

Human rights in The Gambia



Situation in The Gambia –Transitional Justice: Financial Inquiry Commission and Security Sector Reform

Implementation of previous recommendations made by Myanmar, Botswana, Portugal, and South Africa on the reform of the security sector.

New developments

- Financial Inquiry Commission to address the mismanagement of public finances and substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms.
- Creation of the Office of the National Security Adviser.
- Development of training manuals on IHRL, IHL, and SGBV for the security sector by the NHRC.

Needs

- Cohesive implementation of the report from the Financial Commission.
- Coordination of the SSR for effective reform of the sector.
- Establishment of the Special Prosecutor's Office and the Accountability Mechanism for the prosecution of alleged perpetrators of human rights violations.

Recommendations – Transitional Justice: Financial Inquiry Commission and Security Sector Reform

- a. By the end of 2025, provide a clear framework for the implementation of recommendations from the Financial Commission to contribute to SDG target 16.5 on reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms.
- b. Establish a coordination mechanism by 2025 under the Office of the National Security Adviser, as the Secretariat of the SSR process, to coordinate the implementation of the Security Sector Reform process and 2023-2027 Strategy.
- c. Prioritise the enactment of the National Security Council Bill (2022), the bedrock of the ongoing SSR process and a fundamental pillar to enhance national security and a human-centered approach to security.
- d. In addition, the Office of the National Security Adviser to develop a plan to ensure security officials at all levels receive capacity-building training with a focus on IHRL, IHL, and SGBV based on the NHRC manuals by 2027.

These interventions will directly contribute to SDG target 16.6 on effective, transparent, and accountable institutions including security sector institutions.

Situation in The Gambia – Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: with a focus on Children rights

Implementation of previous recommendation made by Nigeria to enhance the socioeconomic well-being of its people and recommendations from the Holy See and Congo on the right to food.

New developments

- The State published its flagship development blueprint, the Recovery-Focused National Development Plan 2023-2027.
- Enacted the Labour Act 2023, the Anti-Corruption Act 2023 and the National Health Insurance Act 2019.
- Outbreak of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) in August claimed the lives of more than 70 children.

Needs

- Implementation of the National Health Insurance.
- Address causes leading to the youths undertaking irregular migration to Europe through the Sahara Desert or the Mediterranean.
- Food insecurity and rising extreme poverty.
- Stringent measures to address the importation of contaminated medical drugs and issuance of licenses for the sale of medical drugs.



Recommendations - Situation in The Gambia – Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: with a focus on Children rights

- a. As provided in the RF-NDP, by 2027 enhance the meaningful employment of young people to address irregular migration amongst the youths to contribute to SDG target 8.6.
- b. By 2026 promote and invest in mechanised agriculture to enhance food security under SDG targets 1.1, SDG 2, and 9.
- c. By 2026 provide adequate human, financial and technical resources to the National Health Insurance Authority for the effective implementation of the National Health Insurance Act 2019 to contribute to the realisation of SDG target 3.8.
- d. By mid–2025 publish an implementation plan for recommendations from the Task Force established to investigate the AKI outbreak to enhance the attainment of SDG targets 3.2, 3.9.

Thank you

