



FINAL REPORT THE GAMBIA

THIRD-PARTY MONITORING AND LEARNING MECHANISM (TPML)
FOR THE EU EMERGENCY TRUST FUND FOR AFRICA

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1. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

1.1. EUTF'S THIRD PARTY MONITORING AND LEARNING (TPML) IN THE SLC REGION

The European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa ([EUTF for Africa](#)) aims to promote stability and improve migration management in three regions: Sahel and Lake Chad (SLC); Horn of Africa; and North Africa. The SLC region is the largest region of intervention of the EUTF both in terms of the number of countries concerned, the number of financial commitments and the number of actions financed.

In July 2019, the EUTF established a *Third Party Monitoring and Learning (TPML)* mechanism for the actions it funds in the SLC region. This mechanism, entrusted to [Altai Consulting](#), concerns actions relating to the reintegration of returnees in their countries of origin, migration governance and awareness-raising campaigns, three themes funded under Strategic Objective 3 of the EUTF and involving different implementing partners (IPs) in the region.

The main objectives of TPML are as follows:

- Feed the reflection on the relevance and results of the EUTF's actions;
- Contribute to the sharing of experiences between IPs and between countries;
- Provide regular feedback to relevant actors (EUTF and IPs) to guide strategic and programmatic decision-making.

The TPML mechanism is organized in three data collection cycles:

- The first cycle took place between July and November 2019 and was limited to actions funded by the EUTF to promote the return and reintegration of migrants in eight countries in the SLC region: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal.
- The second cycle took place between January and June 2020 and was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, covering EUTF-projects related to the three themes mentioned above in Guinea, The Gambia, Nigeria, and Mauritania only.
- The third cycle took place between August 2020 and March 2021 and covered all three themes and twelve countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and The Gambia¹).

Cycle	Themes / activities covered	When?	Where?
1	✓ Return & reintegration	Jul.-Nov. 2019	8 countries
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Return & reintegration ✓ Migration governance ✓ Sensitization campaigns 	Jan.-Jun. 2020	4 countries
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Return & reintegration ✓ Migration governance ✓ Sensitization campaigns 	Aug. 2020–March. 2021	12 countries



¹ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all activities for cycle 3 in The Gambia, excluding the surveys, were conducted remotely.

1.2. METHODOLOGY OF THE TPML IN THE GAMBIA

This report presents aggregated results from all three data collection cycles in The Gambia. The analysis focused on the following projects and IPs (details in Section 2.2):



The EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection & Reintegration: The Gambia (JI) project aimed at strengthening migration governance and management, and facilitating the protection, return and sustainable reintegration of migrants in The Gambia, implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).



The Gambia Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) contributing to the economic development of The Gambia and thus reduce migration pressure by improving the employability of potential migrants and returnees, implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC).



The Building a Future – Make it in The Gambia (Tekki-Fii) project which works to contribute to socio-economic development and to nurture positive prospects for local populations and returning migrants in the Gambia, jointly implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Belgian development agency (ENABEL), the Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr (IMVF), and ITC.



The Gambian component of the regional project 'Appui à la protection des migrants les plus vulnérables en Afrique de l'Ouest' aiming at ensuring the protection of the most vulnerable migrants and their access to basic services, jointly implemented (in The Gambia) by the Red Cross Spain and Save the Children.

The three cycles allowed for the collection, triangulation and analysis of data from the following sources (Annexes 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4):

- **47 key informants:** staff within the European Union Delegation, relevant ministerial departments, IPs cited above, as well as their NGO, CSO, and private partners;
- **73 documents** relating to the country's migration context, governance frameworks and EUTF-funded activities in The Gambia;
- **Direct field visits and observations:** visit to several training centres funded by the EUTF, visit of community-based, collective, and individual projects, and participation in community awareness raising events across the country;
- **Structured surveys:**
 - o **297 interviews with returning migrants**² benefiting from return and/or reintegration assistance funded by the EUTF (102 in cycle 1, 101 in cycle 2 and 94 in cycle 3);
 - o **203 interviews with potential migrants and community members** targeted by awareness-raising campaigns (105 in cycle 2 and 98 in cycle 3);
 - o These beneficiaries and attendees were identified thanks to contact and location lists provided by IPs and through the snowballing technique, which did not allow for representative sampling. The data from these quantitative interviews provide an indication of the situation and experience of EUTF beneficiaries in the country but cannot be statistically representative of all beneficiaries.

The various testimonies were collected with verbal consent and in accordance with the principles of confidentiality and anonymity.

² 61 respondents indicated having been surveyed more than once by Altai Consulting. Considering recollection biases and potential mix up between actors' surveys, an estimate 250 individuals were surveyed, totalling 297 interviews.

2. RELEVANCE OF EUTF PROJECTS WITH REGARD TO MIGRATION CONTEXT

2.1. CHARACTERISTICS OF MIGRATION, RETURN AND REINTEGRATION IN THE GAMBIA

Despite a recent relative stabilisation of the Gambian political context, the poor socio-economic situation continues to be both a migration driver and a challenge for development programming.

The country experienced a major political and economic transition in the wake of the December 2016 election victory of President Adama Barrow, which ousted ex-President Yahya Jammeh after 22 years of autocratic rule. Following the 2016 political transition, GDP growth accelerated to 6.6% in 2018ⁱ driven by a recovery in agriculture, tourism, construction, and trade, but also by the large amount of money injected in the Gambian economy by the European Union, the World Bank, and other international partners. However, while human rights and economic development are both considered to have improved significantlyⁱⁱ, the country's infrastructure and capacities have not yet grown sufficiently to absorb and translate these funding flows into concrete socio-economic change for the population: unemployment rates and indicators such as the HDI have so far failed to appreciably improve.

Migration rates from The Gambia remain high, but arrival of irregular migrants in Europe has decreased each year since 2016. Almost 35,000 Gambians arrived irregularly in Europe between 2009 and 2016, and almost 12,000 between 2017 and end 2020 (Frontex database) representing more than 2% of the entire country's population. While the departure of Jammeh somewhat decreased the outflow of Gambian migrants, economic, cultural, and to some degree political factors continue to drive a high level of migration. The Gambian population is quite young, with an average age of 17. As a result, many Gambians have come of age during this transition to a democratic system. This has built high expectations of where the country could go, and after initial enthusiasm, impatience for more visible changes is high. After four years in office, the government's overall achievements in reform and general implementation of their development plan remains low, and the drive to find opportunities elsewhere continues to push the population toward migration. Gambians represent an important contingent of migrants found along the irregular routes. Many take the "back way", as it is commonly referred, to pass through West Africa and reach Mali or Niger before heading North to Libya, where they attempt to cross the Mediterranean Sea. In recent years, there has also been a resumption of migration from the coasts of West Africa to Spain's Canary Islands. Within the EU, Italy and Germany have become the top destination countries for Gambian migrants since 2012ⁱⁱⁱ, while numbers of Gambians in Great Britain have stagnated and even slightly reduced in Spain^{iv}. The regions of North Bank and Upper River are those most affected by irregular migration in The Gambia.

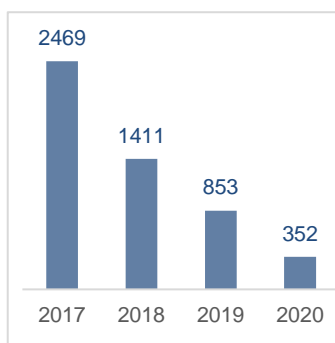


Figure 1: Number of IOM AVRR to The Gambia

Like many countries in the sub-region, the flow of returnees in 2017 was much higher than expected but has been slowly decreasing.

Most migrants leaving The Gambia do not reach Europe, and the desire to return home at this stage of the migration experience is very common among young Gambians. Between January 2017 and December 2020, IOM assisted over 5,000 stranded migrants in their voluntary return – more than three times the initial target set in 2017 for the JI in The Gambia (1500) (Figure 1). In 2017 and 2018 most of these returns were taking place from Libya. Since 2017, 1,600 Gambians have also returned from Niger, and represent more than half of all returns to The Gambia in 2019 and 2020. WCR is the first region of return, followed by KMC, URR, and NBR (IOM Database).

