



Dag Hammarskjöld
Foundation

Implementing the UN Youth Strategy Lessons from The Gambia



February 2024

Acknowledgements

This research and paper was developed with the support of the United Nations Youth Office. The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation is grateful for their partnership and guidance. In particular, the Foundation would like to thank Angga Dwi Martha, Racquel Gertrude Correa, and Emilia Hannuksela for their valuable inputs and leadership throughout the research process.

Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation would also like to thank the young peacebuilders, UN staff in The Gambia, and all others who were interviewed and provided input into this paper.

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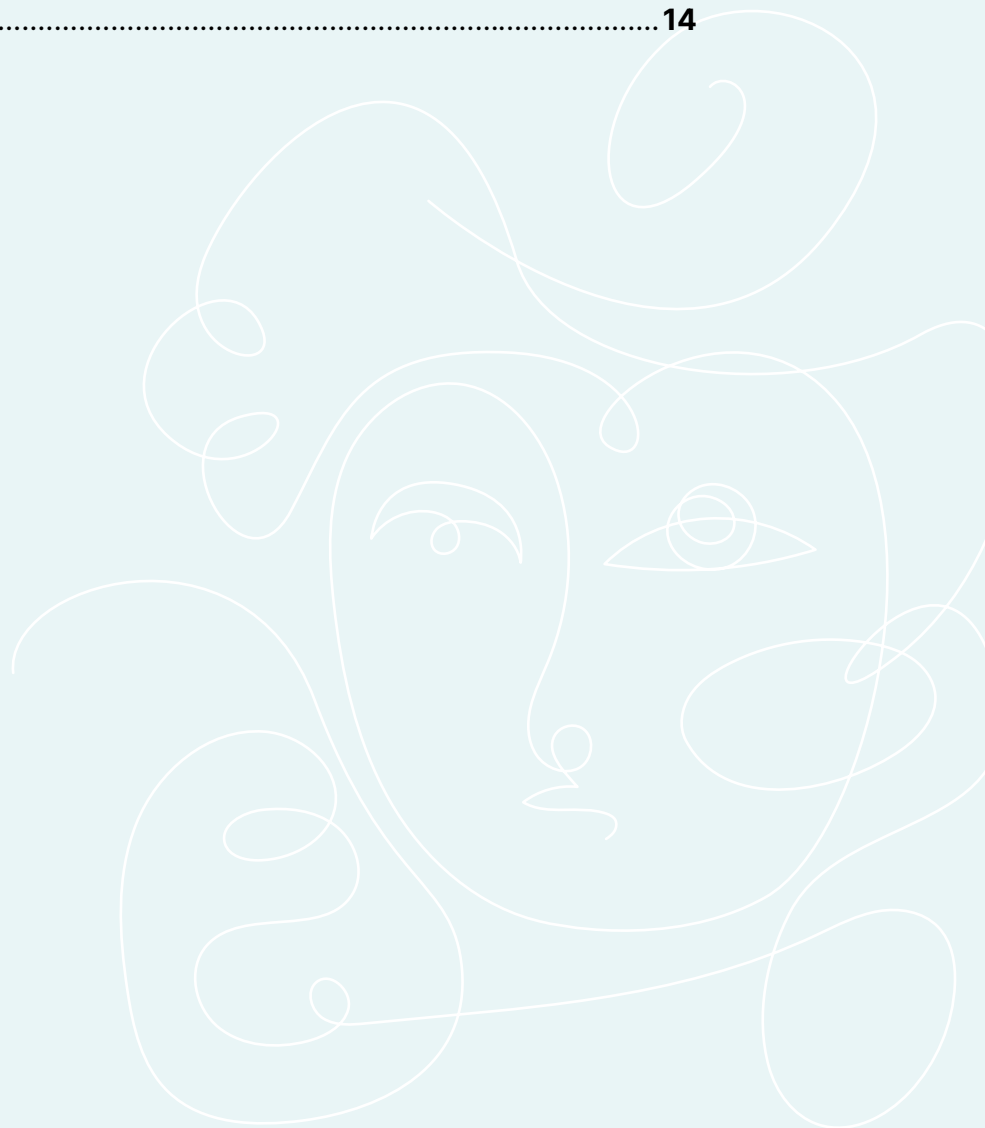
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Table of Contents

1. Background	4
2. Purpose scope and methodology of the research	5
3. Key findings	6-10
4. Recommendations	11
5. Endnotes	12-13
6. Acronyms	14



1. Background

In 2018, the Secretary-General launched Youth2030, the first-ever system-wide UN Youth Strategy, aimed at transforming the work of the UN with and for youth in response to the complex challenges young people face, including climate degradation, conflict, and economic inequality.

