

MAPPING AND  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILING  
OF COMMUNITIES OF RETURN  
IN THE GAMBIA

SYNTHESIS  
REPORT

2018



Project funded by the European Union  
Project implemented by IOM



*the presentation of the material throughout the guide do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.*

*The European Union or IOM makes no warranties or representations, express or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of this document. In no event shall they be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered as a result of the use of this study, including, without limitation, any fault, error, omission, interruption or delay in this regard.*

*This document contains links to third party websites. Sites that can be accessed from these links are not managed or controlled by the European Union or IOM. The European Union or IOM is therefore not responsible for the availability, content or accuracy of any linked site or link contained in this linked site. These links are provided for informational purposes only, and in no way constitute a recommendation or an invitation to use a service. The inclusion of any link does not imply any endorsement of the linked website of the European Union or IOM.*

*IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.*

This synthesis report was commissioned by the Regional Office for West and Central Africa of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the research was conducted by Samuel Hall. The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM. Any errors or omissions are the responsibility of Samuel Hall.

The report should be cited in the following format:

Samuel Hall (2018). *Mapping and Socio-Economic Profiling of Communities of Return in the Gambia (Synthesis Report)*, for the Regional Office for West and Central Africa of the International Organization for Migration.

## I. CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

In recent years, Gambians have emigrated at a higher rate per capita than every other nation in Africa. In 2016, a total of 11,929 Gambians arrived in Italy by boat, a 41% increase from 2015. Of particular concern, 24% of these were unaccompanied minors. These figures do not account for the thousands more migrants whose journeys were halted at the North African border.

The context of migration and reintegration in The Gambia is underscored by two issues that have a particularly profound impact on the country and set it apart from most other West African countries. First, the new democratic government led by Barrow aims to stem irregular outward migration of low-skilled Gambians and to reintegrate returnees. The government is trusted yet still economically fragile. Secondly, Gambians constitute a disproportionately high percentage of arrivals in Europe. The strong culture of mobility northward is attributed to the influence of a deeply embedded European tourism sector.

In 2017, IOM Gambia received 3,900,000 EUR from the EU Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), a relatively small sum of money at face value compared to the 11,800,000 EUR for Mali and 5,400,000 EUR for Guinea Conakry, although it does have a comparatively small population. The funding intends to provide assistance to 1,500 returnees in The Gambia. This document seeks to contribute to understanding Gambia's complex dynamics to help IOM adapt its reintegration strategy and activities in areas of actual or potential return. To do so, this synthesis report identifies a number of challenges in the context of sustainable reintegration, and proposes levers of action, particularly at the local level. The objective is to support the operationalisation of the Joint Initiative for Migration Protection and Reintegration in Africa and to better understand the communities in which returning migrants return or arrive - to make recommendations at the EU and national level.

The field research in **The Gambia** was carried out in February 2018. The tools used in the study included: 718 quantitative surveys with young people aged 15 to 34, 18 focus groups, 10 community observation sheets and 76 stakeholder interviews (at community and central level). The zones chosen by IOM can be divided into three types:

The Joint Initiative<sup>1</sup> is part of a change of approach to reintegration within IOM. In 2017, this organization developed a **multidimensional and integrated** definition of 'sustainable reintegration'<sup>2</sup>: *"Reintegration can be considered sustainable when returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with (re)migration drivers. Having achieved sustainable reintegration, returnees are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity."*

- Major urban hubs in the Kombos (Serrekunda, Brikama, Wellingara)
- Upriver urban communities (Basse, Farafenni, Soma, Bansang)
- Upriver rural communities (Dampha Kunda, Kerewan, Sami Karantaba)

The methodology used for the community mapping can be applied in more communities in Gambia - this "pilot" approach has made it possible to identify the best practices of development per community profile for amplification.

In all communities in Gambia, and among almost all sub-groups studied, the desire to leave is high (average of 72%). Both returnees and non-returnees report a similarly high desire to migrate (4-point difference). This suggests that the migratory cycle does not necessarily end upon re-entering society. As IOM's definition of reintegration underlines, the desire to (re)migrate should not be viewed negatively as long as it is seen as a choice, rather than a necessity. Indeed, economic drivers were the most prominent motivation across almost all communities (for 34% in total). Re-migration remains a backup plan for social and economic possibilities.

In terms of returning, family considerations were found to be the most motivating factor for returnees to come back home. Safety concerns are also often cited (18%), reflecting the reality of mistreatment in Libyan prisons or detention centres. Whether return to Gambia was voluntary or involuntary, return is rarely experienced as an economic opportunity but rather as failure of an

<sup>1</sup> The 'Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in Africa' will be shortened to 'Joint Initiative' in the rest of the document.

<sup>2</sup> Samuel Hall / IOM (2017) Setting standards for an integrated approach to reintegration.

economic project due to the challenges associated with travel on the “Back Way.”

It is encouraging that in the assessed communities, inclusion in the community is high for both returnees and non-migrants (over 90% have a group of friends), and those who have been settled longer report a higher feeling of social participation (+7 percentage points). However, perception of returnees in the communities is divided – 40% of respondents felt that returnees are perceived negatively while 39% think the perception is positive, with significant variability across communities. Notably, all three West Coast sites indicated a majority

positive perception of returnees. However, returnees have a disproportionately high feeling (+23 points compared with non-returnee perceptions) that they are negatively perceived in their communities.

Through socio-economic research and the C4D (Communication for Development) approach, the priority audience remains the returning migrants, but also the so-called "host" communities, of return, transit or reception, in order to facilitate social, economic, and also psychosocial reintegration or integration within these communities.

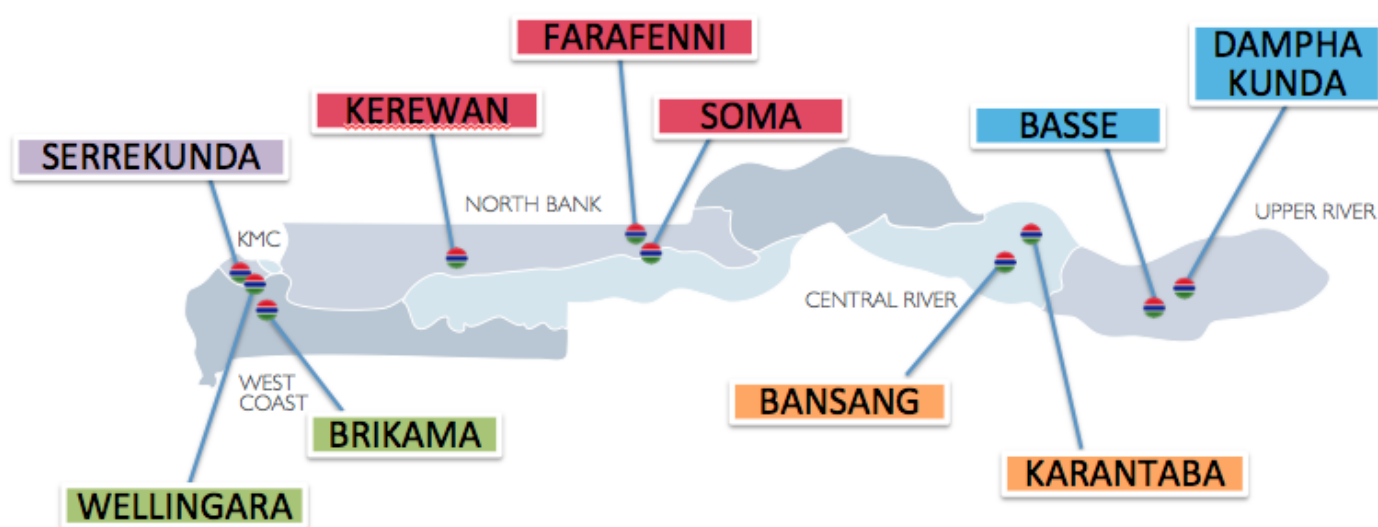


### Who are the return migrants interviewed during the study ?

In this research, all survey respondents who declared to have lived abroad for at least three months (for work, study, family, travel or other reasons) are classified as returnees. This is a rather inclusive definition that may not coincide with the ones used in the context of AVRR operations reporting. Of the 718 respondents, 104 were returnees, or 14,5 per cent of the total sample. In terms of gender, 12% of women and 29% of men were returnees. In terms of education, 13% of returnees have received no formal education as opposed to 5% of non-returnees, and none have undergraduate degrees. One third have completed a high school degree, one fifth a secondary level education and 19% benefited from religious education in line with the non-returnee figure of 16%, showing the importance of religious life in communities in The Gambia.