2.2. EUTF PROGRAMMING STUDIED IN THE GAMBIA

	EUTF-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection & Reintegration: The Gambia	Youth Empowerment Project (YEP)	Building a future: Make it in The Gambia, aka Tekki-Fii			
IP	IOM	ITC	GIZ	IMVF	ENABEL	ITC
Location	Country-wide, with a specific focus on GBA, NBR and URR.	Country wide with an initial focus on GBA, CRR and NBR.	Focus on GBA, LRR and URR	Focus on CRR, NBR, LRR and URR.	Focus on NBR and CRR	Country-wide
Budget	€3.9M + approx. €8.7M from regional top-up	€13M	€7M	€5M	€7M	€1.5M
Period	Jun. 2017 – Dec. 2021 (National Contract) Dec. 2017 – Oct. 2022 (Regional Contract)	Jan. 2017 – Dec. 2021	Jan. 2019 – Nov. 2021	Jan 2019 – Sept. 2022	Jan. 2019 – Dec. 2021	Mar. 2019 – Nov. 2021
Objectives and target group	<p>Support the return and reintegration of migrants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,500 migrants returning from Africa (1200) and Europe (300) are assisted in their durable reintegration. <p>Increase awareness of the communities in high migration areas and migrants on the consequences and viable alternatives to irregular migration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,500 potential migrants are informed; 250 communities in areas prone to migration and return are sensitized. 	<p>Enhancing employability and self-employment opportunities for youth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 training institutions improved; 7,000 youths trained; 3,000 youths benefitting from entrepreneurship services 5,000 youths capacitated to access financial services Target of 30% returnees reduced to 12% <p>Creating and improving employment opportunities in selected sectors through value addition and internationalization.</p>	<p>Increased Gambians' employability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,200 youths trained; 3,000 trained in entrepreneurship 30% are returnees <p>Business environment improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 MSMEs supported; 1,500 youths benefiting from market linkages and business development activities. 	<p>Promoting agribusiness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity of 1,300 (10,000 indirect) value chain actors strengthened. <p>Strengthening social cohesion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13,000 direct (40,000 indirect) beneficiaries of social cohesion and inter-generational dialogue activities. 	<p>Upgraded and sustainably managed rural productive infrastructures for sustainable production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 450 jobs created 2,700 individuals benefitting from better access to productive infrastructures <p>TVET centres related to promising food value chains are supported.</p>	<p>Coordinate the sensitization efforts of the action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100,000 migrants or potential migrants reached out <p>Implement co-investment grant facility</p>
Primary activities	<p>Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for AVRR;</p> <p>Direct support upon arrival;</p> <p>Reintegration assistance (counselling and orientation, in-kind assistance, training);</p> <p>Capacity building of state and non-state actors involved in the management or referral of reintegration activities;</p> <p>Awareness actions for migrants on the move and communities of origin.</p>	<p>Mapping of entrepreneurship system in The Gambia</p> <p>Development of Youth and Trade roadmap</p> <p>Skills Training in Priority Sectors</p> <p>Entrepreneurship Training and Business Development Support</p> <p>Support to improve quality and food safety</p> <p>Productive Capacities & Market Linkages by Sectors</p>	<p>TVET curricula development, ToT, equipment of TVET centres, TVET provision</p> <p>Entrepreneurship and agropreneurship training</p> <p>Business development support</p> <p>Solar grant and mini grant provision</p>	<p>Market assessment</p> <p>Support to rural agroenterprise development</p> <p>Reinforcement and diversification of training offers</p> <p>Agro and mini grant</p> <p>Support to local community radios</p> <p>Implement multipurpose facilities</p>	<p>Value chain analysis</p> <p>Cash for Work activities</p> <p>Rebuild of rural productive infrastructures</p> <p>Training in community-based infrastructure management and maintenance</p> <p>Rehabilitation of TVET centres / youth centre.</p>	<p>Mini grant and mini loans provision</p> <p>Private investment scheme</p> <p>Tekki-Fii roadshow</p> <p>Sensitisations events</p>
Main partners	Mol, OVP, NYC, Department of Community development, NYSS, EMPASS, GIEPA, Sterling Consortium	MoTIE, MoYS, Sterling Consortium, Insight Training Centre, GTHI, GTTI, NYSS, PIA, GIEPA, GYCC, GYIN, NEDI, SIG	MoFEA, MoHERST, Sterling Consortium, GTMI, Insight Training Centre, GIEPA, Tostan, NEDI, SIG, GYCC, GYIN, NACCUG	MoFEA, MoYS, MoA, NYC, NSC, ADWAC, Alianza por la Solidaridad, United Purpose, NACCUG	MoFEA, MoA, COOPI	MoFEA, NACCUG, SDF

2.3. RELEVANCE OF THE EUTF PROJECTS WITH REGARD TO THE GAMBIAN CONTEXT

Across EUTF-funded activities in The Gambia, actors play a role in line with their individual mandates and own expertise, resulting in a country-level portfolio with strong articulation of EUTF objectives, complementary and collaborative activities, and without overlap from the onset. AVRR has been a core activity of IOM globally, while YEP and Tekki-Fii implementers have experience carrying out similar activities in the region, such as GIZ sister project “Réussir au Sénégal”, which is also EUTF-funded. Work on labour markets and employment support reintegration and reduce drivers of migration. For example, the YEP project implements youth empowerment-related work, and the collaboration of Tekki-Fii implementing partners offers an evolving and progressive platform for beneficiaries, which increases the likelihood of beneficiaries finding employment.

The Joint Initiative (JI) in The Gambia was needed to help manage the unexpectedly high number of returns taking place from 2016. The JI was developed to provide a rapid and effective response to the humanitarian emergency created by the thousands of West African migrants stranded in North Africa and the Sahel. The programme in The Gambia was especially needed to respond to an unprecedented level of returns: while the programme initially planned to support 1,500 returns, it has facilitated 5,086 as of December 2020. IOM Gambia further benefited from additional funds under the JI regional top-up to be able to extend its assistance offer to a larger number of beneficiaries. Given the logistical, financial, and political challenges governments faced in the Gambia and in the subregion in responding to the crisis, the JI was instrumental in efficiently assisting stranded returnees.

Reintegration assistance was necessary to ensure that returnees were able to cope with migration drivers in the future, and IOM’s integrated approach to reintegration in the context of return is relevant as it allowed to also address the broader structural factors that impact local populations’ self-sufficiency, social stability, and psychosocial well-being. In 2017, IOM introduced its framework for an integrated approach to reintegration in the context of return, recognizing that the complexity and multidimensional process of reintegration requires a holistic and needs-based approach, considerate of the various factors impacting an individual’s reintegration, including economic, social, and psychosocial factors. In addition to assistance to the individual, the integrated approach takes into account the community and national/institutional level, and thus the whole reintegration ecosystem, and promotes a framework of partnerships, synergies, and referrals. This integrated approach also encompasses monitoring and evaluation for evidence-based policy and action and highlights the need for complementarity and collaboration between different government departments, international organizations, civil society organizations, and private sector actors.

At the same time, the low absorptive capacity of the labour market in The Gambia makes necessary the funding of employment and vocational training projects such as YEP and Tekki-Fii. One of Gambia’s core hurdles to economic development is its lack of opportunities for employment of its labour force: job creation is needed, including in rural areas. YEP and Tekki-Fii programmes are aligned with and supportive of larger efforts to address economic conditions that are drivers of outward migration in the first place, and support existing national economic and labour policy, as youth employment is the cornerstone of The Gambia’s National Development Plan. These two projects are all the more relevant that they adopt a two-pronged approach on employment promotion, targeting both the demand side (measures in support of the Gambian private sector) and the supply side of labour (measures to improve education and on-the-job training for selected professions and sectors with high potential for growth), maximizing the impact in terms of sustainable job creation. Furthermore, the actions within the project are complementary: while GIZ and ITC’s activities can be seen as selective and geared towards designated sectors, ENABEL and IMVF efforts on infrastructure and agriculture help increase income levels on a broader level.

The specific sectors on which implementers for YEP, Tekki-Fii, and IOM focus have been chosen based on preliminary studies and in line with their respective expertise and previous experience, as well as Gambia's National Development plan, thus setting the stepping-stone for relevance and efficiency. Preliminary studies were conducted by ITC, IOM and GIZ to select sectors on which the projects will focus. The study commissioned by IOM focused mainly on the profiling of migrants and their needs, but also includes an assessment of the promising value-chains for the communities observed, which seems to have oriented the set-up of community-based projects. The YEP project is guided by the Youth and Trade Roadmap, and to a lesser extent the TVET roadmap, which plans for youth to add value and tap into new opportunities in priority sectors with the highest potential to generate employment. Finally, the GIZ study "The State of TVET: Youth Labour Market Assessment" identified sectors and skills in high demand. These studies were essential in a country with a short history of development programmes and investment in socio-economic public policies.

The recent upsurge in the use of the Mediterranean route illustrates the continued need both for protection of migrants in The Gambia on this route and for awareness-raising about the dangers of and alternatives to irregular migration. There has been a resumption of migration from the coasts of West Africa to Spain's Canary Islands since 2018. Between January and mid-November 2020, 17,337 individuals reached the Canary Islands irregularly after crossing by boat from the coasts. This represents a 1,019 per cent increase in arrivals when compared to the same period in 2019. With a very low success rate, few manage to reach the Canary Islands, and shipwrecks often go unreported.^v In this context, joint efforts by other implementing partners funded by the EUD to inform about the risks and alternatives to irregular migration are relevant, especially as prior to 2016, only a few information campaigns on irregular migration had been carried out at the national level, either by The Gambian Immigration Department or local NGOs, with limited outreach. Furthermore, the joint actions of Save the Children and the Spanish Red Cross to support vulnerable migrants are all the more appropriate.

3. RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

3.1. OBJECTIVES AND APPROACHES

The EUTF currently funds three programmes in The Gambia which include reintegration components: IOM The Gambia activities implemented at the national level under the regional EU-IOM Joint Initiative; Tekki-Fii: Make it in The Gambia programme, implemented by GIZ, IMVF, ENABEL, and ITC; and the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP), implemented by ITC (See section 2.2).

To a lesser extent, reintegration assistance is also available to Gambian returnees through other non-EUTF funded projects. Assistance through these projects is available to returnees who are not eligible under EUTF-funded programmes, including those returned through bilateral agreements, through forced returns, or without official assistance. These additional reintegration opportunities, implemented by actors such as IOM, ERRIN, or COOPI, are presented in Annex 1.5.1.