The Youth Strategy calls for the UN to foster a coordinated and coherent approach, addressing the diverse needs, advancing the rights, and building agency of young people as full-fledged partners in the UN's mission to build a better world for all, while actively engaging them in global initiatives and aligning with UN development system reforms.¹ Table 1 below provides an overview of the Youth Strategy priority and foundational areas. Implementation of the strategy requires adaptation to national and community-level priorities.

Table 1: United Nations Youth Strategy Priority and Foundational Areas

Source: United Nations Youth Office (2018).

Priority areas				
Engagement, participation and advocacy	Informed and healthy foundations	Economic empowerment through decent work	Youth and human rights	Peace and resilience-building
Foundational areas				
Leadership example – Youth in the UN	The UN as a knowledge and innovation pioneer	The UN as an investment and solutions catalyst	The UN as an accountability leader	

2. Purpose, scope and methodology of the research

This thematic paper explores country-level implementation of Youth2030 in The Gambia, particularly priority area four on youth and human rights, and priority area five on peace and resilience-building.² This thematic paper aims to identify learnings from UN colleagues, civil society, and government representatives on the success and limitations of ongoing efforts to implement the strategy within The Gambia, as a qualitative compliment to their reporting against the Youth2030 Scorecard (see Box 1).

Constituting over 65% of the population, youth in The Gambia played an integral role in the 2016 democratic transition.³ However, young people — in particular those who represent or belong to marginalised groups — have limited access to political decision-making and peacebuilding processes and face restrictions on their access to human rights institutions.

The Gambian UN Country Team, which is currently navigating a democratic transition amid climate-related conflicts and economic inequality, serves as a pertinent case study for evaluating implementation of the UN Youth Strategy at country level. This context sheds light on the complex challenges the UN faces in supporting young people within its human rights and peacebuilding programming.

During 2022 and 2023, the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation led research to understand the Gambian UN Country Team's efforts to implement the strategy in that context.

The Foundation conducted interviews with 20 young peacebuilders and activists, UN Country Team youth focal points (13 staff), the UN regional office (3 staff), and one government representative; organised one focus group with young peacebuilders and activists; reviewed UNCT project documents, annual reports, and independent research papers; and participated in a national youth consultation hosted by the Gambian UNCT.

This paper first gives an overview of the UNCT's implementation of priority areas four and five of Youth2030 in The Gambia. It then identifies learning from existing efforts to implement the strategy, and presents a series of recommendations for the UNCT, UN Headquarters, and donors.

Box 1: Youth2030 and UN Country Teams

Youth2030 is currently implemented across all 131 UN Country Teams (covering 162 countries) and 55 UN entities. Both UN entities and UNCTs report on the implementation of Youth2030 on an annual basis against the Key Performance Indicators of the Youth2030 Scorecards. While the Youth2030 Scorecard for UNCTs is a strategic planning, performance measurement, and accountability tool for joint action by UNCTs, assessment of program quality is beyond its scope.

3. Key findings

3.1 Overview of implementation of Youth2030, priority areas four and five, by the UNCT in The Gambia

This section presents insights on the implementation status of the strategy within four broad areas:

- ◆ Increasing political participation and engagement in transitional justice
- ◆ Addressing rising tensions and land disputes
- ◆ Improving protection of human rights
- ◆ Lowering economic inequality

3.1.1 Increasing political participation and engagement in transitional justice

Despite playing a key role in the peaceful democratic transition in 2016, young people remain largely excluded from political participation. According to the research network AfroBarometer, only 22% of young Gambians say the government is doing a good job of meeting their needs.⁴

While young people constitute 65% of the population, only 20% of National Assembly members are under 35 years.⁵ This lack of representation is amplified by negative cultural norms for young women who often face violence, character assassination and harassment if they step into public spaces according to interviews conducted for this paper. One interviewee highlighted this as a concern for peacebuilding.