Survey data comparisons between returnee and non-returnee respondents were included for illustrative purposes only and to inform (or rather 'inspire') future profiling exercises targeting returning migrants specifically. The main focus of the research remains the socio-economic profiling of communities.

Figure 1: Location of the communities assessed





## II. BASIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND PSYCHOSOCIAL DATA IN TEN COMMUNITIES ASSESSED

This section reviews the most relevant findings in the analysis of economic, social and psychosocial data.

### ECONOMIC DIMENSION

**Age and gender influence employability of returnees. Returnees (16% of the sample) are more likely to be male than female (3 :1) and older (most were aged 25-34).**

- NOTE- As the sampling was not entirely random, the demographic data may also suggest differing levels of success of the survey teams in identifying returnees for interviews.
- When one only considers male 20-34 year olds, **returnees are more likely to be employed than non-migrants (53% vs 48%)**. The primary factor mentioned by employers surveyed was the additional experience abroad gained by returnees.
- **A significant percentage of respondents (61%) reported having debts** at a level higher than monthly household income. This may be due to the common practice of returnees owing debt to members of the origin community following a 'failed' migration project.

**There is a lack of skill diversity among respondents that are significantly salient in the labour market, but a near-universal desire to acquire new skills to secure employment opportunities:**

- Out of the 30 skills listed in the surveys, only 12 were selected by more than 4% of individuals. This demonstrates a low level of skills diversification.
- There is very high interest in developing one's own business (91% of respondents expressed desire, 98% of returnees). Among those with the desire, 97% reported that the biggest inhibitor is lack of funding.
- Occupations held and skills possessed and desired by respondents are highly gendered. Women's professional skills cluster almost exclusively around six professional skill groups, whereas men tend to work within 8 primary areas and have a wider mastery of additional skillsets.
- There is significant discrepancies in labour market characteristics and opportunities among West Coast, Upriver rural, and Upriver urban communities. Urban areas have high numbers of respondents in business and education, while rural area respondents were highly concentrated in farming, carpentry, hairstyling and sewing, or even 'without any skills.'

**High interest in entrepreneurship reflects both desire to be self-reliant and lack of interest in local labour market opportunities, which are limited to family-owned businesses and agriculture.**

- There are few effective training and skills development schemes in the ten studied communities that are commensurate with the high level of interest.
- The majority (50%) of interviewees are self-employed, 55% of whom are women versus 45% men. This suggests that entrepreneurship and self-employment are the most socially and economically accessible avenues for income, particularly for women.
- Respondents were almost entirely interested in paid or non-paid training, with 93% of those surveyed saying they are potentially interested in training or apprenticeship. This finding was fairly consistent across gender and returnees versus non-returnees. As stated in the 2016 World Bank report, to increase the quality and effectiveness of programs to develop job-relevant skills, it is important to incentivize firms to train their staff, involve employers in the design of training curricula, and introduce certification of occupational standards.

---

#### Economic actors in The Gambia:

- Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency
  - o *Empretec Gambia* is an integrated entrepreneurship programme that supports small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Gambia
- Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration, and Employment (MoTIE)

- Ministry of Youth
  - o *National Youth Service Scheme (NYSS)* was established in 1996 to provide youth with technical and soft skills to address the acute problems of youth unemployment.
- Gambian Youth Chamber of Commerce (GYCC) seeks to become a leading youth-led platform to advocate for the inclusion of youth in commerce and industry, as well as supporting youth in business activities.

## SOCIAL DIMENSION

### Migration and Education : a complex relationship

- Survey sample suggests that the **education achievements of returnees do not differ fundamentally from those of the control group (non-returnees)**. While comparable rates of returnees and non-returnees attended secondary school (21% and 18%, respectively), returnees surveyed had a higher dropout rate than non-returnees (46% and 36%, respectively).
- There is a marked increase in the desire to leave when comparing individuals who had no formal education with those who have completed Bachelor's degrees (36 point difference). However, the study on aspirations does not make it clear which combination of factors leads to the actual ability to migrate.

### Access to energy and water generally differ based on geographic location, while differences between surveyed returnees and non-returnees pertain to health, availability of food and education.

- Major metropolitan areas such as Serrekunda, Brikama, and Wellingara have greater access to services compared to upriver sites, though households in all areas tend to have poor access to energy and drinking water.
- Vulnerability indicators disaggregated by migratory status indicate that returnees tend to be more deprived in healthcare, food access and school attendance. The distinction is particularly apparent among recent returnees who are not always socially reintegrated. However, returnees tend to fare better in access to civil documentation and income.

### Social actors in The Gambia

- o **Ministry of Health and Social Welfare:** Through the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and the Livelihood Improvement and Family Empowerment (LIFE) program, The Gambia recognizes that social distress is a source of vulnerability that can stem from unemployment and income shocks.
- o **Ministry of Youth and Sports:** MoYS has established effective inroads to building resilience of youth across all metrics of sustainable reintegration through its sub-unit, the National Youth Council and close working partner, the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP). YEP has received 11 million euros from the EUTF.

## PSYCHOSOCIAL DIMENSION

### The prevalence of regional migration

- Returnees from our sample had mainly been residing in ECOWAS countries and Libya. **Libya** in particular is the most cited former destination, and only 21% of returnees from Libya declared to have received support from IOM. This suggests that there may be a significant number of self-sponsored returns.

### Returnees' psychosocial health and integration differs based on duration of time spent resettled in the return area (less than or more than two years)

- Economic integration for recent returnees (less than two years) is lower than for longer-term returnees (+2 years). Inclusion in community is high for both (over 90% have a group of friends), though those who have been settled longer report a higher feeling of social participation (+7 points).
- Recent returnees say in high percentage that they want to leave (82%, +10 points over older returnees) and fee

less control over their lives (73%, -12 points compared to older returnees). Returnees also have a disproportionately high feeling that they are negatively perceived in their communities (+23 points, compared with non-returnee perceptions). **This indicates that returnees initially feel a sense of social dissonance with the community and that return entails a process of progressive integration.**

#### **Community participation in social activities is important across communities**

- Mostly in village committees (33%) and youth/sports groups (32% and 23%), with some changes across communities depending on availability and vibrancy of local social opportunities. The most active social participation tends to occur in upriver sights, such as Soma, Kerewan and Farafenni, reflecting their comparative strength and density of social fabrics.

#### **Psychosocial actors in the Gambia:**

- **NGOs and CSOs providing** start-up capital for businesses and linking this with other services
- **Youth and migrant associations** exist in all communities to tackle migration and reintegration issues. They are either organized geographically or thematically (e.g. Regional youth committee in Kerewan, Berekonko youth development association in Soma, and the Youth development association in Bansang).
- **Counseling services** geared towards offering advice to youth, sensitization efforts in communities.

### III. IDENTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY NEEDS FOR BETTER REINTEGRATION

To corroborate the field data and indices developed in the regional and MEASURE reports, the table below presents the dimensions of individual reintegration for the ten communities assessed in The Gambia.