In the Gambia, EUTF-funded reintegration programmes have assisted three types of returnees, as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Typologies of returnees and assistance available in The Gambia¹

Migrants who returned voluntarily with IOM	Migrants who returned voluntarily without IOM assistance	Migrants who returned involuntarily from Europe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return assistance by IOM Systematically eligible to IOM reintegration assistance Possibility of referral or self-application to YEP or Tekki-Fii 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migrants may have returned on their own, or with the assistance of other programmes They can request assistance to IOM², ITC, GIZ or ENABEL, but returnee status is to be proven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IOM is not involved in the organisation of forced returns IOM can support those returnees with post-arrival assistance and/or reintegration assistance only if they are formally referred by EU Member States to IOM through the agreed inward referral mechanism Potential for referral or self-application to YEP or Tekki-Fii
3,583 - started reintegration assistance with IOM, 50 - referred to EUTF partners	XX returnees in Tekki-Fii (XX) and YEP (XX) programmes	215 forced returnees, 116 received post-arrival assistance by the JI

The following section aims to assess the implementation and outcomes of EUTF-funded return and reintegration assistance in The Gambia. It focuses on return assistance and immediate assistance upon return; psychosocial support (PSS); job counselling and orientation; technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET); and support to the set-up of an income generating activity (IGA).³ The breakdown for these different activities of the actors studied is detailed in Annex 1.6.

Figure 2 provides an overview of returnees surveyed by Altai Consulting in The Gambia in September 2019, March 2020, and December 2020. Further details are given in Annex 1.4.1.

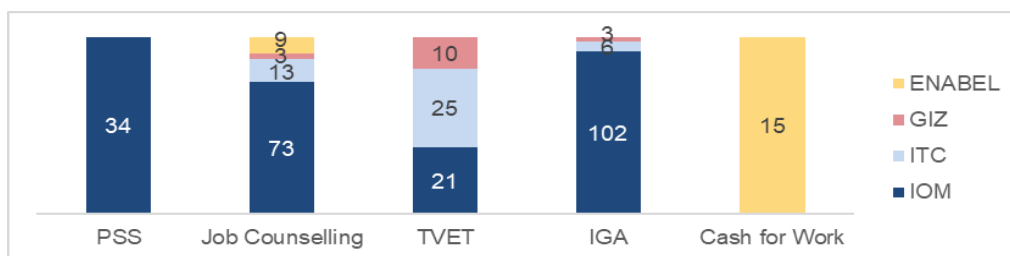


Figure 2: Distribution of respondents by type of support received and IPs

¹ Figures as of end of July 2020.

² Only few cases that are referred from a return country would be eligible for such support.

³ The JI also provides other types of assistance such social assistance (housing, medical support, education of children, etc.), which have not been studied in this report.

3.2. RETURN AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMING

3.2.1. Return and assistance upon arrival

The Joint Initiative in The Gambia faced steep challenges at the outset due to the higher-than-expected number of returns and the recent establishment of implementing partner offices in the country. Many of the challenges faced by IOM The Gambia within the JI are rooted in this initial, demanding opening phase. As most partners in The Gambia, IOM The Gambia mission was established in 2017¹ following the 2016 political transition, and so work at the outset of the EUTF happened concurrent with rapid staff onboarding and development of relationships with government partners (who were themselves often new to their posts). There was also a backlog of more than 1,000 returnees by the time the EU-IOM JI project started, as IOM had operated charter flights from Libya in early 2017. While the target for returns for the entire programme was 1,500, IOM managed 2,469 returns in 2017 alone. Like IOM, most international organisations and implementing partners with whom the JI could have worked opened offices in the country only after 2016. Stakeholders acknowledge that at the time, nearly all state and non-state actors in The Gambia suffered from underdeveloped expertise, limiting the number of local actors available to partner with early on and to absorb the caseload.

Despite these difficulties, there was a rapid adaptation of IOM The Gambia and its resources to manage the caseload, and good collaboration with governmental actors to ensure the returns of thousands of Gambians. Over the course of the project, IOM adapted its resources and approach to be able to support more than three times the expected number of voluntary returns: staff allocation was increased, the office further benefitted from increased financial resources through the regional top-up, and new processes and tools were put in place to systematise arrival assistance² which helped standardise and organise assistance across all relevant actors. IOM The Gambia also successfully built efficient collaboration with the Government of The Gambia (GoTG) for the management of returns, with all parties reporting satisfaction with their collaboration. SOPs on AVRR were agreed between IOM and the Government early in the project and validated on October 4th, 2018, allowing for the clarification of roles and responsibilities within the reception process (Figure 3), including through the creation of the Reception Sub Working Group³.

IOM Logistics and execution	GID Administrative tasks	MoFA International coordination	MoH Health care services	DSW, GRCS and NYC Social services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory information sharing • Onward transportation and accommodation • Pocket money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document verification • Immigration control and procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landing permit and security clearance for charter flights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health screening • Referrals to health facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family tracing and reunification • Protection screening • Accompaniment support

Figure 3: Distribution of roles and responsibilities of actors for AVR in The Gambia as per SOPs

The efficient transmission of information between IOM country teams and on to returnees themselves shows a strong level of collaboration and communication. Three quarters (55 of 75) of returnees responding to the TPML cycle 3 survey who had returned with IOM assistance agreed that the information about the AVRR process they received from IOM in transit countries (primarily Libya) before departure accurately reflected the reality on arrival, enabling them to make a well-informed decision regarding their return. The main information considered 'missing' is related to the waiting times for reintegration assistance (6/20) and the format of the assistance (6/20).

¹ IOM established an operational presence in The Gambia in 2001, but only became an official country office in July 2017.

² These included provision of an arrival assistance card, medical referral cards, and/or migrant appointment cards.

³ Involving the Gambian Immigration Department (GID), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoH), the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), the National Youth Council (NYC), The Gambian Red Cross Society (GRCS) and IOM.

While return programming has been well-coordinated with the government, some issues remain, especially with the set-up of reception facilities at the airport as well as issues regarding forced returnees. IOM has advocated for the establishment of a permanent Migrant Resource and Response Centre to serve as a reception centre and/or a transit centre if needed. However, this has faced multiple challenges: the preference of the government for building a new facility rather than renting or refurbishing an existing facility and the political tensions around forced return in 2019. Mitigation measures taken in the meantime are not ideal: mobile reception facilities are temporary and disassembled after each charter flight¹; ad hoc guest houses and hotels serve as reception centres². Protection mechanisms to ensure privacy of migrants were reinforced to mitigate risks associated with this set-up.

The quasi-systematic provision of pocket money enables participants to make a dignified return to their communities. The pocket money, equivalent to 65€, is intended to enable returnees to pay transportation to their home villages and necessities on the way. The effectiveness of the pocket money provision and the adequacy of the amount is illustrated in the survey: the great majority of those returned with IOM (150/168) indicated they had received it (Figure 4), enabling them to cover their needs for one week on average (Figure 5). This corroborates stakeholders' impression that this amount is a good balance between covering beneficiaries' journey home and not creating an incentive to migrate again.

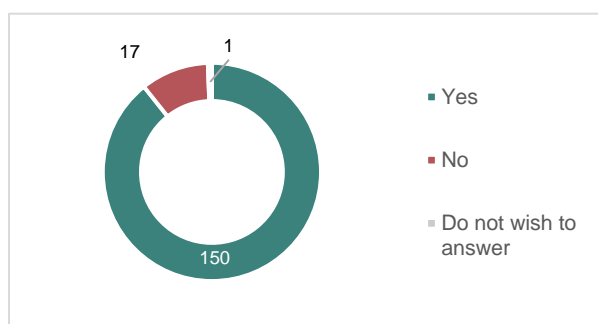


Figure 4: Reception of pocket money upon respondent's return

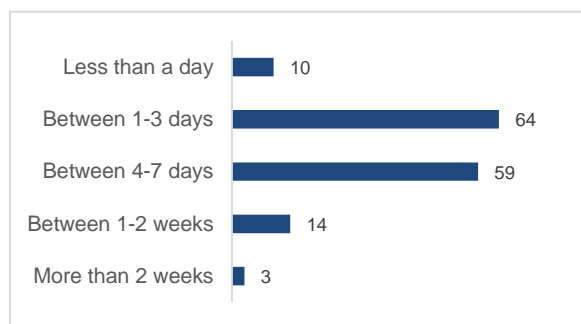


Figure 5: Duration for which the pocket money enabled the respondent to cover his needs

As identified at the regional level by both IOM and previous Altai Consulting research, delays between the return and the practical start of reintegration assistance constitute the main challenge in the reintegration process. Responses to the TPML cycle 3 survey suggest long waiting periods (from several months to over a year) between the respondents' return and reception of most types of reintegration assistance (Figure 6). For assistance such as PSS or job counselling, waiting times are relatively reasonable, although still improvable: more than half of the respondents waited less than three months for this assistance (78/150). Waiting times for economic assistance (TVET or IGA) are much longer: two thirds of respondents had to wait more than six months before receipt (98/155). The evolution of these waiting times according to the year of return does show IOM's commitment to address this issue: the proportion of respondents waiting more than six months to receive IGA support drops from 84% for those returning in 2017 to 50% and then 17% for those returning in 2018 and 2019 (Figure 7). The decrease in these waiting times can be explained by both the decrease in the number of returns and gradual reduction of the backlog of returnees, and by programmatic factors such as the validation of the SOPs on AVR, the increase in IOM staff, the formation of more partnerships for the provision of economic assistance, and the ramp-up of collective and community-based projects. According to IOM the remaining delays stem from the state of progress of returnees' reintegration plans and the importance of their psychological and social needs upon return.