“*People assume Youth, Peace and Security is only related to war or post conflict contexts and so don't think its applicable in contexts like The Gambia. But 22 years of dictatorship where women didn't feel safe in public spaces, tells us that peace is also about this lack of safety.*⁶

- Anonymous

These restrictions are compounded by a lack of access to financing, faced by all young people but especially young women, when running for office. Furthermore, participants in the consultations referenced a lack of meaningful engagement with youth by decision-makers, particularly with young people outside of the capital region.⁷ The factors generating these barriers are complex and fell outside the scope of this paper.

The Gambia UNCT invested resources to enable and strengthen young people's engagement in political and peacebuilding processes. Examples include supporting the development of national policies, research into hate speech, youth-led radio programming, fact checking websites, community dialogue projects, and support for youth-led governmental structures.⁸

Interviews highlighted a recent opening in civic space, evidenced by the police permitting the youth wing of the United Democratic Party to march to the National Assembly — the first such march allowed in 27 years.⁹ However several young people at the national youth consultation and in interviews highlighted backsliding in civic freedoms including increased censorship and arrests.

Box 2: Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission in The Gambia

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) supported youth engagement and mainstreaming of youth issues in the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC). Approximately 90% of staff for the TRRC were under 35, including two commissioners. However, as interviewees and the national consultation made clear, a lack of national policies recognising youth voices has led to difficulties in implementing the recommendations derived in the TRRC process.¹⁰

3.1.2 Addressing rising tensions and land disputes

The Gambia faces an increasing risk of violence in the border region and as a result of land disputes.¹¹ Conflicts in the Casamance region of Senegal threaten to spill over into The Gambia, with transnational criminal networks recruiting from the youth population and trafficking young women.¹² Additionally, without adequate community level dispute resolution platforms, violent clashes over land allocation and natural resource protection have broken out in villages across The Gambia. In consultations with young people, efforts to resolve land disputes peacefully coupled with dialogues around climate security were identified as key priorities for young people and areas in which they would like to partner with UN agencies in The Gambia.

The UNCT in The Gambia's response has included both intergenerational youth-led dialogues and livelihoods programming. This team supported several intergenerational dialogues across The Gambia to explore and strengthen the role of young people in identifying and mitigating conflict. The UNCT in The Gambia is supporting the development of a national infrastructure for peace, which will be central for response to community tensions.¹³

3.1.3 Improving protection of human rights

Interviewees highlighted four areas of rights violations faced by young people in The Gambia.

- 1 Despite legal prohibition, child marriage rates remain high, with 34.2% of women aged 20-49 having been married before 18 years of age.¹⁴
- 2 Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in different forms remains common. For example, again despite legal prohibition, 75% of women between 15 and 49 have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM).¹⁵
- 3 Trafficking and abuse of migrants are prevalent in the border regions with Senegal.¹⁶
- 4 There has been a shrinking in civic space through media censorship and arresting of activists. Interviews conducted for the research and the national youth consultation both emphasised the importance of protection of young human rights defenders.

The Technical Working Group on National Infrastructure for Peace (I4P TWG), a coalition of 16 organisations created to design a specific national peacebuilding architecture for The Gambia, noted that national efforts to promote human rights are frequently ad-hoc and fragmented.¹⁷ The UN's work in The Gambia has centred on promoting and protecting young people's access to human rights, awareness raising and capacity building for responsible government entities.¹⁸

3.1.4 Lowering economic inequality

The Gambian youth population faces significant unemployment. In a U-Report poll conducted for this report, 47% of respondents — young people between the age of 15 and 29 — indicated that unemployment was their most urgent challenge.¹⁹ This was also reflected in a national youth consultation, where participants called for peace responsive employment programs. Young people interviewed indicated the need for higher quality jobs, improved access to education, and a focus on reintegration of returnee migrants into the job market.²⁰ Interviews also highlighted the different and added barriers and discrimination young women and young people with disabilities face in the job market.

Several vocational and entrepreneurial capacity building programs have been implemented by the UN in The Gambia to strengthen livelihoods (see Box 3). In interviews, both UN staff and young civil society representatives have referenced the importance of approaching livelihoods and conflict in tandem, including through small grants and advocacy around conflict mitigation strategies.²¹

Box 3: Start up grants

In a Peacebuilding Fund project on climate adaptation, the Global Youth Innovation Network (GYIN) distributed six start up entrepreneurial grants.²² GYIN supported the registration of recipients as associations which enabled opening of bank accounts. These associations formed with membership across divided communities, increasing cooperation within communities.²³

3.2 Learnings, good practices and challenges

This section will detail lessons identified from the research which offer insight into strategies for contextualised implementation of the strategy.