- The **economic dimension** relates to the presence income, job satisfaction and overall food security. All research findings conveyed a **near-universal desire among respondents to acquire new skills and to secure employment opportunities**. While there is a general feeling that these opportunities should be accessible based on demonstrated merit, in actuality, pre-existing networks and resources, and socio-cultural limitations are the greatest determinants for eventual 'success' on the labour market. Table 1 shows vast disparities in the economic profile and needs of communities. This is illustrated in the gap and divergence between Kerewan (0,85) and Farafenni (0,77) on the one hand, and Dampha Kunda (0,23) and Sami Karantaba (0,04) on the lower end of the economic score. While Farafenni is a regional hub of activity near the border with Senegal, Kerewan benefits from being an administrative seat of the North Bank region, with many government actors present. On the other hand, Dampha Kunda's agrarian community has declined over the past years due to climate change and an incomplete irrigation system, and Sami Karantaba is a rural settlement with no central market and limited structures available for vendors.
- The **social dimension** takes into account the level of service satisfaction, access to electricity and water. Farafenni and Soma rank first and second with a social score of 0,99, while Basse and Sami Karantaba rank lowest. In these locations access to water and electricity are prime challenges. For instance in Sami Karantaba, electricity is not yet connected to the main power grid, and access to clean drinking water is limited, making parts of the village dependent on charity and aid. More surprisingly, the social score for Basse, which is informally considered as The Gambia's 'second capital city' is particularly low, notably due to a negative perception of the quality of services provided, not aligned with people's expectations.
- The **psychosocial dimension** is covered by indicators that account for psychological support and the support of networks, as well as reports of discrimination, negative emotions, and levels of participation in the community and

views of the levels of peace in communities. In this dimension, scores range from the lowest being Brikama (0,29) and the highest being in Wellingara (0,64), meaning that the range is shorter in this dimension.

Table 1: Economic, social and psychosocial reintegration score for communities studied in The Gambia

	Pilier 1 Dimension économique			Pilier 2 Dimension sociale		Pilier 3 Dimension psychosociale		SCORE DE REINTEGRATION		
	Rang	Communauté	Score	Communauté	Score	Communauté	Score	Communauté	Score	
The Gambia	1	Soma	0,92	Farafenni	0,99	Wellingara	0,64	1	Soma	0,82
	2	Kerewan	0,85	Soma	0,99	Serrekunda East	0,59	2	Farafenni	0,78
	3	Farafenni	0,78	Kerewan	0,89	Sami Karantaba	0,57	3	Kerewan	0,73
	4	Brikama	0,48	Wellingara	0,76	Bansang	0,57	4	Wellingara	0,62
	5	Bansang	0,45	Serrekunda East	0,72	Farafenni	0,56	5	Serrekunda East	0,54
	6	Wellingara	0,45	Bansang	0,58	Soma	0,54	6	Bansang	0,53
	7	Serekunda East	0,31	Dampha Kunda	0,57	Basse	0,53	7	Basse	0,44
	8	Basse	0,27	Brikama	0,55	Dampha Kunda	0,52	8	Brikama	0,44
	9	Dampha Kunda	0,23	Basse	0,52	Kerewan	0,44	9	Dampha Kunda	0,44
	10	Sami Karantaba	0,04	Sami Karantaba	0,08	Brikama	0,29	10	Sami Karantaba	0,23

The index is based on the initial analysis of IOM – MEASURE and the conceptual adjustments described in the Regional Report attached to this study.

Based on the above indices and complimented by qualitative interviews, the research team identified specific community needs in areas such as water, energy, environment, etc. as shown in the table below: in red, priority issues; in orange, important issues; in grey, issues for which IOM action can not provide a direct response at the community level, given its mandate and direct responsibilities.

Table 2: Overview of Key Socio-Economic Challenges by Community

Assessed communities	Soma	Kerewan	Farafenni	Brikama	Bansang	Wellingara	Serekunda East	Basse	Dampha Kunda	Sami Karantaba
Water										
Energy										
Environment										
Education										
Finance										
Social cohes.										
Housing										
Health										
Psychosocial										
Infrastructure										
Papers	Outreach and advocacy are recommended, in coordination with key stakeholders.									
Justice/Police										



## IV. OVERVIEW OF REINTEGRATION ACTORS AND THEIR CAPACITIES IN THE GAMBIA

There are many actors in The Gambia actively working to improve the lives of youth. Some among them are mandated to work with returnees (most of whom are youth, 15-34 years old), specifically, while others have recognised the acute challenges returnees confront and have subsequently participated in design and delivery of relevant interventions. The most large-scale and potentially impactful responses will incorporate or be led by actors at the central level, most of which are headquartered in KMC.<sup>3</sup> Since democracy returned to The Gambia in 2016, many Gambians are returning home, including from Libya with E.U. aid. In terms of national policy frameworks to improve migration management and reintegration, **two main initiatives** are noteworthy under the new administration of Adama Barrow:

1. The primary objectives of Barrow's 'New Gambia' are to simultaneously stem irregular outward migration of low-skilled Gambians and to reintegrate returnees in Gambian society. These goals are yet to be realized in the 16 months that he has held office. However, a newly developed National Migration Policy was validated in June 2018.
2. Gambia has embraced E.U offers of aid to tackle unemployment problem, such as the 225M euro aid package from the European Commission, with the expectation of high government engagement on irregular migration. 3.9 million was given to IOM- Gambia for a three-year returns and reintegration project as part of the regional EUTF. Since February 2017, 2,210 Gambian migrants returned from Libya with IOM assistance, among them 1,375 under the new EUTF project. The government has also set up vocational schemes, known as the **Youth and Trade Roadmap**, in sectors ranging from agriculture to information technology, as part of 11M euro Youth Empowerment Program also funded by EUTF.

Although these initiatives were deemed to be relevant by stakeholders interviewed for this study, fragmentation and strategic implementation were identified as the most important obstacles to its effectiveness:

- **At central level, institutions had a fairly fragmented approach to reintegration.** The recent establishment of the IOM Gambia Mission in mid-2017 and the rapid rate at which staff were onboarded to operationalise IOM's new and demanding mandate, in combination with the pre-existing and continually increasing returnee caseload, are the foundations on which the many challenges in designing adequate response are based. Interviews with central stakeholders revealed a widespread acknowledgement of the underdeveloped expertise and experience of almost all actors in The Gambia when it comes to managing sustainable reintegration.
- **Lack of fully informed strategic partnership plan.** There is a need to better understand and communicate the distinct roles that Gambian stakeholders can play under EUTF, to best draw on locally-owned knowledge and practice. Assessment of the comparative strengths and weaknesses of actors in the Strategic Leads cluster reveals opportunities for IOM to orient itself toward actors that are more operationally relevant to reintegration of returnees.

The stakeholder map reveals the operational expertise and capacity of several other government bodies that are highly relevant to reintegration of returnees. Specifically, Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Trade (MoTIE), and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) comprise the government actors with greatest expertise along economic, social, and psychological policy and interventions. A central objective of re-organising the TWG was to reveal opportunities to better access actors in the other three stakeholder groups (i.e., Implementing Partners, Emerging Implementing Partners, and Research and Information Entities) in order to catalyse more effective reintegration pathways.

---

<sup>3</sup> Bear in mind that a stakeholder mapping has already been presented at the community level in the previous section, on the third page of each community profile. While the format is slightly different, the objective remains the same: to identify the actors who can best deliver improvements to returnee reintegration processes.