¹ Tents, furniture, lighting, and security equipment.

² PIPA guesthouse, which also served as a quarantine centre during COVID-19 pandemic, is the latest to be used.

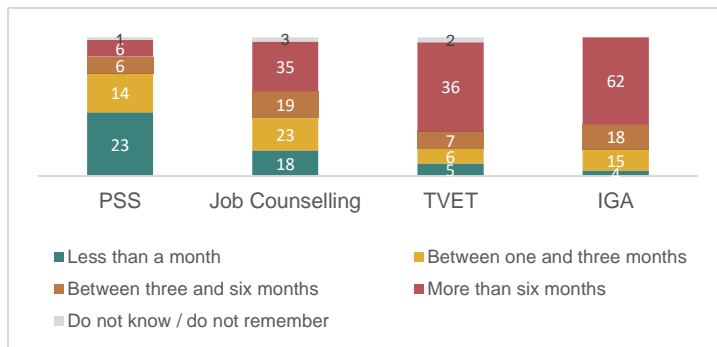


Figure 6: Waiting time by type of support

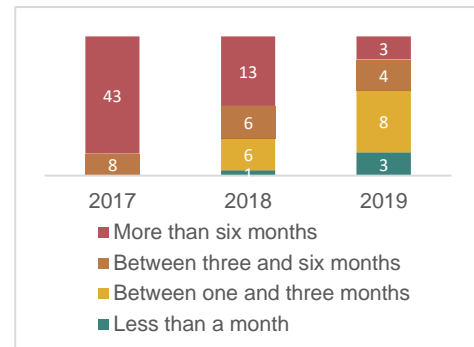


Figure 7: Waiting time for IGA

Cash-for-Work initiatives (CfW), implemented by different actors funded by the EUTF, remain an interesting option to be pursued but have not been sufficient to compensate for these waiting times for most beneficiaries. CfW initiatives by IOM The Gambia (including within the JI) include a cash-for-work agreement with the Kanifing Municipality Council (KMC) to allow returnees to participate with other youth in clean-up activities in the area, and other CfW initiatives on an ad-hoc basis¹. These latter ones, while very commendable, only benefitted a limited category of beneficiaries who had previously received assistance, while returnees who had not yet received assistance may have been in even greater economic distress. CfW by ENABEL's RIEC project and implemented by COOPI, continues to represent a good approach to help returnees meet their financial needs and reintegrate socially upon their return (Focus Box 1) and is progressively absorbing higher numbers of returnees², leaving hope for the future mainstreaming of the practice.

Focus Box 1: Analysis of CfW activities implemented by ENABEL within Tekki-Fii in The Gambia

The action is aligned with Tekki-Fii's objectives to support youths, including returnees, and the communities:

- o Employing local youths for local construction work boosts ownership and empowerment of communities, while promoting a growing and stable sector in The Gambia.
- o Mingling of youths and returnees allows for both decreased stigmatisation of returnees and peer-to-peer awareness raising on the risks of irregular migration.

The choice of COOPI as a sub-grantee is relevant given their prior and current experiences:

- o COOPI has previous experience in the target areas and groups, in providing PSS to returnees, and in supporting local IGAs, with the advantage of having relationships with relevant stakeholders.
- o There are synergies with another COOPI's project to provide both livelihood assistance and PSS.

The identification of needs and CfW beneficiaries is fully owned by the involved communities:

- o Needs were identified through FGD with returnees, women, and local youth from the communities.
- o Beneficiaries are selected through communities' meetings and FGDs organized by Enabel and COOPI with the communities' representatives, local authorities, and the potential beneficiaries.

The way the activity is implemented is adapted to returnees needs:

- o Given the low rate of administrative literacy among returnees, COOPI provides administrative support and training on financial literacy, in local languages.
- o The type of work and wage system is adapted to returnee's profile: construction skills are often acquired by returnees abroad, and the fair and regular salary enables them to financially cope on return.

As CfW is a temporary measure, emphasis is rightfully placed on linking it to other initiatives:

- o There are informative sessions on organisations offering training and financial opportunities. A referral system is also in place with Gamjob to provide employment to some beneficiaries.

¹ Some survivors of the 2019 shipwreck were referred to the UNOPS IOM project for a CfW scheme in road construction, and to the UNPBF IOM project for soap production in the context of COVID-19. Other CfW programmes aimed to address the COVID-19 pandemic, with PPE and cloth masks production (with ITC) for returnees previously trained in tailoring.

² As of December 2020, 102 returnees were involved in ENABEL's CfW initiative, amounting to a third of its beneficiaries.

3.2.2. Psychosocial support

Reintegration actors interviewed and Altai Consulting's survey emphasized the scale of PSS needs among returnees, and the importance of addressing them for the sustainability of their reintegration. This is illustrated in TPML cycle 2 and 3 surveys: a majority of respondents (144/195) reported at least sometimes experiencing some sort of negative feelings such as stress, fear, or anger as a result of their migration experience upon their return. Almost three quarters of these respondents (105/144) stated that these feelings made it harder for them to reintegrate. Returnees also experienced negative feelings and thoughts due to their failed migration attempt. Almost half of beneficiaries surveyed (85/195) reported a feeling of failure, while 45 felt that they wasted time compared to those who had stayed and 35 felt resentment toward those who migrated successfully.

IOM took steps in collaboration with the government and national partners to advance the level of provision of PSS in The Gambia, addressing the existing gap for the provision of such support. IOM The Gambia noted the scarcity of mental health practitioners in the country, highlighting the need for capacity building and awareness raising on this topic. Extensive work to build the capacity of the government on PSS has been accomplished by IOM under the "Strengthening the Sustainable and Holistic Reintegration of Returnees in The Gambia" project, funded by the UN-PBF (UN-PBF project): a national mental health framework for returnees and associated training curriculum have been developed by MoH with technical and financial support from IOM and WHO. Work under the JI has addressed needs through several capacity building activities at various levels. At the national level, IOM trained GID officials on the psychosocial needs of migrants, identification and referrals, and a sub-working group on MHPSS was created, with IOM also conducting workshops on SOPs for AVRR and referral tools. At the regional level, existing mental health focal points were trained on MHPSS for returnees. IOM has also conducted informal internal training of reintegration staff and MICs staff on Psychological First Aid (PFA), vulnerability screening and referrals.

The provision of psychosocial support within the JI is complemented by the IOM project supported by UN-PBF and, to a lesser extent, to the COOPI project funded by AICS, enabling returnees to access a wide range of services throughout their reintegration process. MHPSS under the JI consists of a systematic and rapid health screening upon arrival, provision of Psychological First Aid (PFA) and referrals to the MoH for the most serious cases. The rapid health screening provides the basis for tailored individual or collective PSS session(s) for those assessed as vulnerable or experiencing some sort of psychological distress. These sessions take place at IOM's office or at their various communities. Additionally, follow-up sessions are planned accordingly and, on a case-by-case basis. Activities under the UN-PBF project enable IOM to complement PSS offered through the JI by fostering social inclusion and cohesion in host communities, notably through the deployment of mobile health clinics in communities of high return. Similarly, returnees engaged in CfW activities with ENABEL can benefit from PSS provided by COOPI under its project funded by AICS, which also complements the work of IOM particularly by covering regions the IOM MHPSS team cannot easily access (NBR). IOM stakeholders highlighted their good collaboration with COOPI and indicated that they also used COOPI's initial PSS assessment.

Since 2017, IOM The Gambia has been able to scale up and improve its provision of psychosocial assistance, especially with the increase of MHPSS staff. Under the JI, the Migration Health team is composed of three experts in the area of mental health, including a Clinical Psychologist, under the overall supervision of a Migration Health Officer. While early efforts at providing PSS were hampered by the combination of high numbers of returns and limited staff, IOM Migration health team reported a significant turnaround with the reduction of returns in the context of COVID-19. The reduction and stabilization of returns allowed the team to adapt their practices and assist returnees in a more effective way, notably by strengthening community case management through increased community visits and intensified phone follow-up checks and providing for referrals and support as needed

IOM's approach has also created the capacity to address specific events that occur outside of the normal return process which may create PSS needs. Events such as the shipwreck off the coast of Mauritania or the COVID-19 pandemic have had influence on IOM's psychosocial programming in The Gambia. The shipwreck of a pirogue on the Mauritanian coast in December 2019 prompted IOM to implement special measures for the survivors as well as the bereaved families: a three-day initiative including community discussions with community leaders and various youth groups, psychodrama, and sports activities was held to facilitate healing among survivors, enable community support and coping mechanisms, build resilience, and promote positive perception of returnees. To ensure the sustainability of this support, IOM trained some community members to be "MHPSS ambassadors", ensuring community ownership and therefore sustainability of support, which has proved particularly relevant before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Community MHPSS ambassadors trained to support families and community members in identifying symptoms of distress, provide basic psychosocial support in the form of PFA and recommend necessary referrals to MoH. They continue to support IOM to have people ready on the ground for sensitisation activities and identification of cases and referral. The initiative overall has received very positive feedback from all surveyed reintegration actors.