3.2.1 Consultation of Young People in Strategy and Project Development

The majority of respondents interviewed focused on meaningful engagement of young people in strategy and project development.²⁴ During the time of writing, the extent to which young people are consulted varied across the UNCT's work.

In the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) projects, which account for US\$ 5-7 million per year, there are requirements for community consultations. Civil society is consulted in the development of annual priorities and project concept notes. Certain PBF projects also engage young people as implementers.²⁵ Several agencies also highlighted their strategies to engage young people in their consultations, including working to reach youth in informal spaces through engaging with artists as communicators and events at football games.²⁶

Despite these efforts, consultations with young people remains limited. UNCT staff indicated that a lack of sufficient and flexible funding at times prevents the meaningful engagement of young people. Challenges include:

- 1 **A lack of diversity in the consulted youth-led organisations.** While several youth-led organisations and networks operate in the country, the UN works routinely with only a set of five organisations. In particular, many young peacebuilders expressed frustration that the National Youth Council (NYC) is the primary focal point for the UN, due to its status as a governmental body.
- 2 **Access to the UN is particularly limited for marginalised youth** including young people with disabilities, from rural areas, young women, Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Queer, Intersex (LGBTQI) youth, in informal sectors, and returnee migrants. In particular, in the national youth consultation, young people emphasised the lack of inclusion of young people with disabilities.

- 3 **A lack of sufficient funding results in ad-hoc consultation with limited follow up.** Current funding sources rarely allow for sufficient budget and time for meaningful consultation. This results in youth-led organisations being relied on to continuously provide input, at times without compensation or follow up to consultations.

- 4 **Insufficient flexibility in programming to adapt to priorities of youth organisations.** not all people interviewed agreed, several felt this was true, with one indicating that failure to 'latch on' to government priorities resulted in reduced partnerships.²⁷ Several youth-led organisations explained that they are only consulted with pre-formed projects.

These limitations are not unusual for UNCTs and are difficult to overcome without proper resourcing. The examples from PBF projects, although having their own limitations, suggest that donors can empower UN agencies through both funding and by mandating robust consultation processes.

Box 4: Peacebuilding Fund consultation (PBF)

A PBF project on climate adaptation, in addition to pre-application consultations, included an allocation of three months of funding for a needs assessment to shape the project activities which will focus on youth and women.²⁸

3.2.2 Young people expanding the reach and impact of the UN's programming

Several UNCT staff indicated that young people are important partners in raising awareness of the rights of young people with relevant stakeholders and facilitating dialogue on contentious issues.

Examples include projects related to migrant rights. Youth organisations were funded to support awareness raising among young people, including to develop radio shows and activities within informal spaces.²⁹ These partnerships were identified as critical to expanding the reach of the UNCTs work to marginalised young people.

Several projects were identified in which youth-led organisations were key partners in fostering dialogue within communities. In several PBF projects, youth-led organisations sensitised police and community elders to the rights, needs and priorities of young women in their communities. They were also identified as important conduits between service providers and community members. In UNICEF's work on FGM, young people were 'instrumental in the engagement of elderly men in dialogue to change attitudes on FGM'. These examples suggest that partnerships with youth groups as implementers are key to engaging community members whom the UN and its partners often struggle to reach.

3.2.3 Funding for youth-led organisations

Funding for youth-led organisations remains scarce, with many operating on less than US\$ 3,000 per year.³⁰ UN staff indicated that many youth organisations are reliant on the UN for funding, but that they cannot meet the needs given their own financial constraints.

Projectised and short-term funding without allocations for salary or overhead costs forces youth organisations to be reliant on voluntary contributions and staff which stunts their organisational growth.

Many interviewees expressed fear that this lack of quality funding will result in a weak civil society in the long term. The diversity of funded youth organisations is also undermined as many youth-led partners, particularly rural organisations, do not have legal registration or administrative capacity to receive UN resources.

Box 5: Village Development Committees

In a PBF project on climate adaptation, the UNCT partnered with Village Development Committees, with representation from women and youth associations, to recommend who would be selected for skills training and small grants for entrepreneurship. It was found to be effective and inclusive. The methodology will be incorporated in the new PBF project developing a national peace infrastructure.³¹

Lack of funding also results in competition between youth organisations, UN agencies and the government. There have been some efforts to address this competition between youth organisations. For example, UNDP funds a consortium of organisations in its project on political participation to promote collaboration between them. Youth organisations called on the UN to invest in youth networks, and to support their networking with other donors.