The following mapping also summarizes the points of tension within the reintegration ecosystem, based on the actors interviewed. This highlights the need to better understand and communicate the specific roles that stakeholders can play under the EU Trust Fund in The Gambia:

- Design a strategic partnership plan with relevant stakeholders on a formalized platform;
- Identify implementation parties as well as new operational partners and research entities;
- Evaluate the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the operational actors in terms of reintegration of returnees

#### Reintegration activities through the sustainability lens: questioning the environmental impact

*'Today's focus on mobility and migration in West Africa, and in the Gambia in particular, can either lead to quick-and-dirty strategies with, at best, contradictory outcomes, or contribute to creating new programmes and generating more tangible impact. Let's take the example of carpentry or the wood industry, at a time when the forestry subsector is booming. It is indeed a promising sector in the Gambia, so GIZ, DFID or the World Bank may fund IOM on a 3-4 year TVET scheme. Great... but only if IOM and others factor in the conservation of the country's biodiversity and its fragile ecology. (...) 'The weak institutional setting is of course a threat on the long run and it is IOM's role to manage borders and develop reintegration activities and, at the same time, ensure the sustainable management of local resources'.*

Interview with a former FAO and UNEP technical advisor in West Africa (and the Gambia)

Figure 1: Stakeholder mapping identifying major structural weaknesses

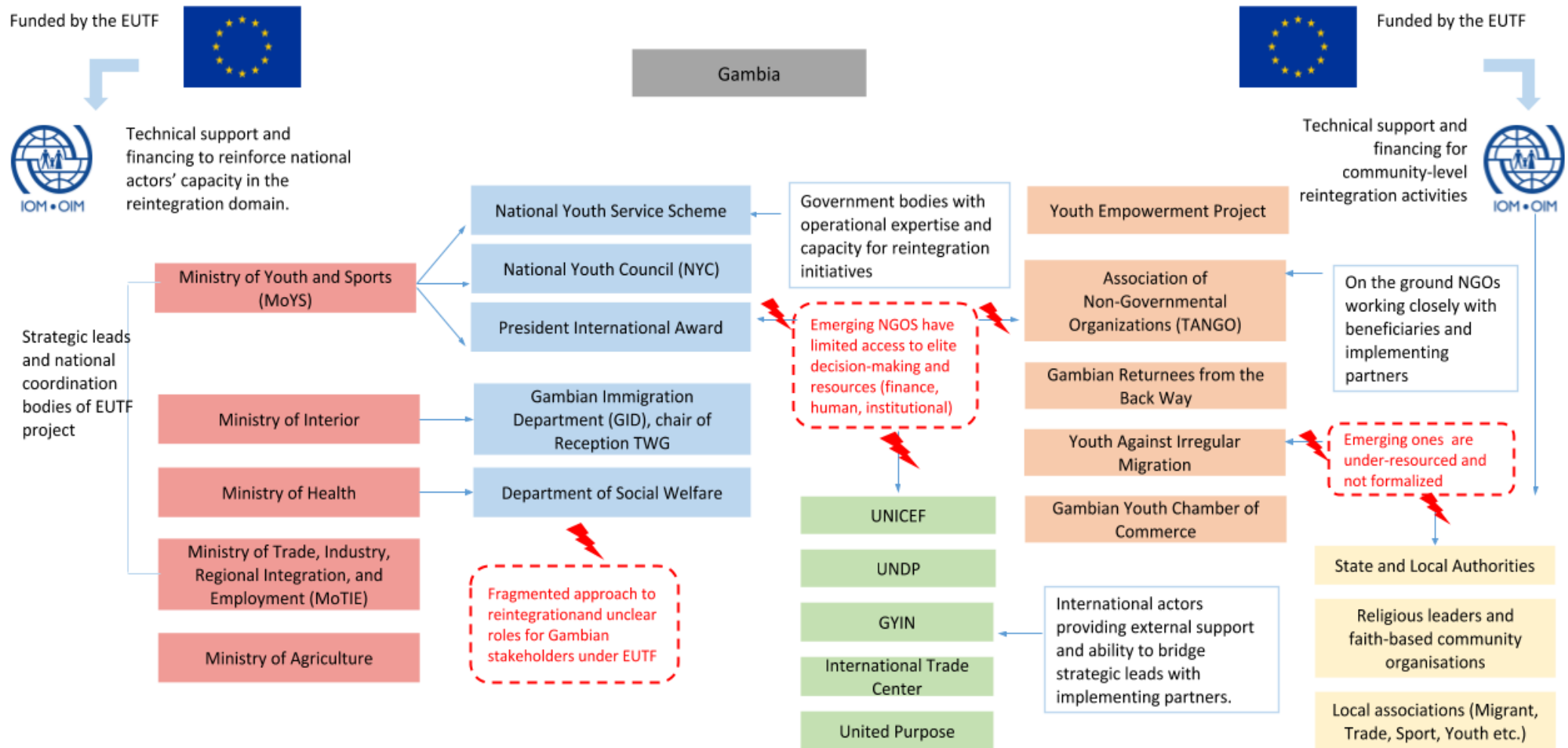


Table 3: Structural and general partnerships (across value chains and sectors)

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">SOCIO-ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL ACTORS</p>	<p><b>Institutional or Government Actors</b>            DSW – Department of Social Welfare            GCCI – Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry            GIEPA – Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency            GRA – Gambia Revenue Authority            GID – Gambian Immigration Department            Health Care Service            Ministry of Agriculture            Ministry of Health            Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration, and Employment            Ministry of Youth and Sports            Municipality councils            NEA – National Environment Agency            NNA – National Nutrition Agency            NAWEC – National Water and Electricity Company            TANGO – The Association of Non-Governmental Organisations in the Gambia</p> <p><b>Social and Psychosocial Actors</b>            ASSET – Association of Small Scale Enterprises in Tourism            Farafenni Marathon Association            Gambian Red Cross            GRFTB – Gambian Returnees from the Back Way</p>	<p>GYCC – Gambian Youth Chambre of Commerce            NCAC – National Center for Arts and Culture            National Youth Council            NYSS – National Youth Service Scheme            YEP – Youth Empowerment Project            YAIM – Youth Against Irregular Migration</p> <p><b>Housing, Land and Urban Development Actors</b>            Area Councils / Ward council            Community Development Office            VDC - Village Development Committee</p> <p><b>Agriculture and agri-business partners</b>            Department of Agribusiness Services            Gambia Food and Nutrition Association            IFAD – International Fund for Agricultural Development            Nyodemaa Agro-Business</p> <p><b>Partenaires en formation et développement des capacités (généralistes)</b>            GTHI – Gambia Tourism and Hospitality Institute            GTMI – Gambia Telecommunication and Multimedia Institute            GTTI – Gambia Technical and Training Institute            ITC – International Trade Center            NEDI – National Enterprise Development Initiative</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">FUNDING &amp; STANDARDS</p>	<p><b>Financial Partners and Social Investors</b>            CISF – Capital Investment Stimulation Fund            Central Bank of The Gambia            Ecobank            Empretec – Local chapters            FBN Micro-finance bank            Gambians Abroad Financial Services (Gam-Abroad)            GTBank Gambia            Social Development Fund            Standard Chartered Bank            0</p>	<p>Trust Bank            Zenith Bank</p> <p><b>Ethics, Societal and Environmental Standards</b>            African Commission on Human Rights and People's Rights            FSQA – Food Safety and Quality Authority            ISO – International Organization for Standardization            PURA – The Gambia Public Utilities Regularatory Authority            SMIIC – Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries            Truth and Reconciliation Commission            TGSB – The Gambia Standards Bureau</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">RESEARCH &amp; INNOVATION</p>	<p><b>Research Partners</b>            Africa Research Excellence Fund            CERPASS – Center for Policy Research and Strategic Studies, University of the Gambia            Directorate of Economic Policy and Research            Gambia Bureau of Statistics            IITA – International Institute of Tropical Agriculture            National Agricultural Research Institute</p>	<p>Management Development Institute            Medical Research Council - London School of Hygiene and Tropical Studies – Gambia            NAQAA – National Accreditation &amp; Quality Assurance Authority            RDI – Rural Development Institute            University of The Gambia</p>

Based on the collected data, stakeholder interviews, and literature review, six value chains appear to offer superior value-added guarantees, environmental impact, and social equity in the ten communities: premium rice, cashew, textile, wood, fish, and tourism. Table 4 presents the variables selected, the rating system used and the privileged communities based on an analysis grid developed by the ILO and the UNHCR.<sup>4</sup>

Table 4: Preselected value chains for assessed communities (variables, weights, measures)

