration through collection and analysis of data; develops inclusive mechanisms for return and reintegration; and ensures the principle of gender equity is cross cutting.

The establishment of the NCM is expected to strengthen and support the coordination, synergy and complementarity of the various stakeholders in the migration landscape. Furthermore, the government has taken other significant steps through the National Voluntary Review, including the formulation of an updated National Employment Policy and Action Plan (NEAP) 2020-2025, review of the Labour Act and Regulation of 2007, National Investment Policy 2018-2022, amongst others. In addressing drivers of migration such as climate change, the Gambian Government has formulated the National Climate Change Policy (2016-2025) as part of its

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<sup>2</sup> The Gambia Voluntary National Review, a Report on the Progress of the Implementation of SDGs, June 2020

efforts to manage risks associated with climate change, with the overall goal of ensuring inclusion of climate change in national planning and budgeting, decision-making and programmes, amongst others. Equally, the objectives are to ensure the pursuit of “climate risk management for pro-poor and inclusive growth, and that social development will be an integral part of adaptation and mitigation measures against climate change”.<sup>3</sup> This shows an awareness of the climate dimensions within the national migration policy area, however these concerns are far from being mainstreamed in national human mobility legislation, policies or strategies.

### **3. Progress on GCM Objectives**

The Gambia has made significant strides in improving migration governance in the country by recognizing the importance of having a good migration governance structure aimed at involving all relevant stakeholders in the migration landscape.

The launch and establishment of the NCM has created a government led inter-agency platform for all migration actors aimed at timely addressing of migration issues, mainstreaming of migration in national development plans and ensuring policy coherence. Through the leadership of the Office of the Vice President (OVP), the NCM has helped create a holistic and whole-of-government approach to facilitate dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders on migration; enhance understanding on migration trends and dynamics; facilitate informed decision making and policy coherence; track progress in the implementation of migration related programmes; contribute to regional discourse on migration; and facilitate the implementation of continental and regional policies and protocols on migration at the national level.<sup>4</sup> The OVP also serves as the Secretariat of the NCM responsible for convening meetings, coordinating activities of the NCM and overseeing the activities of the eight (8) thematic working groups on specific migration issues. These thematic working groups consist of Border Management; Communications and Advocacy; Cross-Cutting Issues; Internal Migration; Labour Migration; Migration Data, Policy and Legislation; Migration and Development; and Return and Reintegration.

During the NCM launch in December 2019, a GCM prioritization exercise was also conducted where the Government of The Gambia prioritized 15 out of the 23 objectives as areas of priority for The Gambia in the short and medium time frame. These include:

Objective 1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

Objective 2. Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

Objective 3. Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

Objective 4. Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation

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<sup>3</sup> The Gambia Voluntary National Review, a Report on the Progress of the Implementation of SDGs, June 2020

<sup>4</sup> National Coordination Mechanism on Migration Terms of Reference (ToR)

Objective 5. Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

Objective 8. Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

Objective 9. Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants

Objective 10. Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration

Objective 11. Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner

Objective 14. Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle

Objective 15. Provide access to basic services for migrants

Objective 17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

Objective 19. Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries

Objective 20. Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants

Objective 23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration<sup>5</sup>

During the November 2020 national consultation meeting to launch the review process, which largely focused on the methodology, Government stakeholders agreed to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the extent to which The Gambia has been able to implement the key objectives among the 23 objectives of the GCM. Therefore, this review examines The Gambia's implementation progress of the select GCM objectives below that are considered key at the time of the review, and not specifically of the 15 prioritized objectives. It was observed that data was limited and, where available, focused more on administrative data. It was equally observed that since the adoption of the GCM and prioritization of the objectives, relatively limited activities were carried out, although critical mechanisms were put in place for coordination and engagement.