3.2.4 Capacity support

Youth organisations and UN staff also called for more capacity support which is tailored to young people's needs. Current capacity building programs prioritise skills development rather than organisational growth. Organisational development was identified as critical for a more sustainable civil society. Several interviewees suggested longer term capacity programs for a smaller group, rather than short term programs for a larger number of young people. Finally, the national youth consultation emphasised the importance of building capacity for psycho-social support and wellbeing as part of project design.

Box 6: Capacity building example

In one PBF project, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) contracted the Global Youth Innovation Network to consult 50 youth associations and develop an assessment report to determine the content of the training.³² As a result, United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), UNDP and UNESCO focused on capacity development for young women in particular, strengthening mentorship platforms, building a network of young women politicians, and creating a mentorship program with older women from a previous PBF project. However, resources available to fund these capacity programs are limited.

3.2.5 Funding for the UNCT

The UNCT has consistently received funding from the PBF at US\$ 5-7 million a year, which has provided stability for programming. However, relevant funding for the UNCT, beyond PBF allocations, is limited. Competition for resources

and tightly earmarked funding risks increasing inter-agency competition. In interviews, UNCT staff highlighted that a significant portion of funding comes with strict thematic priorities, with very little relating to peacebuilding. Some staff indicated that their own agency policies restrict their ability to implement according to local priorities and methods of operation, 'We have to fall in line with these outputs and outcomes. NGOs can come with proposals that match their needs, but it must fall in line'.

UN staff interviewed expressed a wish for longer-term funding with multiyear time frames. This would also enable longer-term resourcing of youth-led organisations in cases where UN agencies act as intermediaries. Staff and youth-led implementing partners also suggested that longer-term funding be allocated to monitoring and evaluation of projects, including longer-term engagement of communities following the conclusion of projects.

3.2.6 Cross-Agency coordination

Particularly in the context of limited resources, coordination between UN entities operating at the country level is critical to make most effective use of resources. Agency coordination is more likely to occur with funding from multi-partner funds. This has resulted in best practices including weekly steering committee meetings, monitoring of partner agencies' work, and joining mandates under one project.

Within the PBF Project *Strengthening Access to Justice, Community Policing and Effective SGBV Response*, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA conduct bi-weekly coordination meetings, mainstreaming of joint monitoring work, and parallel discussion on complementarity of independent work. UNCT staff indicated in interviews that when coordination occurs it strengthens project impact.

However, the UNCT has insufficient resources for coordination across its youth work resulting in a project-by-project approach. Differing administrative procedures and competition for resources has resulted in project duplications and limited cross-agency partnership. Despite a youth component in the new UNCT action plan on human rights, there is currently no cross-agency coordinating group for youth inclusion. While the Resident Coordinators Office has been a positive force in coordination, it also faces funding limitations that reduce coordination capacity.

Box 7: Strengthening coordination across PBF projects

The new PBF project to strengthen the PBF secretariat will support cross PBF project steering and coordination committees, coupled with coordination with the Department of Strategic Policy and Delivery. It will aim to reduce fragmentation from implementing partners and facilitate knowledge sharing to strengthen national capacities. It will build geographic and thematic mappings of peacebuilding actors including through facilitating dialogue with beneficiary communities via community-based monitoring.

3.2.7 Connection of broader work to the YPS agenda

Despite references in certain project documents, integration of YPS perspectives into broader programming is lacking at the strategic and policy level. While several UNCT staff referred to broader programming on employment, migration, sexual and reproductive health rights, and traditional peacebuilding practices, many reflected that at the strategic level YPS is not integrated into national policies. For example, the National Youth Policy, while integrating youth inclusion, makes no explicit reference to the YPS agenda. Some interviewees highlighted a lack of awareness of the YPS agenda within the UNCT.

The consistency of PBF funding has created increased incentives to relate agency mandates to peacebuilding priorities. However, some agencies continue to 'pitch' the same work within PBF projects without the inclusion of peace-responsive components. One UNCT staff member called for greater nexus approaches to peacebuilding and livelihood work. However, they indicated that funding sources often restrict that approach through narrow thematic earmarking.

Young activists called for greater integration of their work across siloes. While youth-led organisations have been engaged in dialogue and programming to strengthen political participation, they called for greater integration of their work into projects not exclusively focusing on 'youth issues', including in transitional justice, climate security and natural resource-based conflict resolution, and mental health work.