Preselected value chains	Premium Rice		Cashew/Nuts		Textile		Wood		Fish/Pisciculture		Tourism		Cocoa		Coffee	
Variables (weight)	Note	Final	Note	Final	Note	Final	Note	Final	Note	Final	Note	Final	Note	Final	Note	Final
<b>Potential (5)</b>																
Existing demand for product (1.5)	6	9	8	12	7	10,5	7	10,5	6	9	7	10,5	7	10,5	7	10,5
Intensity of job creation (1)	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	4	4	7	7	5	5	5	5
Employment for women / youth (1)	6	6	7	7	6	6	5	5	6	6	7	7	5	5	5	5
Innovation, quality, long-term (1.5)	6	9	5	7,5	5	7,5	5	7,5	4	6	6	9	4	6	4	6
<b>Pertinence (for migrants and non-migrants) (3)</b>																
# of individuals involved (1.5)	7	10,5	6	9	6	9	6	9	6	9	6	9	7	10,5	6	9
Diversified qualifications (1.5)	5	7,5	7	10,5	6	9	5	7,5	5	7,5	7	10,5	4	6	4	6
<b>Feasibility (8)</b>																
Factors – land, water, soil	7	14	7	14	6	12	7	14	7	14	7	10,5	6	12	6	12
Realistic short-term schedule (1)	6	6	6	6	5	5	6	6	7	7	5	5	5	5	6	6
Partnerships (R&D) (1)	6	6	8	8	4	4	6	6	6	6	7	7	4	4	4	4
Available financing (1.5)	5	7,5	7	10,5	4	6	5	7,5	5	7,5	7	10,5	5	7,5	5	7,5
Added value (1)	7	7	6	6	5	5	5	5	6	6	8	8	4	4	5	5
Social / environmental impact (1.5)	5	7,5	6	9	4	6	4	6	6	9	6	9	5	7,5	5	7,5
<b>Results (16)</b>	95		104,5		86		90		91		103		84		83,5	
<b>Priority communities</b>	Bansang Dampha Kunda Sami Karantaba		Karantaba Kerewan Soma		Soma Serrekunda East		Brikama Farafenni Sami Karantaba		Kerewan Farafenni Sami Karantaba		Brikama Serrekunda East		Potential in Kerewan, Farafenni, and Soma.		Potential to be explored in Farafenni and Basse.	

**Source:** This grid is based on the *Guide to market-based livelihood interventions for refugees* / International Labour Office (BIT - Bureau International du Travail) ; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). - Geneva: ILO, 2017. Each rating is between 1 (lowest) and 10 (highest). The four complimentary dimensions 'Potential (innovation and long-term)', 'Funding', 'Added-value', and 'Environmental Impact' have been added because of their importance for reintegration of returnees. Some weights were adjusted according to context.

<sup>4</sup> *Guide to market-based livelihood interventions for refugees* / International Labour Office (BIT - Bureau International du Travail) ; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). - Geneva: ILO, 2017.



Rice (premium)	Cashew / Nuts	Textile / Woven Fabrics	Sustainable Wood	Fish / Pisciculture	Tourism
Bansang Dampha Kunda Sami Karantaba	Karantaba Kerewan Soma	Soma Serrekunda East	Brikama Farafenni Sami Karantaba	Farafenni Kerewan Sami Karantaba	Brikama Serrekunda East
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Agricultural Services</li> <li>• International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)</li> <li>• National Agricultural Research Institute</li> <li>• New Rice for Africa (NERICA)</li> <li>• Regional Rice Development Steering Committee (RRDSC)</li> <li>• Village Savings and Credit Associations (VISACA) &amp; Promotion Centre (VPC)</li> <li>• West African Rice Development Association (WARDA)</li> <li>• Water Users Association (WUA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delmas</li> <li>• Department of Water Resources</li> <li>• Ecobank</li> <li>• Inter Agro</li> <li>• International Commercial Bank</li> <li>• International Finance Corporation (IFC)</li> <li>• International Relief &amp; Development (IRD)</li> <li>• Gambia Horticulture Enterprise</li> <li>• Gambian Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA)</li> <li>• Gambia Port Authority</li> <li>• National Cashew Farmers' Association</li> <li>• National Coordinating Organisation for Farmers' Association (NACOFAG)</li> <li>• Farmers' Inter-Trade Association (FITA)</li> <li>• Cashew and Fruit growers' association</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A.S.N. Enterprises</li> <li>• Alfaraj Gambia Company limited</li> <li>• Fadel H. Khadra &amp; Sons</li> <li>• Keda Textiles Gambia Co. Ltd.</li> <li>• Maya Traders</li> <li>• Semega Ganila Textiles Ltd.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>• Community Forest Committee</li> <li>• Forest Kambeng Kafo</li> <li>• Jamorai Timber and Firewood Federation (JATIFIF)</li> <li>• National Agricultural Research Institute</li> <li>• Natural Resource Consulting (ANCO)</li> <li>• Regional Forestry Offices</li> <li>• Village Development Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO</li> <li>• Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)</li> <li>• Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR)</li> <li>• World Bank / West African Regional Fisheries Program (PRAO)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASSET – Association of Small Scale Enterprises in Tourism</li> <li>• Department of State for Tourism and Culture (DOSTC)</li> <li>• Gambia Tourism Authority (GTA)</li> <li>• Gambia Civil Aviation Authority (GCCA)</li> <li>• International Finance Corporation (IFC)</li> <li>• Overseas Development Institute (ODI)</li> <li>• NAWEC</li> <li>• World Bank Competitive Industries and Innovation Program (CIIP)</li> </ul>

## V. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IOM – GAMBIA

Two types of recommendations are presented in this section. These two approaches are complimentary, the 'general' approaches are a base to initiate, consolidate and optimize the impact of specific recommendations by community. It is important to note that, following many discussions with IOM teams in West Africa, these recommendations are indicative as they are based on limited resources and ten-day rapid surveys per community. Fieldwork by IOM teams is required to test the viability of the recommended tracks, verify the technical feasibility, and better assess the nature of the possible partnerships.

The interventions proposed are defined based on the data gathered and are intended to:

- Address the key challenges faced by the community
- Create employment for all members of the community
- Foster sustainable reintegration
- Contribute to the sensitization of the community.

In general, it is recommended that IOM – The Gambia adopt a systemic approach that aims to enhance the capabilities and agency of individuals and communities rather than aim for any deterrence effort which may hurt IOM's reputation within the local communities. Thus, it is necessary to:

- Develop communities' and people's capabilities: building individual and institutional knowledge and skills for more cohesive communities.** This can be done in three ways: institutionally through targeted mentoring and training of organizational staff; professionally through vocational training and on-the-job mentoring to develop the qualifications of local youth; psychosocially through a partnership between IOM and specialized organisations in mental health and psychosocial inclusion. This three-pronged approach – technical, vocational and psychosocial training – will be required in the 10 communities studied in this research.
- Build the capacity of existing and potential partners to improve the referral system:** the capacity of local actors needs to be strengthened from the ground-up, with the support of monitoring mechanisms; at the regional level actors need more knowledge of the relevant national policies and their implementation capacity; at the federal level, finally, resource allocation needs to be enhanced for full policy implementation. The three levels – federal, regional, community – are essential for reintegration.
- Foster entrepreneurship with social and environmental dividends:** all communities surveyed suffer from uneven to poor access to services. Energy and water are not universally accessible, with direct impacts on education, health, economic well-being etc. Solutions from communities should be funded through a competitive selection procedure, and supported by IOM, to address community needs. Likewise, while there is a growing interest in carpentry in Brikama, a continuous deforestation has progressively limited access to wood for construction and crafts; in this regard, developing training and employment schemes for carpenters and craftsmen will require a rapid environmental impact assessment as well as mitigating measures to ensure that reforestation activities are conducted and controlled in parallel by IOM's partners.
- Promote value chains** such as the rice value chain in Bansang and Dampha Kunda: In all of the surveyed communities, rice is not only an essential crop that contributes to food security but also a key economic variable.

- v) **Invest in agriculture, tourism and infrastructure as well as psychosocial support:** these themes cut across *all locations*. Advocating for more donor and government investment in these areas will ensure that IOM's programming can have an impact.