**GCM Objective 1: Collect and Utilize accurate and disaggregated data as basis for evidence-based policies.** While there is commitment to ensure the collection, analysis and dissemination of timely and relevant data, significant gap exists in the manner data is generated and processed. During the interviews, it was observed that most of the data collected focus on

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<sup>5</sup> Report on the Launch of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration and Global Compact on Migration Prioritization Workshop

administrative data and, in many cases, is not well disaggregated nor is complete in some instances. Most of the data collected right now are also meant for reporting purposes to regional bodies, including ECOWAS. While such gaps exist, the desire and technical capacity to collect data beyond administrative data is evident. For instance, GBoS has integrated various migration modules in some of its periodic surveys and is committed to continuing to collect data and even recommend for the creation of indicators to track progress. Similarly, GBoS is preparing to include migration related modules for the upcoming national census due to be conducted in 2022. In 2019, IOM in partnership with GBoS conducted a Mobility Assessment on Internal Migration to examine internal mobility dynamics in The Gambia and provide a socio-economic profile of migrants from rural to urban settings. A complementary objective of the study is to also consider the profile of rural-to-urban migrants in relation to that of migrants assisted by IOM.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, in supporting national efforts to enhance the Government capacity in migration data collection and management, The Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) in coordination with IOM launched the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in December 2020, which gathers and analyzes migration data to disseminate critical multi-layered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced and mobile populations that enables decision makers and responders to provide these populations with better context specific assistance.

However, there is a need for more coordination and utilization of national migration data, as it was also observed that donors collect their own data independent of the processes established, which may create challenges.

The Gambia has also shown commitment in prioritizing the implementation of **GCM Objective 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration**. The Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure as the lead ministry of the NCM's Communication and Advocacy Thematic Working Group (TWG) works with all partners in promoting informed migration decision-making, providing information on pathways for regular migration, and fostering a balanced and accurate discourse on migration. The Communication and Advocacy TWG has been meeting regularly and has validated a Migration Communications Strategy and Workplan in September 2020. Though the workplan is yet to be implemented in detail and there remains a need for proactive communication on migration-related controversies, several government institutions (the Department of Community Development, the National Youth Council, among others) have led awareness raising initiatives in partnership with international development and civil society partners.

Additionally, the Gambian Immigration Department is updating their website to provide accurate information on visa process and entry requirements, while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad is working to upgrade its website and incorporate a diaspora data portal.

Historically, The Gambia has been a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants including labor migrants. The Gambia is committed to **GCM's Objective 4: Ensure that all**

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<sup>6</sup> Mobility Assessment on Internal Migration, IOM The Gambia 2019

**migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.** The Gambia Immigration Department (GID), as the lead convener of the Border Management TWG, works with relevant institutions to issue relevant documents to citizens and migrants. Part of the commitment includes providing relevant documentation, including civil registry, at all stages of migration. The Immigration Act of 1965 provides the legal framework for immigration into The Gambia with residence and entry permits for citizens of ECOWAS as well as non-ECOWAS countries.<sup>7</sup> GID, under the Ministry of Interior, is the government body charged with the issuance of visa and visa extension, work permits for migrants, and alien cards as well as the issuance of national documents for citizens such as passports and ID cards. Currently, there are three categories of visas being issued (Type A, B and C). Type A is for residence purpose only and mostly issued to retired foreign residents and students. B is use for employment and largely targeted at ECOWAS and other foreign nationals in skilled employment and companies, while C is for skilled workers and small holder traders. GID also has a Professional Standard Unit tasked to deal with complaints and disciplinary issues for both Gambians and non-Gambians. However, there is a need to expand migration complaints mechanisms beyond GID and integrate the court system into the process when and where necessary.

The Gambia is a country that has seen its nationals (mainly young and male) risking their lives embarking on the perilous irregular journeys in search of better livelihoods and job opportunities abroad. The Gambia is committed to and has prioritized **GCM's Objective 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.** The Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MoTIE) is the lead convener of the NCM TWG on Labour Migration. Major milestone includes the development of a Labor Migration Strategy, which has been validated in February 2021 and is expected to be officially launched in April 2021. A Policy Guideline for Ethical Recruitment and A Pre-Departure Training Manual to provide would-be labor migrants relevant information on the migratory process, before, during and after migration, have been validated in February 2021 to ensure the protection of Gambian labor migrants. Thirdly, MoTIE is working on upgrading its Labor Market Information System and transform it into a Labor Market and Migration Information System and has participated in regional workshops organized by ECOWAS in July 2019 aimed at harmonizing data management tools to the standard of regional bodies.