While these measures provide an effective response to systemic challenges as well as appropriate assistance to returning migrants, the survey suggests that access to such assistance remains quite limited.

Through capacity building for the provision of PSS and the training of MIC staff and community ambassadors, IOM The Gambia has been able to implement appropriate and effective solutions to the challenges previously identified, namely the lack of specialised structures, the difficulty of following up with returnees after their return to their communities, and the lack of interest in these services. Surveys conducted in March and December 2020 show that assistance is generally seen as satisfactory: most beneficiaries (29/34) expressed satisfaction with the usefulness of the assistance (Figure 8). Delays in PSS provision have improved in recent years, with most of those delays stemming from the earlier years of the programme. It appears however that support is still limited to the cases identified as the most severe, as only 17% of the beneficiaries surveyed received PSS from IOM (34/195), with two-thirds of the remainder (89/142) indicating that they would have liked to have benefited from this support, but for the most part could not because they were not aware of it (79/89). While the proportion of respondents who received psychosocial support appears to increase across return years (14% in 2017, 22% in 2018 and 24% in 2019), continuing to increase the level of support to larger numbers of beneficiaries in line with regional guidelines is key to the sustainability of reintegration overall.

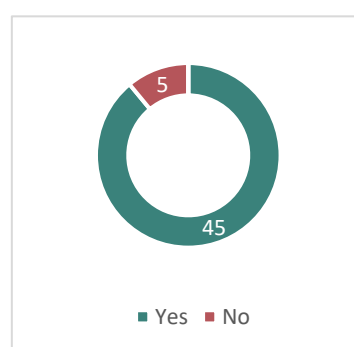


Figure 8: Reported usefulness of PSS

In view of the increasing protection needs of migrants in The Gambia in the context of the resurgence of the Atlantic route as well as COVID-19, some protection activities have been briefly reviewed by the TPML exercise in December 2020. The most relevant activities implemented by IOM in this sector, as well as that of the Protection of Vulnerable Migrants in West Africa project jointly implemented by the Red Cross Spain and Save the Children, are presented in Focus Box 2.

Focus Box 2: Analysis of some protection activities carried out with EUTF funding

The development of the National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance of Vulnerable Migrants in The Gambia (NRM) by IOM The Gambia lays the foundation to bring policy coherence and ultimately joint long-term actions by various stakeholders involved in migration related interventions. Validated in December 2020 the NRM has the objective of strengthening the GoTG's migration governance system. It provides an operational method on how the GoTG can effectively manage vulnerable migrants, and notably, two SOPs for the management of stranded vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking (the latter not EUTF-funded) were validated in June 2020, and technical workshops were held for government officials and NGO representatives. Protection actors interviewed nonetheless stressed that further dissemination and adequate implementation were needed for the NRM to fulfil its mandate.

The newly established protection project managed by the Spanish Red Cross and Save the Children appears to provide an appropriate and adequate response to protection needs in The Gambia, and possible synergies with IOM projects are being explored. The two actors aim to provide a complementary response to selected protection needs in The Gambia. The programme targets migrants in transit as well as host communities in affected regions: NBR and LRR (Save The Children), and WCR and URR (Spanish Red Cross). Save the Children is using mobile teams to identify and refer children on the move, and trains relevant stakeholders on children protection (incl. communities and the GID). The project so far received good feedback, notably for its involvement of relevant national and regional authorities and for tackling an issue not previously handled under EU funding. Complementarily, the Spanish Red Cross is working through humanitarian service points and its network of volunteers to provide protection services to migrants. The project was more severely impacted by the COVID-19, resulting in delays to initial programming. Areas for synergies with IOM are being explored, notably potential synergies with IOM supported MICs by the project as well as IOM's participation in the project's trainings.

Ad-hoc protection interventions by IOM were successfully undertaken based on emerging needs. IOM implemented a project funded by the UK FCDO (then DFID) to refurbish the Bakoteh shelter, which is the only government-run institution able to provide temporary shelter to people in vulnerable situations, including migrants. They have also provided capacity building trainings to the shelter management and staff through this programme. In the context of the COVID-19 and subsequent border closure, IOM distributed emergency food assistance to stranded migrants, who were then supported with voluntary return towards their country of origin through a regional emergency COVID-19 budget line under the Joint Initiative.

3.2.3. Job counseling and orientation

Over the course of the JI, IOM The Gambia has diversified its reintegration offer, in line with previous recommendations by Altai Consulting, enabling returnees to choose among an array of possibilities. At the outset of the programme, due in large part to the heavy caseload, IOM The Gambia had to take measures to provide immediate financial assistance and timely reintegration packages to the returnees. Those included the quasi-systematic provision of individual assistance through the set-up of an income generating activity, which often was focused on retail activities. As the caseload has decreased, IOM has been able to launch more types of reintegration assistance: TVET starting in 2018; collective and community-based assistance starting in 2019; and Cash for Work activities beginning in 2020. This diversification has been made possible by the establishment of more partnerships with private and public organisations providing training or support to MSMEs and with other EUTF-funded actors: partnerships with EMPAS Poultry Processing, NYSS, and Sterling Consortium providing TVET opportunities to more than 156 returnees; partnerships with GIEPA for entrepreneurship support (incl. advisory services) benefitting over 150 returnees; and on-going partnerships with the YEP and Tekki-Fii projects, formalised through the roll out of the online outward referral system for easier referrals of returnees among partners (Focus Box 3). According to IPs, these referrals represent the opportunity for returnees to go to the “next level of support”: IOM is no longer only helping returnees get back on their feet as may have been the case at the very onset of the project but provides holistic assistance that will be more sustainable and long-term.

The process of informing returnees of the assistance available and developing their reintegration plan appears to be operational, but survey results seem to highlight the initial difficulties in establishing this process. IOM The Gambia described the orientation process as smooth and well-functioning. The day after their arrival, returnees receive an information session in the reception centre (guesthouse) on the reintegration opportunities offered by IOM and an appointment for their detailed orientation session. Mitigation measures are in place to ensure the information is retained, namely the distribution of a reintegration flyer and a card with the date of their appointment. The detailed counselling session is then held either in a group or individually¹. Depending on the support

¹ More recently, these have occurred via phone due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

chosen at this session, the returnee may participate in additional information sessions, including on available training courses. IOM The Gambia stakeholders pointed out that at the beginning of the project and in view of the large number of returnees, information sessions were grouped together. This included discussion of all possible options with all partners, which could sometimes create confusion, especially as the waiting time for the detailed session at this early point in the project was generally long. This trend is reflected in IOM beneficiaries' answers to cycle 2 and cycle 3 surveys: 85% of returnees who reported having waited more than six months to receive their counselling session had returned in 2017 (23/27), and all of those dissatisfied with the session had returned in 2017 (3/3). Besides, half of IOM beneficiaries surveyed in cycle 2 and 3 reported having benefitted from a counselling session (64/133), below the regional average (67%). The main reason indicated is not being aware of this assistance (37/69) or still waiting to be given a session to attend (10/69) (Figure 9).

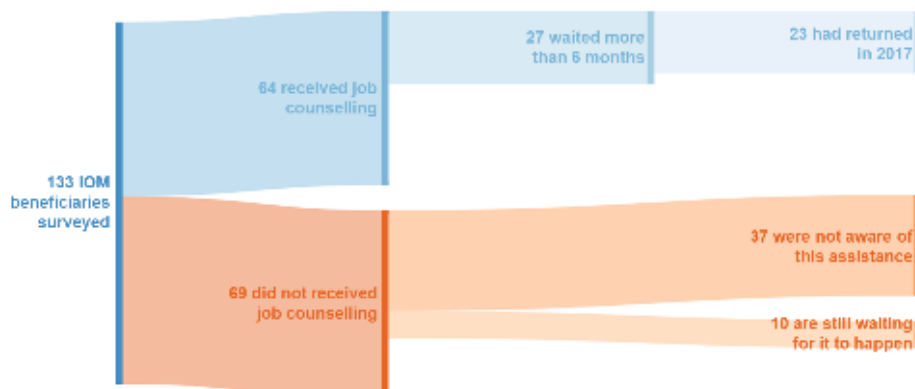


Figure 9: IOM beneficiaries on job counselling

The reintegration plan for the returnees seems to be adequately based on the demands of the returnees, while taking into consideration growth sectors in The Gambia. IOM reintegration staff stressed that the support provided is always demand driven, and that IOM only plays an advisory role on available opportunities. While the first TPML report revealed a potential gap in IOM's capacity to comprehensively assess the viability of each micro-business in its market context, it now appears that the reintegration staff is drawing on the priority sectors identified by the government, the communities, and other economic actors in The Gambia, but also on their own acquired experience. **This is reflected at various points in Altai Consulting's survey.** One-third (20/64) of respondents from cycle 2 and 3 who benefitted from a counselling session report having been informed of reintegration assistance offered by actors besides IOM and its partners, the fourth highest rate in the sub-region. Two-thirds (43/64) of them report having been presented with enough options to choose one that suited their interests, a proportion that gradually grows depending on the year of return (50% for those returned in 2017, 82% for those returned in 2019). Overall, two-thirds of respondents (40/64) report being either satisfied or very satisfied, 25% are neutral (20/64). Two-thirds of IOM IGAs beneficiaries find the project aligned with their professional aspirations, and all IOM beneficiaries (11) who were proposed more than one training (14) ended up following it.