## C4D STRATEGY FOR IOM-THE GAMBIA

Stakeholders commonly consider sensitisation necessary, and to be scaled up in all locations. Many actors are already actively engaged in sensitisation and committed to continuing these efforts. Civil society actors are easy to reach (small population, word-of-mouth culture, accessible media) and have been receptive to messages of existing campaigns.

Through the C4D approach, the aim is to support IOM The Gambia by strengthening their Communications and Outreach strategy. The priority audience remains the return migrants but also the 'host' or local communities of return, transit or reception, in order to optimize the respective capacities of the individuals by a better reintegration or social, economic but also psycho-social integration within these communities. The table below recalls the major issues of this optimization.

*Table 6: Synthesis of the goals and objectives of the C4D (The Gambia)*

Aim	Process
<b>Central objective</b>	Optimise individual returnee's capabilities in order to prevent life endangering migration projects
<b>Intended outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic opportunities and stability</li> <li>- Social support and inclusion</li> <li>- Psychological stability and wellbeing</li> </ul>
<b>Advantages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Map and evaluation existing local, national and regional opportunities</li> <li>- Develop new and improve on existing local, national and regional opportunities</li> <li>- Actively promote and engage with enactment of local, national and regional activities</li> </ul>
<b>Intended audience</b>	IOM and national-level actors dealing with youth and migration
<b>Approach</b>	Communications for Development (C4D)
<b>Tenets of interventions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Listening</li> <li>- Sharing knowledge and skills</li> <li>- Learning</li> <li>- Building policies &amp; programmes</li> </ul>

Among the recommendations put forth by community respondents, are:

1. **Build regional initiatives** including:
  - A regional approach to training: by promoting transnational training opportunities and regional labour migration schemes, promoting higher education opportunities in ECOWAS states and building linkages between ministerial counterparts in the region.
  - The pairing of ministries (e.g. Ministry of youth and sports and the Ministry of labour) to broadcast messages to youth and returnees; the use of the media for culturally relevant messaging and encouraging reports to cover developments
  - Best practices, policies and programmes on mental health care across the region
2. **Strengthen national initiatives** notably through:
  - Youth leaders and returnee associations
  - Outreach and orientation sessions
  - Relationships with businesses in key sectors and value chains
  - Media campaigns and newspaper coverage, elevating voices of youth artists and capitalizing on country-wide network of the Ministry of Youth and Sports
  - Equal and affordable access to education (through high school) and (mental) health care
3. **Support communities** through:
  - Intra- and inter-community group meetings and smaller meetings with community leaders
  - Training and skills centers, apprenticeships and internships, work placements and informal presentations of key sectors and value chains to returnees and youth
  - Community leadership consultations and youth group advocacy
  - Performing arts, media and improved public school curricula.

## VI. COMMUNITY PROFILES AND SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE TEN ASSESSED COMMUNITIES

### BRIKAMA – specific recommendations

**Brikama** is the regional capital of the West Coast Division and the headquarters of the West Coast Area Council. As home to many regional offices, Brikama has the highest concentration of economic and social activities, and abundant public services. Many public and private education institutions exist in the city, and are relatively easy to access. It boasts the only college in The Gambia, which trains the nation's teachers, agriculture workers, and public health personnel. Nevertheless, the high inflow of people working or studying in Brikama has brought housing challenges, as there is limited supply to match the increasing demand. Additionally, market space has decreased, and sanitation issues have increased.

*“There is enough food in the market but it is very expensive. Basic commodities like rice, sugar, cooking oil, onion, flour are too costly for most people. Even though there assistance is supposed to be available, it is undermined by corruption. Public funds meant for the poor are lost to personal enrichment.” –*

Sulayman, 27, poultry farmer

Table 7: Indicative interventions for the reintegration of returnees to Brikama (structural and thematic partners identified in section 4)

BRIKAMA	Challenges	Possible Priority Interventions
Economic Dimension	Declining agricultural activities and agriculture market, Limited encouragement for youth to develop skills aligned with market, Deforestation limiting access to wood for construction and craft sector	<p>Sectors to develop in the long-term include those that respond to demands of large and diverse urban populations, are not overstaturated, and match desires of youth job seekers. In Brikama, they include tourism, vocational services, welding, electrical, satellite installation, tailoring, education, and sports and entertainment.</p> <p>Provide support for starting businesses and small business development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support returnees with startup capital or resources to establish small businesses, including welding, carpentry, and vehicle repairs</li> <li>• Provide trainings and equipment to improve processing of agricultural products and prevention of loss of farm produce. There is high demand for such improvements despite limited land available.</li> <li>• Consider partnership with Wescore Remedial College, an institution with high impact in the community providing vocational training and counseling for returnees and less-privileged youths. Sindola Automatics is a mechanical repair business that also employs and trains youth in technical repair skills.</li> </ul> <p>Promote entrepreneurship among returnees (in collaboration with non-migrants as much as possible), through grants and technical support. In particular, promote activities with benefits in the following 1) high priority: <b>manufacturing, agriculture, finance, water, infrastructure, and psychosocial support</b>; 2) medium priority: <b>assets, energy, environment, and health services</b>.</p>



BRIKAMA	<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Possible Priority Interventions</i>
Social Dimension	Jammeh regime left community politically fractured, Large community size makes it difficult to implement inclusive interventions for all	<p>Develop social programmes. Currently there is no identifiable support network in the community to assist returnees. Encourage youth sports programming and other social associations that incorporate returnees to facilitate reintegration.</p> <p>Develop community and radio programmes to increase awareness of reintegration challenges and opportunities to improve mindsets of youth, many of whom report limited hope for the future. It is suggested this will help reduce crime and create stability in Brikama.</p>
Psychosocial Dimension	Lack of actors and capacity providing specialized psychological support to returnees	<p>Develop partnerships with government actors that have a psychosocial focus such as the Youth Development Association and Ministry of Youth and Sports, for complete and systematic psychological care of returning migrants. They could be trained in basic psychological support and social protection at a national level. Trainers could then give trainings at regional and community levels.</p> <p>Collaborate with local leaders, who have high community impact as they settle disputes and assist returnees in regaining their national documents. Local leaders like alkalos, imamas and VDCs thus greatly contribute to reintegration of returnees.</p>
Communication for Development	Youth reluctant to work in agriculture, Most returnees are from Libya	<p>Build on the presence of the only existing college in Gambia to increase the opportunities for contributions from trained professionals to bring solutions to Brikama. Build a college competition to solve some of the key challenges confronting Brikama.</p> <p>Involve student associations in public good services such as improve the state of sanitation, educating populations around environmentally-sensitive practices, and support in diminishing the negative impact of migration on housing and sanitation locally.</p> <p>Build a program for the transparency of public office in Brikama to ensure that populations' trust in their institutions is reinstored to improve social cohesion.</p>

## SERREKUNDA EAST – specific recommendations

Serrekunda East is the bustling business capital of KMC. Its vibrancy and abundance of opportunities makes it the most visible community in KMC. In Serrekunda’s urban environment, the most successful businesses are competitive, well-resourced large firms; they dominate the market. There is little support available to small enterprises which have less access to finance. The only services available are privately owned and thus difficult to access as most people in need cannot afford the costs. Costs are particularly prohibitive for specialised healthcare.