Gambian children and youth have been cited among key nationalities and profiles arriving in Europe, which is a cause for concern for both government and its partners in the migration landscape. The NMP observed that lack of proper documentation among Gambians put them at higher risk of being exploited during their migration experience.<sup>8</sup> As such, The Gambia is committed to **GCM Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.** The Gambia ratified both the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter and working on domesticating through the Children's Act 2005. The Gambia ensures the implementation of Article 28 of the UN CRC on the right to education for children of migrants. The Gambia has committed to achieving UN SDG 4 and ensuring inclusive and quality education

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<sup>7</sup> National Migration Policy 2020-2030

<sup>8</sup> NMP 2020-2030

and promote lifelong learning. The Department of Social Welfare developed *Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Protection, Return and Reintegration of Unaccompanied and Separated Migrant Children in The Gambia*. The SOPs have facilitated the support and assistance, including on family tracing, for children who have returned to The Gambia. A *National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance of Vulnerable Migrants* has also been developed gathering inputs from all relevant stakeholders from the government, civil society, UN and international organizations.

The Gambia is committed to countering irregular migration as enshrined in **GCM's Objective 9: Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants**. The country is committed to strengthening local capacity as well as working collaboratively with international partners to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and penalize the smuggling of migrants. The Ministry of Interior is the lead convener of the Thematic Working Group on Return and Reintegration and works with law enforcement agencies. Although the commitment has been there, little evidence exists to suggest that significant efforts have been taken to halt smugglers. For instance, following the 2019 shipwreck off the coast of Mauritania, one of the suspected smugglers was arrested and later granted bail by the police.<sup>9</sup> In October 2020, 13 alleged smugglers, mainly Senegalese, were arrested in a joint operation by the State Intelligence Service and the GID as part of efforts to crack down on irregular migration<sup>10</sup>. As the Government of The Gambia intensifies efforts to disrupt smuggling and irregular migration routes, the challenge of charging the alleged smugglers is palpable, as the legal framework/smuggling act has been ratified but not domesticated yet.

The Gambia is a party to several multilateral international treaties and conventions to combat trafficking in persons, and is committed to **GCM Objective 10: Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration**. The National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (NAATIP) established in 2011 is the lead government agency tasked with handling trafficking in persons cases. Although the government has stated its willingness to fight against the menace, the country, in 2019, fell to tier 3 ranking of the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Report. However, there have been efforts made by NAATIP and by extension the Ministry of Justice which include the revival of the National Task Force on Counter Trafficking that aims to strengthen protection, prevention, prosecution and partnership. These efforts resulted in the upgrading of the country in tier ranking from lowest Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List in the 2020 US TIP report. Furthermore, The Gambia's criminal code establishes liability related to human trafficking. However, while it is acknowledged that human trafficking is evident, little effort has been made in prosecuting people responsible.

Effective border management is a priority area for The Gambia. As such, **GCM Objective 11: Manage borders in an integrated, secure manner** is one of the priority objectives being implemented. There are ongoing projects tailored towards supporting the GID, the lead

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<sup>9</sup> <https://fatunetwork.net/police-grant-bail-to-man-behind-barra-back-way-boat-amid-end-of-probe-into-disaster-that-killed-at-least-68-people/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/13-back-way-smugglers-arrests-in-joint-operations>



convener of the NCM Thematic Working Group on Border Management, and other agencies to help secure the Gambian borders in a coordinated manner. Challenges abound given the nature of The Gambia's porous borders. Nevertheless, joint efforts are taken in various border posts to support the movement of people as well as to check against irregular migration and trafficking. The Gambia has successfully launched the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS)<sup>11</sup> in February 2021 following a series of consultations from March 2020 to date. This is expected to enhance border management capabilities, as MIDAS enables the government to more effectively monitor those entering and exiting their territory while providing a sound statistical basis for migration policy-related planning with rest of the government agencies.