The approaches implemented by the partners involved in the YEP and Tekki-Fii projects are an interesting opportunity for returning migrants: the IMAP platform could also be used for this assistance to further reduce waiting times. GIZ launched a Career Guidance and Counselling training, including for students of TVET institutions in partnership with Gambian Canadian NGO Nova Scotia Gambia Association (NSGA), specialised in peer-education. ITC, through the YEP project and in collaboration with NYC and GID, trained youth counsellors to offer services for returning migrants, including orientation on the economic opportunities, skills development programmes and support mechanisms available in the Gambia and an assessment of interests, skill sets and needs for possible linkages with service providers, an initiative appreciated at the time by all stakeholders and reflected in the fact that although few returnees having benefitted from their counselling support were surveyed (8), all were either satisfied or very satisfied.

Focus Box 3: Online outward referral system piloted in The Gambia

In August 2019, IOM in The Gambia signed a data sharing agreement with ITC, GIZ, IMVF and ENABEL. Connected to IOM's case management system (MiMOSA), the platform provides partners with basic and limited data about returnees. The design process included all EUTF-related actors as well as mapping sessions to assess potential matching in terms of geographic locations and assistance opportunities.

Stakeholders interviewed, including the EUD, indicated their satisfaction with the platform and its ease of use. Since 2019, additional partners have approached IOM to be included in the system, including COOPI, YMCA The Gambia and Catholic Relief Services. An MoU was subsequently signed with COOPI.

As of July 2020, 50 returnees had been referred by IOM: 10 to ENABEL, 6 to GIZ, 7 to IMVF and 27 to ITC. Given the success of this pilot, IOM launched the platform regionally under the name Migrant Assistant Portal (IMAP), with subsequent training occurring across the region from July 2020 onwards.

3.2.4. TVET

EUTF-funded actors engage in the provision of technical training to returnees in a bid to have a longer-lasting impact on their professional and economic situation, though these efforts have been hampered by difficulties encountered throughout the sub-region. Almost all actors funded by EUTF in The Gambia provide vocational training programmes to equip returnees (and the youth) with skills to either engage in entrepreneurial ventures or seek a job. IOM The Gambia through the JI has established partnerships with vocational training centres, including NYSS, EMPAS, and Sterling Consortium, opening opportunities for around 200 returnees. While the provision of vocational training to returning migrants is an integral part of the YEP and Tekki-Fii projects, the implementing partners have repeatedly reported difficulty in recruiting returnees to join training programmes. The difficulties reported include the motivation of returnees to engage in training at the time of their return, their low education level (which may be a source of non-selection for the YEP and Tekki-Fii projects), and their negative perception of TVET or the sectors of training. Civil society actors and the NYC also report difficulty in accessing and filling out application forms as they are online and require a level of literacy that may be higher than most returnees' level of education, as well as the geographic hurdle linked to the localisation of most TVET centres down-river.

Considering this context, many improvements have been made by IPs to increase the relevance of training, especially to the specific profile of returnees. To adapt to the profile of returnees, IPs distribute a living allowance during training as well as compensation for transportation, which is considered essential by all stakeholders interviewed to minimise dropouts. Similarly, given the generally lower level of education compared to that of their traditional audience, some partners have shortened the curricula, added introductory modules, and emphasized the practical aspect of the training provided to the returnee cohorts. Such adaptations are reflected in Altai Consulting's surveys: three-quarters of surveyed trainees reported having received a stipend during the training (37/53); and three quarters of TVET beneficiaries reported that the training they received was both practical and theoretical (40/53). Also, EUTF partners collaborate only with accredited technical training institutions and therefore work in close collaboration with the National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Authority (NAQAA) to ensure trainees receive recognised certifications at the end of their training. **Yet, most of the new measures planned for 2020 were delayed, as technical training has been the type of reintegration assistance most impacted by the restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.** Previous rounds of the TPML in The Gambia but also in the sub-region had highlighted that returnees' need for and interest in TVET increases *after* they return and start a business, highlighting that timing and sequencing this type of support is important. The formal closure of all TVET centres between March and October 2020 in line with the proclamation of the SoPE prevented the examination of whether the possibility for "late" referrals of returnees in TVET through the IMAP would result in more enrolment. Similarly, the apprenticeship programme of GIZ only launched in September 2020, and whether this format mitigated the problems of financial access to training by returnees could not be examined. Referrals of CfW

workers to IMVF training have also begun in late 2020 and represent an interesting entry point into the Tekki-Fii system for returnees.

Initiatives implemented in The Gambia by EUTF-funded projects have helped to strengthen the vocational training sector in The Gambia. ITC in particular has played a structuring role in the landscape of vocational training in The Gambia: the development of the TVET roadmap¹ provides the GoTG with a solid foundation on which to develop its future TVET policy. It seeks to address abovementioned bottlenecks such as heterogeneous quality of training delivery, non-alignment to employers' needs and inaccessibility in rural regions. This suggests an effective management of the potential saturation problem of TVET centres mentioned in previous TPML reports.

The results of these efforts are reflected in survey responses, which show the relevance of the training provided to returnees. Almost all respondents indicated having understood at least most of the training (49/53) and that they deemed it sufficient to work in the associated sector (48/53), a proportion that does not vary depending on IP or length of the training. Two-thirds of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the training received (39/53) (Figure 10).

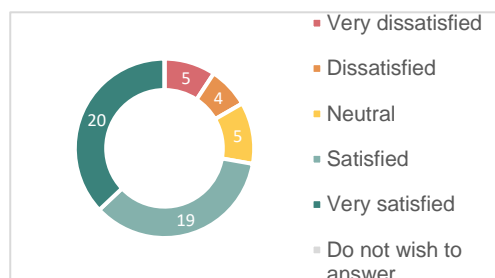


Figure 10: Satisfaction with the training

Despite the significant efforts made by the IPs in terms of vocational training, the integration of returnee beneficiaries into the labour market remains one of the main challenges of the process. Job opportunities in The Gambia remain limited so IPs are placing great emphasis on entrepreneurship and support for individual, group, and community projects as outlets for the trainings.² Two-thirds of beneficiaries reported being employed in their trained area, with another two-thirds of those indicating the training at least somewhat helped them. It is interesting to note that IOM reported that some beneficiaries chose to pursue further training. ITC's bounding of its TVET centres to a 50% post-training employability quota continues to be identified as a good practice.

3.2.5. Individual, collective, and community-based projects

Given the recent decrease of returns, IOM The Gambia had greater leeway to provide collective and community-based assistance. While in 2017 and 2018, IOM The Gambia mostly provided individual assistance, in 2019 efforts were made to provide individual assistance to those who were vulnerable, while other returnees were nudged towards collective and community-based projects. As of July 2020, there were 8 completed community-based projects with 15 returnees involved, and 24 community-based projects in preparation with 105 returnees involved, an increase from 2 community-based projects as of 2019.

While IOM The Gambia reports, like other country offices in the sub-region, the difficulty of motivating returnees to unite³, or communities to engage in business with returnees, this later start is perhaps what has given IOM The Gambia the opportunity to better anticipate the challenges associated with such approaches, particularly through regional learning from the JI. In particular, IOM The Gambia has put in place various mitigation measures to address the risks identified globally, including: training in group

¹ The development and implementation of the roadmap is being led by MoHERST, based on the advice and guidance of the recently established National TVET Committee.

² For instance, GIZ will support 30% of its graduates to participate in a business development training, receive a start-up package and benefit from a six-month coaching. IOM NYSS trainees will receive a start-up kit to set-up and operate a workshop in their chosen sector.

³ The main reasons mentioned are the lack of trust between returnees, the need to return to the communities of origin, the fear that the development of a collective or community project is administratively slower than an individual project and takes time to generate income.

dynamics/conflict management and entrepreneurship, information provision related to the sustainability and profitability of such projects, increased monitoring, and specifically for community projects, the involvement of the regional migration subcommittee village development committees, and the community at all stages of project design and implementation. In addition, IOM The Gambia has also shown adaptability by reducing the size of some community projects after poor harvests or tensions occurred. The overall approach to these projects appears relevant and promising (Focus Box 4). As part of Cycle 2 & 3 of the TPML exercise, Altai Consulting surveyed a sample of 70 IOM beneficiaries, 18 of whom were part of a collective project, and five a community-based project. Although there is a scale effect, Altai Consulting survey data seems to suggest that collective and community projects are even more popular in terms of satisfaction with beneficiaries (Figure 11).

