



## HIGHLIGHTS

**267**

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

**118**

Persons with specific needs identified from July to date

**64**

Refugee identified for resettlement assessment interview

**16**

Persons departed on resettlement to Canada

## Population of concern

A total of **7,854** people of concern

### By country of origin

| Gambia        | Total PoC    |
|---------------|--------------|
| Senegal       | 7,392        |
| Cote d'Ivoire | 192          |
| Sierra Leone  | 119          |
| Others        | 151          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>7,854</b> |

## UNHCR Presence

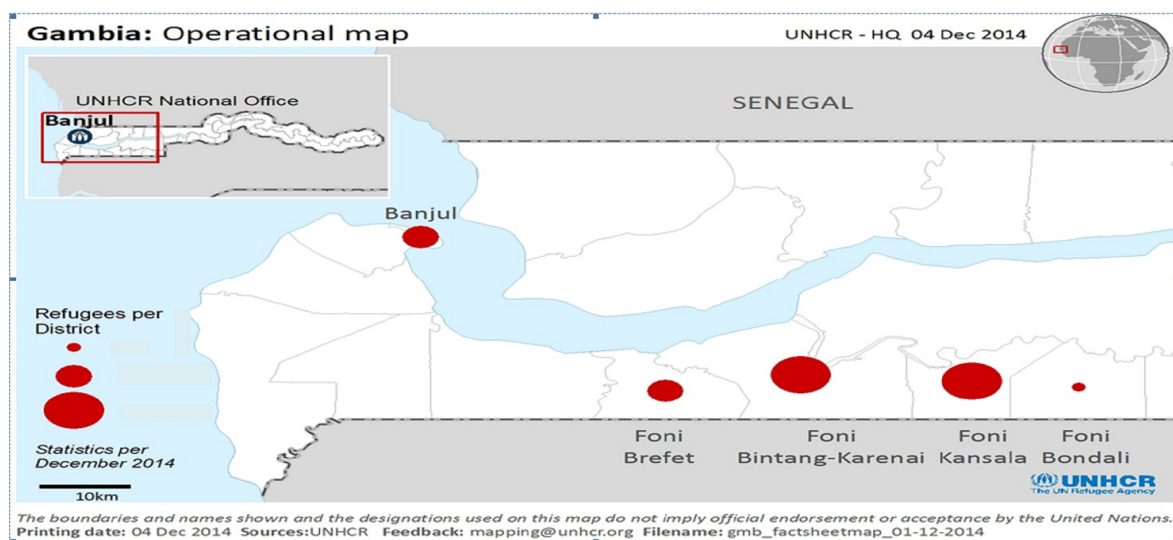
### Staff:

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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- 11-15<sup>th</sup> December – Gambia Commission for Refugees (GCR) conducted a nationwide sensitization of local government authorities on statelessness targeting over two hundred local government administrative, ward councilors, district chiefs, village leaders etc. The objective of the sensitization is to inform the local government authorities of the upcoming consultancy survey on statelessness and to sensitize them on what is statelessness, the causes of statelessness and other important information on statelessness.
- A nationwide projection of video (local drama group) on statelessness targeting the general public was organized by the Gambia Commission for Refugees in December 2016. The objective is to sensitize the general public on what is statelessness, the causes of statelessness and other relevant information on statelessness and also to inform the general public of the upcoming consultancy survey on statelessness.
- UNHCR in collaboration with the Gambia Commission for Refugees conducted refugee status determination training for thirty (30) border security officials from the 31<sup>st</sup> Oct– 03<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2016. The main objective of the training is to raise the awareness of the border security officials on the asylum procedures, how to receive asylum seekers, the principle of non refoulement i.e. to forcefully return asylum seekers to their country of origin and penalizing refugees and asylum seekers for illegal entry into country of asylum.
- Seven (7) PoCs with disabilities (4 male and 3 female) were assisted with cash voucher assistance amounting by GAFNA. The support has enabled the beneficiaries with the aid of their immediate family members to engage in business and other income generation activities to augment their socio-economic status for self-reliance.
- Thirteen (13) PoCs with specific needs (1 male/12 female) were assisted with cash voucher assistance amounting to Gambian Dalasis 88, 000.00. This support has enabled the beneficiaries to undertake various business and other income generation activities to augment their socio-economic status for self-reliance and also meet urgent family constraints.

### Education

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- On 8th December, 2016 GAFNA facilitated a sensitization workshop for urban refugee parents on the new UNHCR Education Exit Strategy. A total of 27 refugees (16 males/11 females) as per the following nationalities (Senegalese (7 males/4 females) Ivorian (6 males/3 females) Congolese (2 males/ 3 females) Togo (1 male/1 female) attended the event where series of issues were discussed relative to the strategy.
- Three (3) refugee youth (2 male/1 female) were provided financial support by GAFNA for tuition fees and transport refund to undergo various vocational training in tertiary institutions. The training will enable them acquire skills in order to gain employment opportunities.

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

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- GCR in collaboration with the Ministry of local government and lands conducted a two days' workshop on development of strategy for the refugees to acquire certificate of land ownership for the lands given to refugees for both agricultural and residential purposes.
- Provision of cash voucher assistance for start-up kits was provided to four (4) rural refugees (2 male /2 female). The support has assisted in providing working tools such as tie/dye and bicycle repair tools for the beneficiaries. Three existing tie/dye women's groups were also provided with cash voucher assistance to purchase tie/dye start-up kits. The assistance has enabled group members to undertake their respective individual group activities without relying on the shared/pooled materials/kits.

- GAFNA facilitated the training of members of the urban based Kombo Kajamorr Fishing Society on management and entrepreneurship skills held from 13th to 16th December 2016. Twenty five participants (15 male/10 female) attended the training that was facilitated by two external resource persons (one from the Department of Fisheries and the National Association of Credit Cooperatives Union). The objective of the training was to equip participants with best practices and techniques in management and entrepreneurship.
- Refugees in The Gambia converged on 24th December 2016 to take part in Refugees/Hosts Cultural and Solidarity/Income Generation Products Exhibition. This event brought together refugees residing in both the rural and urban areas and was hosted by refugees resident in the rural areas. The day was preceded with series of advocacy and information sharing activities especially on the current political situation in the country where refugees were assured of a peaceful settlement of the political impasse and that they should continue to be law-abiding. Other issues discussed was the need for host communities to start putting up a management and maintenance fund in each village where UNHCR and partners have assisted in putting up social amenities such as water points and milling machines. The refugees also displayed finished products of their income generation products that were bought by some of the people who attended the event.

## WASH

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- GAFNA made reached agreement with the national water and electricity company, NAWEC for the water extension works for the communities of Buluntu and Mandina. This project will facilitate the availability of clean pipe borne water supply to the two communities with a high refugee population. In the similar development, it also facilitated the repair of the water pump of the solar reticulation in the Bitta Vegetable garden and the rehabilitation of the water pump of the Ballen domestic water point.

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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