The Gambia is committed to protecting its nationals abroad and to effectively integrate and enhance their engagement in national development efforts. GCM Objectives 14 and 19 speak to the critical role of ensuring the protection as well as integration of Gambians abroad. With regards to **GCM Objective 14: Enhance Consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle**, The Gambia, through MOFA, has designated First Secretaries in The Gambia's diplomatic missions abroad as diaspora engagement liaisons. Additionally, the Government of The Gambia organized a consular mission by a delegation to Libya in March 2018 and to Niger in January 2021 to discuss the feasibility of opening a consular presence in Niamey, among other topics.

With regard to harnessing the diaspora dividend as per **GCM's Objective 19: Create Conditions for migrants and diaspora to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries**, efforts have been made to tap into the diaspora through the establishment of the Diaspora Affairs Directorate within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad (MoFA) in 2018.. Through partnership with GK Partners, the Government contributes to the Stake in the National Forum that annually brings together diaspora and national actors to discuss ways through which the socio-economic and political engagement of the diaspora can be harnessed. Part of the discussions also includes proposals to create investment bond as well as advocate low cost on remittance transactions. The Ministry is also working on a National Diaspora Database as a means to help locate the pool of Gambian expatriates but also mainstream the diaspora into national development activities.

The Gambia has in recent years been at the forefront of cooperation on return, readmission and reintegration, in-line with **GCM Objective 21: Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration**. The Gambia since being a participant to the *Africa-EU Valletta Summit on Migration in 2015* and its Action Plan and joint final declaration has seen thousands of Gambian citizens returning in a safe and dignified manner with the support of IOM. Since January 2017 until January 2020, IOM in collaboration with the Government of The Gambia has provided support to 5,823 stranded Gambians with

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<sup>11</sup> MIDAS is IOM's Border Management Information System (BMIS) that allows states to process and record traveler information upon entering and exiting border crossing points for the purpose of identifying travelers, verifying biometrics, inspecting and authenticating travel documents, and collecting and analyzing data

their return to The Gambia with 3,817 being provided with reintegration assistance, including assistance to the communities in The Gambia where returnees have returned to. The Government of The Gambia has also under the framework of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) set up a Thematic Working Group on Return and Reintegration.

#### **4. Means of Implementation**

The Gambia continues to be a country of origin, transit, and destination for migrants. As such the promotion of safe, orderly, and regular migration cannot be overemphasized. During the review process, while relative progress was noted, a plethora of challenges including financial, human, and other structural issues were identified as bottlenecks for successful implementation of GCM objectives. Hence, it was recommended that improving the technical capacities of stakeholders, strengthened coordination, and increased financial input will support in the implementation of GCM strategies and objectives which are well captured in the NMP. Capacity building and education trainings should be provided to a broad spectrum of migration actors including policy makers, law enforcement agencies, and labor and social welfare officers. Efforts should be directed at ensuring that the collection and analysis of data is expanded beyond data currently available to identify key migration issues.

Current mechanisms, including the designation of focal persons, are relevant and seemingly effective, though it was suggested that focal persons be supported to ensure sustainability and timely delivery of required information as well as support in the implementation of GCM objectives in their various departments and agencies to ensure their effective implementation and monitoring.

Additionally, 15 prioritized objectives of the GCM have been distributed and are being addressed by the eight (8) Thematic Working Groups set up under the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) (see Annex A). The Government of The Gambia under the leadership of the Office of the Vice President will continue to engage the NCM TWGs to monitor the implementation progress of each targeted GCM objective.

#### **5. Next Steps**

The voluntary review process has given The Gambia an opportunity to engage and involve various stakeholders on the state of GCM implementation, articulate government positions on migration, as well as identify the challenges affecting successful implementation of the GCM. The Gambia has come a long way in the implementation of the GCM since its adoption, such as the launch of a National Migration Policy (2020) as well as setting up pivotal mechanisms such as the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) to support the coordination of migration and migration-related policies and frameworks, including building synergy and complementarity among stakeholders.

From the review, it is evident that to successfully ensure that migration is conducted in a safe, orderly and regular fashion, it is important to strengthen existing institutions and mechanisms, through mainstreaming migration across all relevant policy domains as migration is a crosscutting topic.