*“There is enough food available but it is very costly. Prices for basic commodities such as rice, milk, flour, sugar, and cooking oils were so cheap before 1994. For 150 dalasi you can have a 50kg of rice but now it’s 1200 dalasi for the same amount. This increase applies to all goods and services.” – Foday J., 58, male, business owner*

Table 8: Indicative interventions for the reintegration of returnees to Serrekunda (structural and thematic partners identified in section 4)

SERREKUNDA	Challenges	Possible Priority Interventions
Economic Dimension	<p>Deplorable state of road infrastructure, lowest rate of satisfaction with access to water and housing</p> <p>Lack of farming inputs, machinery, and irrigation hamper modernization of agricultural sector. Susceptible to shocks i.e. pest infestations and bushfires.</p>	<p>Develop partnerships with World Mission and Mission of Hope to improve agricultural infrastructure. The WV office in Kintampo South actively supports access to credit and food security programs.</p> <p>Support government actors’ initiatives, such as Business Advisory Centre and YEA) in order to improve access to services in the community</p> <p>Support local employers’ associations (Tailors Association of Jema, Cashew Buyers Association, Association for Garages) that can economically reintegrate migrants through jobs and trainings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinforce networks through financial support and fund equipment</li> <li>• Increase their visibility with government and population</li> <li>• Create community dialogues between authorities and organizations</li> </ul> <p>Promote entrepreneurship among returnees (in collaboration with non-migrants as much as possible), through grants and technical support. In particular, promote activities with benefits in the following 1) high priority, <b>manufacturing, agriculture, psychosocial health, and roads</b>; 2) medium priority, <b>infrastructure, finance, water, education, and housing</b>.</p>
Social Dimension	<p>Lack of structured socialization opportunities for youth and returnees</p>	<p>Develop monitoring mechanisms to build trusting relationships with returnees, provide them with information about services and opportunities, and support planning for the near future to combat feelings of abandonment.</p> <p>Create forums for dialogue through youth and religious associations to ease tensions and strengthen social cohesion.</p>

SERREKUNDA	<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Possible Priority Interventions</i>
		<p>Create exclusive social spaces for young people and women through sport, play, cultural and artistic exchanges – without adults or men controlling the perimeters. Support the development of returnee groups specifically. There are many returnee associations in Serrekunda. Identify them through NYC and YAIM and provide funding for awareness campaigns, and offer members opportunities to get skills training and business support.</p>
<p>Psychosocial Dimension</p>	<p>Lack of actors providing specialized psychological support to returnees.</p>	<p>Develop partnerships with government actors that have a psychosocial focus such as the Department of Social Welfare, the district assembly or NADMO, for complete and systematic psychological care of returning migrants. They could be trained in basic psychological support and social protection at a national level. Trainers could then give trainings at regional and community levels.</p> <p>Collaborate with active religious associations, such as the Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Church of Pentecost (Jema) to raise awareness among families, especially on the expectations and disappointment within families that constitute an additional stressor for returnees. Youth organizations can create support groups and community dialogue.</p>
<p>Communication pour le développement</p>	<p>Social cohesion needs to be strengthened alongside community ties: the urban environment encourages individualism, and traditional familial structures are disappearing.</p>	<p>Serrekunda East has multiple FM stations, e.g., STAR FM, that disseminate information and provide airtime to returnees to discuss relevant issues to the community. A C4D strategy for the area will be most effective if paired with local radios. Work with MoYS to <b>create television and radio talk show programmes</b> to raise more awareness of potential consequences of irregular migration and to broadcast opportunities within the country.</p> <p>Local C4D activities can be led by Youth Against Illegal Migration (YAIM) and Peace Ambassadors organize campaigns, sensitization events, and workshops to raise awareness of the dangers of irregular migration. Their efforts extend to communities beyond Serrekunda, where they are headquartered.</p>

## WELLINGARA – specific recommendations

Wellingara is a large and transient community based in the West Coast region, not far from Banjul. Many residents live there for a short period before moving onward to better-resourced urban centers. High population density and easy access to capital and skilled employees have corresponded with small business development in the past year. But social cohesion and trust are not as strong as they once were. Participation in local neighbourhood/village committees is lowest in Wellingara (4%) out of all communities, perhaps due to residents not investing themselves in community development. Like the other West Coast sites, there is a majority (51%) positive reception of returnees. Safety concerns was the most common motivation for returning according to respondents – the highest out of any community.

« The unemployed are lacking quality skills that the country needs » - Male respondent, Alkalo, Wellingara

« The outward migration is decreasing as youth are being encouraged to stay in the country. However, return migration is recently increasing, mostly coming [back] from Libya. »

Male KII, Local government actor, Wellingara

Table 9: Indicative interventions for the reintegration of returnees to Wellingara (structural and thematic partners identified in section 4)

WELLINGARA	Challenges	Possible Priority Interventions
Economic Dimension	Long distance and poor roads complicate getting products to market, limited market space, limited funding for small businesses, lack of cold storage for perishable goods, private sector dominated by small-scale businesses	<p>Assess capacity of local employers for potential involvement in economic reintegration through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wellingara is a vibrant community for micro-business creation. However, there is lack of support for entrepreneurs in access to credit. Support access to micro-credit to expand small businesses, including explain the banking system and access to credit, mediate meetings between bank and business owners, and occasionally provide financial support if needed i.e. financial guaranty.</li> <li>• Support existing skills centres in KMC which can serve as a model for how centres in Wellingara can develop. Marie Bennette Skill Centre is ready to expand on its existing site and in two additional locations. Support the creation of more courses that are responsive to the professional skills listed: management, business, education, medicine, and administration. Lower-skilled trades include: welding, carpentry, electrical work, hairstyling, and agriculture and livestock.</li> </ul> <p>Improve infrastructure: While electricity and water are available, access remains a consistent problem. The market requires regular supply of both. Roads leading to the market need to be improved in order to optimise access. Youth with limited training could be employed by the local government to deliver on these needs.</p> <p>Promote entrepreneurship and integration in private sector schemes among returnees (in collaboration with non-migrants and private sector actors), through grants and technical support. In particular, promote activities with benefits in the following 1) high priority <b>health, energy, electricity, infrastructure (roads), and psychosocial support</b>; 2) medium priority, <b>education, housing, finance and social</b>.</p>
Social Dimension	Social cohesion and trust weakened, new police station has led some to seek their council instead of	Establish a youth centre in the community so returnees, intending migrant, and other youth can meet and share experiences. The centre can also direct people to livelihood opportunities particularly for national and community development projects to deter individuals from resorting to illegal migration

WELLINGARA	<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Possible Priority Interventions</i>
	more knowledgeable local opinion leaders	<p>Support communal radios, Capital FM100.4 to continue their proven track record of engaging with reintegration issues and broadcasting awareness raising campaigns by youth groups.</p> <p>Women's groups can be strengthened to provide needed family support for returnees, often considered the first step in preventing petty crimes and to improve economic outlooks, especially for unemployed returnees</p>
Psychosocial Dimension	Lack of actors providing specialized psychological support	<p>Build psychosocial and C4D capacities of religious organisations and leaders, imams and alkalos.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A successful example from IOM Guinea on awareness raising included training and sensitization of imams in Conakry on migration issues. Afterwards, the imams linked the issues of migration to a message in the Quran. The same could be done with priests based on psalms in the Bible.</li> </ul>
Communication for Development	The role of the family on migration decisions needs to be supported and strengthened by messaging from various other trusted sources	<p>Capital FM 100.4 is a widely respected radio station with a broad listenership and a proven track record of engaging with reintegration issues. They have broadcast awareness raising campaigns by youth groups on a weekly basis and have committed to continuing to do so.</p> <p>Questions of identity and belonging are part of youths' decision making process. "I don't have networks to help" "I don't belong here", are messages heard during the fieldwork. Community conversations, community centers, and recreational activities, arts and cultural activities are needed to avoid this feeling of marginalization.</p>



## BANSANG – specific recommendations

Bansang is an upriver urban centre with limited resources, as it is no longer the central shopping centre in the region. Poor infrastructure conditions and a central market in disrepair has had little improvement over the years. Fewer additional livelihoods are projected for the new future. However, social cohesion and trust is perceived to be fairly high in Bansang, as it is a relatively rural setting with a tight knit community. The youth organisation is more socially active than the rest of the community. Compared to other communities, Bansang respondents reported substantially less desire to migrate abroad (31%). Like other upriver sites, Bansang respondents have a majority negative perception of returnees in the community (50%).