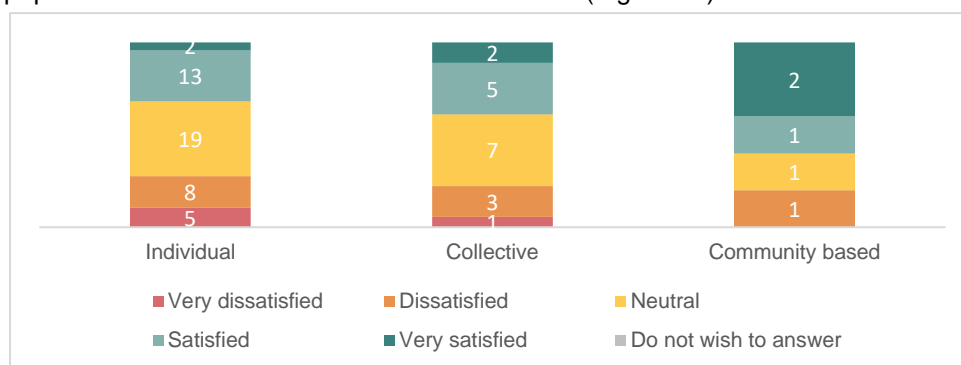


Figure 11: Satisfaction with the IGA by type of project (IOM)

YEP, and Tekki-Fii stakeholders mention their difficulties in targeting returnees to enrol in their entrepreneurship support programmes, despite mitigation measures in place. The difficulties encountered seem to be related to entry requirements and the perceived difficulty of implementation: it is often up to returnees to apply for Tekki-Fii and YEP assistance, and many are facing issues filling out application forms, as well as meeting certain eligibility criteria. In this context, GIZ has diversified its Business Development component and relaxed its eligibility criteria to target not only established businesses, but also youth with little or no formal education or training. The promising start of referrals through the IMAP platform could somewhat alleviate this problem, according to interviewees.

Despite IPs efforts, IGAs do not currently appear to be sufficiently revenue generating, let alone able to withstand external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. There were numerous capacity building activities conducted by EUTF actors, including capacity building of Gambian entrepreneurship support institutions from ITC and capability strengthening of implementing partners and/or staff by GIZ, ITC and IOM. Besides, the provision of entrepreneurship training and business management to beneficiaries, by GIZ and ITC systematically, and IOM and IMVF on an ad-hoc basis was meant to ensure good management of ventures. Of the IOM projects surveyed, three quarters were still active at the time of the Cycle 2 and Cycle 3 surveys (52/70), with the proportion being higher among beneficiaries of entrepreneurship training (85% compared to 72%). While almost all these beneficiaries' report that their project is profitable (65/70), more than half nevertheless report being engaged in at least one other income-generating activity (43/70), which is often generating more income than the project (26/43). In addition, three quarters of beneficiaries' report that their project suffered from external shocks, 20 of them from coronavirus.

Beneficiaries as well as some government actors and implementing partners suggest that the current subsidy given to returnees is often too limited to launch a sustainable income-generating activity. Aware of this issue, the Reintegration Sub-Working Group meeting led to a recommendation that economic reintegration assistance per returnee should be increased to at least 1,500 euros. However, this suggested amount was not raised to the Project Steering Committee and the average amount for reintegration assistance was not increased. Access to Tekki-Fii grants for the most advanced IGAs could provide access to finance while limiting the problems associated with the generation of additional debt by returnees.

Focus Box 4: Approach to Community Based Projects in URR in The Gambia

Community selection and needs definition: A Participatory Community Needs Assessment was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Community Development (DCD), returnees, community representatives (through village development committees), regional representatives, and NGOs/CSOs representatives with technical knowledge. The feedback from the different parties on this process and the relevance of its outcome is quite positive.

Participant's selection: the process is fully owned by the community, with IOM The Gambia only trying to ensure that the most vulnerable people in the community are selected and that there is a social mix among participants.

Training: groups are trained in conflict management and group dynamics, as well as entrepreneurship to mitigate the risks associated with bringing people from different backgrounds together. However, according to the Department of Community Development, a more technical aspect is missing in training.

Revenue distribution: 30% of the revenue is paid back to the Village Development Committees to support the development of the communities, but also to enable returnees' social rehabilitation.

Monitoring: regional migration sub-committees have been set up (with the DCD, the governor, community leaders) and ensure the coordination and monitoring of migration-related activities in the region and can provide technical support also through the regional technical advisor committee. In addition, at the local level, the Village Development Committees are also involved in monitoring. Interviewed actors all praised the involvement and interest of the governor, which helped to overcome some logistical, administrative, and conflictual hurdles.

3.3. OUTCOMES OF REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

3.3.1. General satisfaction with reintegration assistance

Respondents reported mixed satisfaction with the reintegration assistance received. The Gambia ranks 8th in satisfaction among the 12 countries surveyed for the TPML activity, below the regional average of 63% (Altai Consulting): half of returnees surveyed in Cycles 1 and 3 who had benefitted from EUTF-funded reintegration assistance reported being satisfied or very satisfied with this assistance as a whole (77/154) (Figure 12). This proportion is similar when looking at the project-level, with a 53% satisfaction rate among returnees assisted by IOM (61/115). The main reason for middling satisfaction levels seems to be related to delays in receiving assistance and the low variety of reintegration options at the beginning of the projects: the dissatisfaction rate drops from 26% for those returned in 2017 to 11% in 2019 (respectively 16/61 and 3/28) but is offset by an increase in the number of people who are 'neutral' rather than satisfied. There is a marked difference between TPML results and IOM's internal monitoring data (4th Biannual Reintegration Report), which reports a 77% satisfaction rate among Gambian returnees. This may result from several factors: respondents to Altai Consulting's survey may have been more likely to indicate low levels of satisfaction for assistance as a whole than they indicate for specific components of that assistance (e.g., 71% satisfied with TVET), while there is also potential for desirability bias in the IOM survey.

Nevertheless, respondents largely report positive impacts of reintegration assistance, primarily improved economic condition (167), better self-confidence (123), increased professional skills (77). This shows that despite middling levels of satisfaction, activities do seem to be well-implemented and to be achieving their final goals. This again emphasizes the likelihood that dissatisfaction primarily stems from delays in activities being carried out and not dissatisfaction with the content or conduct of the activities themselves.

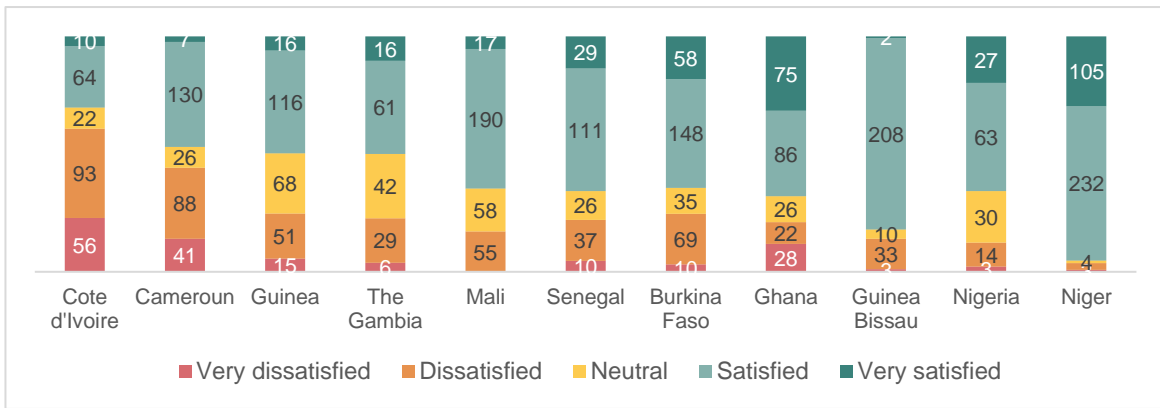


Figure 12: General satisfaction with the reintegration assistance by country

3.3.2. Economic self-sufficiency

Survey results do not indicate a strong correlation between the reception of reintegration assistance and an improved employment situation among respondents. Among beneficiaries of economic assistance, 61% were employed full- or part-time, while this figure was 68% among those who did not receive any economic assistance. This may stem from the larger unemployment crisis in The Gambia, where the unemployment rate sits at 35% overall, while it is as high as 57% among women and 42% among youth^{vi}. COVID-19 restrictions seem also to have had a significant impact on Gambian returnees' professional activities: over 80% of surveyed returnees reported such an impact (74/94) and over a third among them saw their activity stop temporarily or permanently (34/74). Finally, a greater proportion of respondents who received economic assistance were in training at the time of data collection (25%) than those who did not (15%). Still, there was less unemployment among beneficiaries of economic assistance (11% against 13% for non-beneficiaries).

While the reception of reintegration assistance played a significant role in improving beneficiaries' financial situation, most Gambian returnees reported being dissatisfied with their financial situation, which remains precarious. 82% of respondents (cycle 2 & 3) indicated that the reintegration assistance they received helped either a lot or moderately in improving their financial situation (121/147). Less than a fourth of respondents indicated being satisfied or very satisfied with their financial situation (72/297), while a third reported being 'neutral' towards that affirmation (100/297). Only a third of respondents reported being able to cover all their personal needs or more at the time of the survey (66/195), with virtually no change in that proportion among those who benefitted from economic reintegration assistance vs. those who did not (respectively 22/68, 32%, and 44/127, 35%) (Figure 13). Gambian returnees were all faced with 'standard' financial difficulties, particularly lack of professional training and employment opportunities, migratory debt, which is coherent with an IOM research part of the UK FCDO funded project (January 2021, conducted in six countries including the Gambia) which highlighted that 55% of Gambian respondents were in debt, mostly linked to the financing of their journey.