In addition, the National Development Plan (NDP) should comprehensively look into covering issues surrounding migration by taking into account the development potential that migration holds for The Gambia. Generally, the NDP sets out a framework to “deliver good governance and accountability, social cohesion, and national reconciliation and a revitalized and transformed economy for the wellbeing of all Gambians,” however, it only highlights the importance of diaspora engagement in national development by listing it as one of the seven critical enablers of the NDP, and lightly touches on the importance of protection of vulnerable migrants and facilitation of regular pathways.<sup>12</sup>

It was also recommended that the migration data collection move away from the current approach by various institutions to include studies that will help track and monitor the implementation of key migration indicators and not be limited to the day-to-day internal data available. This requires improving migration data collection as well as ensuring that all migration data collection efforts are well coordinated and properly disseminated among the various stakeholders and the public. One suggested strategy for timely data collection was the need to mainstream migration data into various periodic surveys that are conducted by the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBOS).

Finally, since no implementation plan for the GCM was developed since its adoption, it was recommended that a plan be developed to guide the implementation of the 15 priority objectives selected by The Gambia, as well as define whether and how to sequence the remaining 8 objectives.

The Gambia, in partnership with all stakeholders, will continue to strengthen its institutional setups and mechanisms to develop an actionable plan to share the review report as well as the recommendations received at the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF).

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<sup>12</sup> Compiled CCA Discussion Papers

**Annex A**

**National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM): The Gambia**

**Thematic Working Groups (TWG) Quarterly Progress Tracking Matrix**

No.	Working Group	Date of Meetings	Attendees	Agenda	Outcome/Action Points	Corresponding GCM objectives
1.	<b>Border Management</b>  <i>Lead: Gambia Immigration Department (GID)</i>  <i>Members: DLEA, DSW, GCR, GID, GPF, GRA, MoFA, MoH, MOI, MOICI, MoLG, MOTIE, NAATIP, NYC, OVP, SIS</i>	07 July 2020	GBoS, GID, GRA, IOM, MoFA, MoH, MOI, MOICI, MoLRG/RA, OVP, GCR	Launching of TWG Development and Review of ToR	TWG not limited to only immigration issues but other Trade border activities.	<b>GCM 4:</b> Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.  <b>GCM 9:</b> Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants.  <b>GCM 10:</b> Prevent, combat, and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international
		04 November 2020	GBoS, GID, GPF, GRA, IOM, MoFA, MoH, MOI, MOICI, MOLRG/RA, MOTIE, OVP	Review of MGI Assessment Report	Policy & Legislative areas identified during MGI review. - OVP to allocate responsibilities to each Ministry or Department identified to address key policy gaps. - Strengthen inter-agency border coordination at PoEs - Workplan developed for Dec. 2020- Dec 2021	

						<p>migration.</p> <p><b>GCM 11:</b> Manage borders in an integrated, secure, and coordinated manner.</p>
2.	<p><b>Communication and Advocacy</b></p> <p><i>Lead: Ministry of Information and Communication</i></p> <p><i>Members: Department of Information Services, GID, MOFA, MOI, MOTIE, NYC, OVP</i></p>	05 March 2020		Launching of TWG		<p><b>GCM 3:</b> Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration.</p> <p>GCM 17: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration</p>
		12 March 2020		Development of strategy and workplan	Commenced development.	
		25 September 2020		Validation of migration communications strategy	Strategy validated.	
		21 January 2021		Planning of migration media talks	Developed schedule for media talks.	
		4 February 2021	DIS, GID, NYC, MOFA, MOICI, MOTIE	Training on migration terms and concepts; discuss key messages for	MOICI to organize next TWG meeting to finalize key messages.	

				media talks.		
3.	<p><b>Cross-cutting issues</b></p> <p><i>Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare</i></p> <p><i>Ministry of Justice</i></p>	15 April 2021	<p>DSW, GAMCOTRAP, GID, GPF, MoGCSW, NAATIP, SiS, OVP</p>	Launching of TWG	TOR to be finalized	<p>GCM 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin</p> <p>GCM 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin</p> <p>GCM 10: Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration</p>

						<p>GCM 15: Provide access to basic services for migrants</p> <p>GCM 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration</p>
4.	<p><b>Internal Migration</b></p> <p><i>Ministry of Lands and Local Government</i></p>				To be operationalized.	<p>GCM 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies</p> <p>GCM 15: Provide access to basic services for migrants</p>