4. Recommendations

The UN Country Team in The Gambia has made significant strides in the implementation of priority areas four and five of the UN Youth Strategy. However, policy, financing, and capacity restrictions have limited implementation within key areas. The following recommendations identify priorities for each stakeholder group to strengthen implementation of Youth2030 based on the research conducted.

Donors:

- ◆ Include requirements for a percentage of project funding to be distributed to youth-led organisations.
- ◆ Provide funding for more detailed and thorough community consultation processes in the development of projects and strategies, and require disaggregated data for different youth populations.
- ◆ Increase un-earmarked or soft-earmarked investments to allow UN agencies and youth partners to adapt to changing circumstances, and to have the flexibility to design projects according to community identified priorities.
- ◆ Increase allocations to multi-partner funds and joint programs to strengthen the flexibility of funding and encourage cross-agency coordination.
- ◆ Increase resources for Resident Coordinator's offices to support coordination, including through youth focal points.

UN Headquarters:

- ◆ Work with young people to develop capacity building programs on meaningful youth engagement for UN colleagues at the country level, based on the principles of meaningful youth engagement as stipulated in Youth2030.
- ◆ Provide greater flexibility to country level staff to identify priorities for implementation and funding including thematic focus of projects and how funding is distributed.
- ◆ Require and provide incentives for increased cross-agency collaboration, including when implementing projects through core resources.

UN Country Team:

- ◆ Create a cross-agency working group on youth, to support a more coordinated approach and the inclusion of youth in the UNCT's work.³³
- ◆ Develop outreach strategies to ensure meaningful youth engagement, and the availability of resource mobilisation strategies to resource that outreach.
- ◆ Develop long-term, cross-agency, monitoring and evaluation of programming in partnership with youth-led implementers.
- ◆ Develop a plan for increased capacity support for organisational development and sustainability of youth-led and youth-focused organisations.

Endnotes

- ¹ United Nations, 'United Nations Youth Strategy', (New York: United Nations, 2018), https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/18-00080_UN-Youth-Strategy_Web.pdf.
- ² The Republic of the Gambia is referred to in this paper by its more commonly known name as The Gambia.
- ³ Gambia Ministry of Youth and Sports, 'National Youth Policy of The Gambia 2019 – 2028', Banjul, September 2019, <https://nyc.gm/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/National-Youth-Policy-of-The-Gambia-2019-2028-Final.pdf>.
- ⁴ Maame Akua Amoah Twum, 'Gambians say government must do more to help the youth', (AfroBarometer, Gambia), 2022. <https://www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/AD521-Gambians-say-govt-must-do-more-to-help-youth-Afrobarometer-dispatch-25may22-1.pdf>.
- ⁵ United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Project, 'Strengthening the National Infrastructure for Peace to Promote Social Cohesion in The Gambia', <https://mptf.undp.org/project/00134329>.
- ⁶ Youth peace and security.
- ⁷ United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Project, 'Strengthening the National Infrastructure for Peace to Promote Social Cohesion in The Gambia', <https://mptf.undp.org/project/00134329>.
- ⁸ UNDP has invested resources into strengthening national policies to institutionalise youth inclusion. Most recently, UNDP has invested in the development of a National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security. This work includes support for the development of the National Youth Policy, National Development Plan, and the National Youth Council Act. A new National Development Plan is expected shortly. However, many young people expressed a lack of institutional backing for their peacebuilding work in policy and programming.
- ⁹ VOA Africa, 'Gambians Hold Rare Public Protest', March 10, 2023, <https://www.voaafrica.com/a/gambians-hold-rare-public-protest/6999089.html>.
- ¹⁰ United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Project, 'Strengthening the National Infrastructure for Peace to Promote Social Cohesion in The Gambia', <https://mptf.undp.org/project/00134329>.
- ¹¹ UNDP has mapped over 40 hotspots for potential land related conflict.
- ¹² The separatist armed group in Casamance finances its operations through illicit trade in rosewood, drugs and small arms. Migration Multi-partner Trust Fund, 'Addressing the drivers and causes of migration-related vulnerabilities among border communities along the TransGambia transport corridor', <https://mptf.undp.org/project/00129729>.
- ¹³ United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Project, 'Strengthening the National Infrastructure for Peace to Promote Social Cohesion in The Gambia', <https://mptf.undp.org/project/00134329>.
- ¹⁴ Gambia Bureau of Statistics & ICF, 'The Gambia Demographic and Health Survey 2013,' <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR289/FR289.pdf>.
- ¹⁵ The rate is 76 % for women between 14 to 49 year age range, and 51 % for girls 14 or younger. United Nations News, 'Interview with Ndeye Rose Sarr, head of UNFPA Gambia', March 11, 2023, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1134347#:~:text=The%20rate%20of%20FGM%20in,cutting%20the%20clitoris%20or%20labia>.
- ¹⁶ Migration Multi-partner Trust Fund, 'Addressing the drivers and causes of migration-related vulnerabilities among border communities along the TransGambia transport corridor', <https://mptf.undp.org/project/00129729>.
- ¹⁷ United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Project, 'Strengthening the National Infrastructure for Peace to Promote Social Cohesion in The Gambia', <https://mptf.undp.org/project/00134329>.
- ¹⁸ There are a few positive examples of this work. UNICEF and UNDP have supported trainings for 120 village development committees which have resulted in over 40 community action plans which will feed into ward and regional development plans on the engagement of children and youth. UNICEF has also led, together with UNFPA, a government and civil society joint taskforce on FGM, enabling a coordinated approach to strengthening enforcement of legislation banning FGM. These projects have included significant programming related to policing and justice institutions and border authorities.
- ¹⁹ The full response from the poll is as follows: Unemployment: 47% (570) Violence against women and girls: 22% (269) Child marriage: 9% (112) Climate crisis: 7% (94) Insufficient basic social services: 5% (62) Land and water conflict: 2% (34).