« Communities add to the problem by telling us that we are failures, with all the problems, it's very important that we have community support in the reintegration process, especially to help parents and returnees understand that there are ... opportunities available in our country too »  
NAWEC employee and returnee, Bansang

Table 10: Indicative interventions for the reintegration of returnees to Bansang (structural and thematic partners identified in section 4)

BANSANG	Challenges	Possible Priority Interventions
Economic Dimension	Lack of critical skills training opportunities, poor infrastructure, lack of microfinance institutions	<p>Support existing training programs for youth to increase intake.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bansang Hospital Nurse Training program and the Youth Centre provide structured skills learning for students and out of school youths in computer training. There is need to provide the organisations with space, funding and scholarships to increase enrolment.</li> <li>• Introduce additional trainings at the Youth Centre to attract more youth and provide them with start-up capital after graduation to establish small business.</li> <li>• NAWEC has opportunities to create jobs</li> </ul> <p>Support community members' access to credit, which is limited despite presence of multiple financial institutions in the area</p> <p>Promote entrepreneurship among returnees (in collaboration with non-migrants as much as possible), through grants and technical support. Growing sectors in need of skills are: agriculture, rice cultivation, industry and small-business (i.e. marketing and accounting). In particular, promote activities with benefits in the following 1) high priority <b>education and skills development, infrastructure, and psychosocial support</b>; 2) medium priority, <b>health, housing, water, environment, and energy</b>.</p>

BANSANG	<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Possible Priority Interventions</i>
Social Dimension	Returnees report few challenges with social reintegration	Sensitize youth associations, such as Bangsang Youth Association, in migration and reintegration issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bansang Community Radio can carry out sensitization campaigns on emigration (opportunities and dangers) and advertise existing opportunities to encourage unemployed youth to find jobs</li> <li>• Target parents for sensitization campaigns so they are better aware of risks associated with going the Back Way</li> </ul>
Psychosocial Dimension	Lack of actors providing structured psychosocial support to returnees	Build the psychosocial capacity of existing youth organizations. Consider starting with the Youth Centre, which provides counseling for youth in and out of school.
Communication for Development	Youth organisations are more social active here and can be an asset for C4D activities	Bansang Community Radio can carry out sensitisation campaigns on emigration (opportunities and dangers) and advertise existing opportunities to encourage unemployed youth to find jobs.  Target parents for sensitisation campaigns so they are better aware of the risks associated with going the Back Way.  Social cohesion and trust is perceived to be fairly high in Bansang, as it is a relatively rural setting with a tight knit community. The youth organisation is more socially active than the rest of the community. The opinion leaders, who frequently broker good relations in Gambia, are reported to be politically conscious. It is recommended for the youth organization and the opinion leaders to come together for monthly meetings to agree on joint activities to support the community.

## BASSE – specific recommendations

Basse an upriver urban centre, informally considered Gambia's 'second capital city,' with very developed infrastructure, particularly roads. Basse has a high inflow of people daily, contributing to its flourishing business environment. The community serves as an entry/exit point with two major border stations operated by the Immigration Unit (GID). There is limited private sector investment. Most business operators are from outside Basse, meaning most income does not go towards community development. Social cohesion remains a concern, as Basse has different settlements with divided opinions among community leaders. Historically, Basse experiences large outward migration and it was claimed that remittances are a major source of income sustaining many families in the town. However, there is a majority negative perception of returnees.

« The 'Back Way syndrome' really started shooting up about three years ago [from] pressure from family members who tell young children to follow in the footsteps of other successful migrants who made it to Europe and send pictures over WhatsApp and Facebook to share their stories.»  
*Male FGD participant, Basse*

Table 11: Indicative interventions for the reintegration of returnees to Basse (structural and thematic partners identified in section 4)

BASSE	Challenges	Possible priority interventions
Economic Dimension	Few skills development opportunities for youth, limited financial support for small business, poor physical infrastructure of central market	<p>Basse offers unique opportunities for business development and self-employment. Focus should be on improving specific skills sets among job seeker and employing youth to stimulate economic growth. It is extremely difficult to persuade would-be-migrants not to leave unless they are assured they can develop livelihood skills to be self-employed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empower the Youth Office, which can organize and mobilise youth for any IOM intervention. They can provide support for reintegration and empowerment programs, with strong links with both the Area Council, Office of the Governor and youth groups.</li> <li>Provide skills training to help deter youth from irregular migration beyond Basse. Skills such as welding, carpentry, tailoring, and masonry have promising potential for growth. The Wuli and Sandu Development Agency provides trainings on revitalizing agriculture practices.</li> <li>Support youth job creation in small business development. There are now few opportunities for agricultural development, however Basse has grown into a business hub in the region needing skills in business, telecommunications, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Promote entrepreneurship among returnees (in collaboration with non-migrants as much as possible), through grants and technical support. In particular, promote activities with benefits in the following: 1) in high priority, <b>housing, agribusiness, skills training and social cohesion</b>; 2) medium priority, <b>education, environment, infrastructure, and psychosocial support</b>.</p>
Social Dimension	Difficult reintegration environment of shame, family members often regard returnees as failures, divided communities	<p>Support existing sensitisation efforts in the media and community meetings. Returnees are yet to be involved in interventions, and should be included in campaigns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target family members as extended family system is invaluable and family members often regard returnees as failures</li> <li>Consider involving alkalos, who have strong leadership capacity</li> </ul>

<i>BASSE</i>	<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Possible priority interventions</i>
<b>Psychosocial Dimension</b>	Lack of actors providing specialized psychological support to returnees	<p>Train existing local and state actors that are present and established in the community. SOS Children’s Village, Department of Social Welfare, youth organizing structures, and immediate family support system are ideal for delivery of psychosocial service support</p> <p>Focus on returnee family programs as well as returnee psychosocial support. There is only one source of extended family support available via SOS Children’s Village but no specific programmes for returnees</p>
<b>Communication for Development</b>	Basse’s different settlements with divided opinions among community leaders fragilise cohesion and belonging	<p>Support existing sensitisation efforts in the media and community meetings. Returnees are yet to be involved in interventions. Include them in campaigns.</p> <p>Empower the Youth Office: The Youth Office can help mobilise youth support for any IOM intervention. Has a strong link with both the Area Council, Office of the Governor, and youth groups. They can provide support for reintegration and empowerment programs.</p> <p>Bring together on a monthly basis representatives of the market, youth center, Governor’s office, youth office, and the area council to identify key tensions in the community to be addressed through community initiatives.</p>

## ANNEX : EXAMPLE OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS, VALUE CHAIN SCORECARD

### Gambian cashew exporter partners with returnees

Farimang Manneh, himself a returnee, proprietor of Sand Beach Hotel and CEO of a leading cashew nut exporting company in The Gambia has used his entrepreneurial success to set up a project – Humanitarian Opportunity for People Empowerment (HOPE) – and a Foundation – Foundation Farimang Manneh –to empower young people, particularly the back-way returnees, and contribute to the reduction of irregular migration.

“We have an agreement through which we help educate you, provide you with start-up seeds and after planting, we harvest together and market it and agree on a commission basis”, he said. The NGO he founded engages in farming plantation with Gambians who own farmlands, and his company – Mand M trading – engages with exports of cashew nuts to Vietnam and India. The Foundation supports sports, agriculture and health care primarily.



Samuel Hall is an independent think tank providing research and strategic services, expert analysis, tailored counsel and access to local knowledge for a diverse array of actors operating in the world's most challenging environments.

We specialise in socio-economic surveys, private and public-sector studies, and impact assessments for a range of humanitarian and development actors. With a rigorous approach and the inclusion of academic experts, field practitioners, and a vast network of national researchers, we access complex settings and gather accurate data. We bring innovative insights and practical solutions to addressing the most pressing social, economic, and political issues of our time.

Samuel Hall has offices in Afghanistan, Kenya and Somalia, and a presence in France, Germany, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. For more information, please visit [www.samuelhall.org](http://www.samuelhall.org)

[development@samuelhall.org](mailto:development@samuelhall.org)

