



## HIGHLIGHTS

**3308**

UNHCR secured ID cards have so far been issued this year to adult refugees

**35**

Refugees financed by microfinance institutions in August

**1219**

Refugee students received educational support this year

**30**

Refugee households received support for shelters materials

### Population of concern

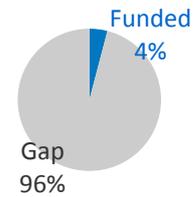
A total of **11,439** people of concern

#### By country of origin

Gambia	Total PoC
Senegal	10,847
Cote d'Ivoire	252
Sierra Leone	135
Others	205
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,439</b>

### Funding

**USD 54,654,054** requested



Budget embedded in the ExCom approved budget of the Regional Representation in Dakar which covers operations in: Benin, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

### UNHCR Presence

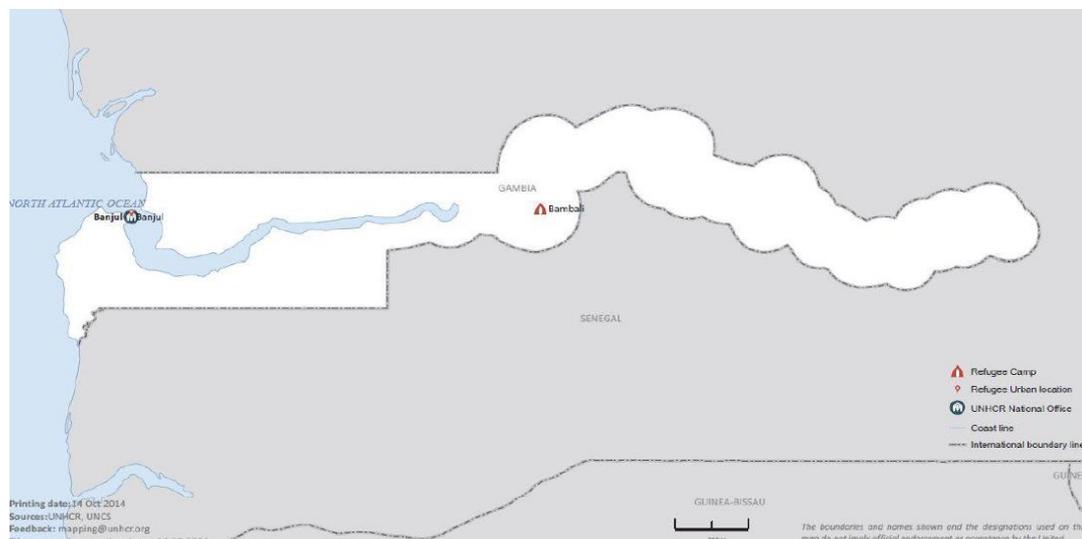
#### Staff:

07 national staff

03 national UNV

#### Offices:

01 office located in Banjul



## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

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UNHCR works with 2 implementing partners, Gambia Food and Nutrition Association (sub-project with urban refugees) and The Ministry of Interior and The Gambia Commission for Refugees (protection of refugees). UNHCR is a member of the UN Country Team (UNCT) and regularly attends the UNCT weekly meeting where UN activities are discussed whilst also collaborating on various fronts with other UN agencies soliciting support and cooperation in highlighting refugee issues.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

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### Protection

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- From the 21-25 of October, the UNHCR office in close collaboration with the Gambia Commission for Refugees a field mission with the objective to update refugee information as well as issue Identity Documents. This was the maiden continuous registration activity carried out by the office following the implementation of a verification/registration exercise in May/June 2014. The exercise aims to facilitate the continuous recording, updating and validation of PoC data and to be able to better attend to their needs.
- In October 2014, 208 new UNHCR standard ID cards were printed and issued to refugees of 18 years and above.
- The Age, Gender, and Diversity mainstreaming Participatory Assessment this year was held from the 21st to 25th October, 2014 in the Foni area of the West Coast Region, where most of the refugees are concentrated with Senegalese from Casamance forming the majority. Being traditionally farmers, these refugees continue to earn their livelihoods through farming activities during the rainy season, and turn to gardening when the rains eventually cease. The rationale of the AGDM is to ensure meaningful participation of women, men, girls, and boys of all ages and background. This is important as it is very instrumental in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all UNHCR policies and operations. This is a strategy to support the goals of gender equality and the enjoyment of rights by all persons of concern. It also calls for targeted actions to address inequalities and protection gaps.
- A training of trainers workshop on international protection of refugees was held at the ocean Bay Hotel from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The topics discussed were mixed migration, national legal and international frameworks, and protection of refugees in mass influx, Refugee Status determination, registration and documentation, rights and obligations of refugees and working with refugees. The workshop was attended by 28 participants drawn from UNHCR and the various security training schools in The Gambia. The idea of the training is for participants to disseminate the knowledge gained to their trainees in the respective training schools.
- A five day training of the Refugees and the host communities was conducted in Foni from the 17th -21st Sept. The training was geared towards capacitating the host and the refugees with the Rights and Obligation of the Refugees in both the 1951 Geneva Convention and the 1969 OAU convention relating to the protection of refugees. In order to better enhance, implement and enforce protection, promotion and understanding of the said instruments, communities that are hosting the Refugees from the Southern part of Senegal. The training/ advocacy was conducted in five clusters with equal representative of men and women. The total number of people trained on the rights and obligation of the refugee's amount to two hundred and fifty people.
- The Gambia Commission for Refugees has recently engaged the local government authorities (District Chiefs, Village Chiefs, Traditional Leaders, Opinion Leaders and the Religious leaders) in enabling the refugees to have access to land for farming and housing in their respective communities

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

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- In addition, 20 refugee women in the urban area were trained on second level batik skills for 4 days in October 2014 at GAFNA headquarters as well as provided with start-up kits after the training.
- Contract for the drilling of 4 boreholes and install with hand pump in the communities (Dobong, Kappa, Karunor & Kaling) for domestic use was awarded to MANTEX Company in September 2014. The implementation of the contract is near completion as drilling of boreholes is in advanced stage.

## Durable Solutions

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- On the 28th and 29th of October 2014, 9 refugee families of 50 individuals were interviewed by the Canadian mission in consideration for resettlement in Canada. The purpose of these interviews is to assess their eligibility for resettlement in Canada. The refugees are from the following nationalities: Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Eritrea.

## Shelter and NFIs

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- Following the unprecedented heavy storms and wind during the rainy season especially in August 2014, some refugee households were seriously affected. Verification exercise was carried out by the Community Development Assistants and the Refugee Executive Committee to establish the statistics of victims and cause of damage. It was discovered that 10 households had their houses blown off by heavy wind and family members were displaced. In light of this situation, GAFNA provided shelter material to these households in September 2014 to fix their houses and to regain normal family composition.

## Health

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- 45 refugees seeking medical attention were referred for specialist to further investigate their conditions.
- 2 refugees were assisted with medical reports
- 9 bereaved refugee families received funeral support in the form of financial assistance.
- 10 refugees were assisted with the procurement of drugs prescribed by the government health facilities. These are drugs that are prescribed by the health facilities but are out of stock.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [Canada](#) | [Denmark](#) | [European Union](#) | [France](#) | [Japan](#) | [Liechtenstein](#) | [Nigeria](#) | [Republic of Korea](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States of America](#) |

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