5.	<b>Labor Migration</b>  <i>Lead: Ministry of Trade, Integration and Employment</i>  <i>Members: DoL, Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, GBoS, GID, MoFA, MOHERST, MOICI MoYS, NAA TIP, National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Authority, National Enterprise Development Initiative NYC, NYSS, OP, OVP, Presidents International Award, Trade Unions</i>	06 March 2020	AGM, DoL, GBoS, GID, IOM, MOICI, MOTIE, NAQAA, NEDI, NYC, NYSS, OP-DSPD, PIA	Launching of TWG Review of ToR Discussion on Labour Migration Policy	Stakeholder consultation on NMP -Change of nomenclature from Labour Migration Policy to a Labour Migration Strategy	<b>GCM 2:</b> Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.  <b>GCM 5:</b> Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.  <b>GCM 15:</b> Provide access to basic services for migrants.
		03 November 2020	DoL, Gambia Trade Bureau GBoS, GID, IOM, MoFA, MOICI, MOTIE NAA TIP, NAQAA, NYC, NYSS	Review of MGI Assessment Report	-Discussions on the Labour Migration Strategy. - Update the Labour Force Survey -Finalize and publish the draft National Migration Policy.	
6.	<b>Migration and Development</b>  <i>Lead: Ministry of</i>	10 July 2020	CBG, GBoS, GIEPA, GID, IOM, MoFA, OVP	Launching of TWG		<b>GCM 14:</b> Enhance consular protection, assistance and



	<i>Foreign Affairs</i>					cooperation throughout the migration cycle.
	<i>Members: Central Bank of The Gambia, GBoS, GID, GIEPA, MOTIE</i>	10 November 2020	GBoS, IOM, MoFA, MoTIE, OVP	Review of MGI Assessment Report	MoFA working on agreements with Swiss, Austria, Sweden, Germany, and Russia on bilateral migration consultation. - Review of the 2018 National Diaspora Strategy.	<p><b>GCM 19:</b> Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.</p> <p><b>GCM 20:</b> Promote faster, safer, and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants.</p> <p><b>GCM 23:</b> Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly, and regular migration.</p>
7.	<b>Migration Data,</b>	16 July 2020	CBG, DoL,	Launching of TWG		<b>GCM 1:</b> Collect

	<b>Policy and Legislation</b>  <i>Lead: Gambian Bureau of Statistics</i>  <i>Members: Central Bank of The Gambia, DoL, Gambia Commission for Refugees, GID, MoI, MOTIE, NAATIP</i>		GBoS, GCR, GID, IOM, MOI, MOTIE, NAATIP	Presentation on Harmonized ECOWAS Data tools		and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.
		28 October 2020	GBOS, GCR, GID, IOM, MOI, MOTIE, NAATIP	Review of MGI Assessment Report		<b>GCM 15:</b> Provide access to basic services for migrants.
8.	<b>Return and Reintegration</b>  <i>Lead: Ministry of Interior</i>  <i>Members: DCD, DoL, Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, GID, GIEPA, GRCS, MoA, MoFA, MoH, MOHESRT, MoLRGA, MOTIE,</i>	21 July 2020	DCD, DoL, GCCI, GID, GIEPA, GRCS, IOM, MoA, MoFA, MoH, MoHERST, MOI, MoLRG, MOTIE, MoWCSW, MoYS NYC, TANGO,	Launching of TWG Development of ToR	Better understanding of Return & Reintegration issues on a national level. To rename TWG from Irregular Migration to Return and	<b>GCM 2:</b> Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.  <b>GCM 4:</b> Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.
		04 November 2020	GRCS, GID, IOM, MoA, MoH, MOI,	Discussion of the Migration Governance		

	<p><i>MoWCSW, MoYS, NYC, TANGO</i></p>		<p>MOLGL, MOTIE, MoYS NYC, OVP</p>	<p>Indicators relating to Return &amp; Reintegration.</p>		<p><b>GCM 8:</b> Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants.</p> <p><b>GCM 15:</b> Provide access to basic services for migrants.</p> <p><b>GCM 17:</b> Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.</p> <p><b>GCM 23:</b> Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.</p>
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