- ²⁰ According to a UNCT study reviewed for this thematic paper, while more than half of respondents indicated that they are employed (63.7%), the majority of those employed (73.4%) indicated that they are self-employed in the agriculture sector. About 84.5% of employed respondents indicated earning up to US\$ 91 a month, while being responsible for 4-13 dependents.
- ²¹ Examples include The Gambia Songhai Initiative between UNDP and the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, as well as the PBF Project Supporting Cross-Border Cooperation for Increased Community Resilience and Social Cohesion in The Gambia and Senegal.
- ²² United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Project, 'Strengthening community coping mechanisms against risks of climate induced conflicts', <https://mptf.undp.org/project/00119440>.
- ²³ United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Project, 'Strengthening community coping mechanisms against risks of climate induced conflicts', <https://mptf.undp.org/project/00119440>.
- ²⁴ For a tool-kit on meaningful engagement of young people, please see this check-list developed by UNOY.
- ²⁵ United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Project, 'Young women and men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates for the prevention of violence and hate speech', <https://mptf.undp.org/project/00124863>.
- ²⁶ Agencies citing this method were, the International Organisation for Migration and the International Trade Centre.
- ²⁷ It is important to note that the UNCT is required to abide by the Development Cooperation Framework with The Gambia government.
- ²⁸ United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Project, 'Strengthening community coping mechanisms against risks of climate induced conflicts', <https://mptf.undp.org/project/00119440>.
- ²⁹ This use of mass media and radio stations for greater sensitisation, including through partnership with youth-led organisations was also present in the PBF projects, 'Strengthening Access to Justice, Community Policing and Effective SGBV Response', and 'Young women and men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates for the prevention of violence and hate speech'. UNFPA supported moonlight story-telling sessions in five regions, providing platforms for young men and women to share their experiences with their peers on irregular migration. They also expanded the reach of this work through social events, football tournaments, arts fairs, and peace concerts.
- ³⁰ This figure was identified in the national youth consultation.
- ³¹ United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Project, 'Support to the PBF Secretariat in The Gambia to enhance coordination and peacebuilding impact'. <https://mptf.undp.org/project/00134234>.
- ³² United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Project, 'Young women and men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates for the prevention of violence and hate speech', <https://mptf.undp.org/project/0012486>.
- ³³ 'Youth, Peace and Security: A Programming Handbook' (New York: United Nations and Folke Bernadotte Academy, 2021). <https://fba.se/contentassets/1e50baa39af44d26b655cb7885f7ae52/yps-programming-handbook.pdf>.

Acronyms

FGM	Female genital mutilation
GYIN	Global Youth Innovation Network
I4P-TWG	The Technical Working Group on National Infrastructure for Peace
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Queer, Intersex
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NYC	National Youth Council
PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
SGBV	Sexual and gender based violence
TRRC	Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security





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