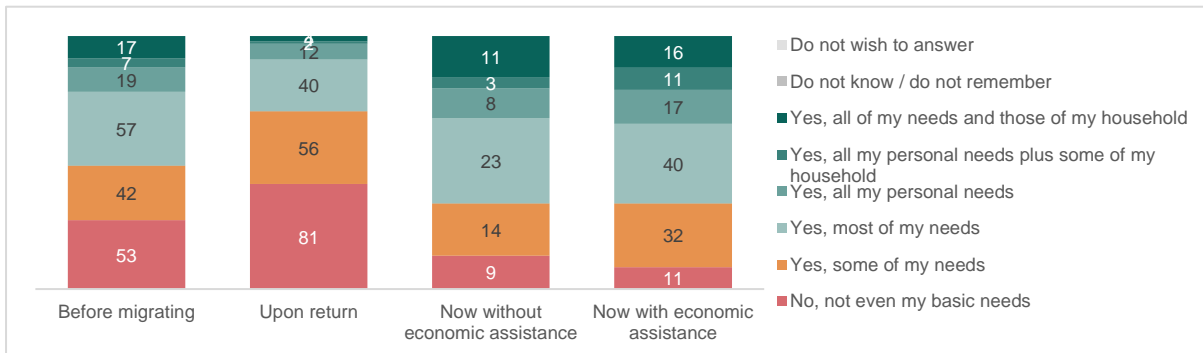


Figure 13: Ability of respondents to cover their needs

3.3.3. Social and Psychosocial well-being

Tensions between returnees, their family, and their community do not seem so far to be fully addressed by reintegration assistance. Although tensions between returnees and their families are not widespread, in line with the preliminary study conducted by Samuel Hall, they are not negligible: over a quarter (52/195) of respondents indicated having experienced tensions with their family upon their return, mostly because of stigmatization (17) and resentment (14) linked to their failed migration experience. This number decreases, but not significantly (34/195), after the reception of reintegration assistance, suggesting that these tensions are deep-rooted, potentially echoing recent IOM findings on the substantial and multi-dimensional impact – not only financial but social and psycho-social as well – of migration debt on returnees and their close associates. A similar trend can be observed with the community.

The reception of reintegration assistance as a whole seems to have a positive impact on the evolution of negative thoughts and/or feelings experienced by respondents because of their failed migration journey. Main thoughts and/or feelings mentioned by respondents included a feeling of failure (85), that they had wasted time (45), jealousy towards other who succeeded (35), or loss of social status (27). Three quarters of respondents reported that these feelings made it harder for them to reintegrate within their family and/or community (105/144 - Figure 14). Almost 80% of respondents estimated that these thoughts and/or feelings decreased as a result of the reintegration assistance they received (116/147).

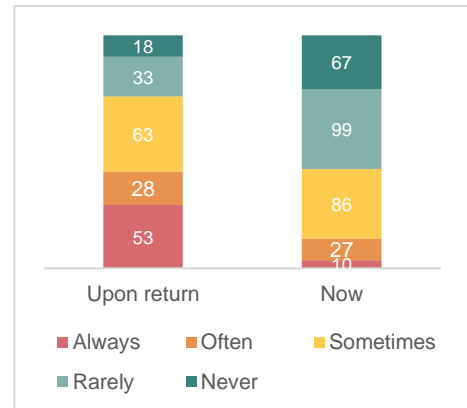


Figure 14: Frequency of negative feelings following the respondent's difficult migratory experience

3.3.4. Willingness to remigrate

Willingness to remigrate irregularly is low among all respondents, but most respondents indicate their willingness to leave The Gambia through regular channels. Nearly all (136/147) beneficiaries indicated that the reintegration assistance they received improved their ability to stay and live in The Gambia. Yet, 17% of surveyed respondents in The Gambia indicated it was likely or very likely that they would make a new attempt at irregular migration (28/195, Figure 15), which is slightly above the regional average (10%). In parallel, 88% of surveyed respondents in The Gambia indicated their willingness to migrate regularly (171/195, Figure 16). This is significantly above the regional average (53%), which can be explained by the small size of the country surrounded by Senegal to which circulation is permitted to all. The reception of reintegration assistance seems to have had a stronger influence on beneficiaries' desire to migrate irregularly (75% reported it reduced their willingness to leave again) than on their desire to migrate regularly (75% reported it had no influence on the matter). Almost all (180/195) respondents, whether having benefitted from economic assistance or not, identified financial support as their main need.

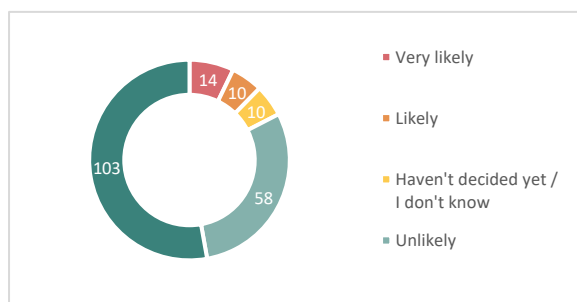


Figure 15: Likelihood of irregular migration

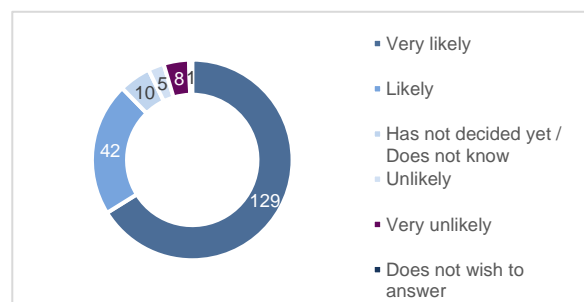


Figure 16: Likelihood of regular migration

3.4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

IOM's M&E processes and capacities greatly improved over the course of the project, notably due to the addition of new team members, which enabled not only to conduct standard monitoring exercises more regularly, but also to develop specific tools for monitoring and learning. The team now consists of three M&E staff (with the addition of an international M&E officer and a national M&E assistant), which gave IOM more leeway to conduct learning activities in addition to monitoring and evaluation, thus gathering more information for better understanding of returnees' needs to adjust the course of action if necessary. The standard data collection process following the regional guidelines is now well established: IOM The Gambia uses the regionally harmonized M&E surveys which includes an assisted voluntary return programme monitoring and satisfaction survey, a reintegration assistance programme monitoring and satisfaction survey, and a reintegration sustainability survey¹. IOM The Gambia's M&E team showed adaptivity towards these regional tools: while considered appropriate to the Gambian context, they have been complemented by other surveys related to ad-hoc activities and have been partly revised in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic².

The involvement and ownership of other stakeholders such as IPs and national authorities in IOM M&E processes is positive but remains limited. As per their contracts, reintegration implementing partners report on the number of beneficiaries supported. On an ad-hoc basis, the GoTG has expressed its willingness to join M&E exercises, leading to joint visits to assess the impact of the reintegration assistance with first-hand observation. However, over the course of the project, the GoTG's involvement in the M&E process was mostly limited to its interventions in the PSC, during which regular statistical breakdown and analyses of return and reintegration data and returnees' profile in The Gambia are presented. **Recently, IOM The Gambia strengthened its accountability to returnees and communities by posting their contact for feedback on its social media accounts.** The way these are taken into account is yet to be assessed.

For YEP and Tekki-Fii IPs, the monitoring process is a well-functioning system and is complemented by rigorous evaluations put in place to inform programming and support organisational learning. Quality assurance as well as monitoring and evaluation have been prioritized by all Tekki-Fii and YEP IPs as topics of exchange and collective learning. ITC M&E process within the YEP project is based on a well-developed log frame and activities have been mainly focused on the capturing the results compared to a 2018 baseline assessment. As part of YEP's assessment management framework, a series of assessment surveys have been conducted in 2018 and 2019 to monitor, measure and compare the project's progress and evaluate performance over time. In 2019, ITC also carried out a mid-term evaluation of YEP to assess the project's effectiveness, draw lessons learnt and offer recommendations. Similarly, the GIZ monitoring and evaluation process within their component of the Tekki-Fii project is well-oiled, and GIZ has been actively conducting evaluation activities in recent months: to optimize the SoPE proclaimed by the Gambian Government, GIZ decided to bring forward its mid-term review, which was conducted via phone interviews and online surveys. Additionally, in close cooperation with the EU's Joint Research Centre, a baseline questionnaire was designed and administered to around 1,300 youths who applied for the second cycle of the TVET programme.

¹ Surveys are intended to be conducted in a successive and periodic manner. One month after return, the Return monitoring & satisfaction survey allows to verify the reception of pocket money as well as the level of reinsertion into the community. Six months to a year after return, the Reintegration monitoring & satisfaction survey allows to verify the reception of reintegration assistance. 18 months after return, the reintegration sustainability survey allows to measure the sustainability of the reintegration. This system allows for a comparative analysis over time and across countries and target groups.

² Survey tools specific to the Gambian context were developed; they include a capacity-building outcome monitoring survey, a psychosocial support satisfaction survey, and a tool to assess support provided to ECOWAS citizen stranded in The Gambia. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of these tools were revised, notably the reintegration assistance satisfaction survey to which questions were added on COVID-19 related policies and the impact of COVID-19. Surveys were conducted by phone.

3.5. RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOOD PRACTICES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

3.5.1. Recommendations

To IOM, it is recommended to:

- **Continue efforts to inform returnees on reintegration assistance offer upon their return in The Gambia and in their community.** Specifically:
 - o Continue efforts **communicating reintegration timelines and requirements** to returnees immediately upon arrival.
 - o Help **MICs & NYC with information packaging/sharing** and make sure local CSOs are aware of the process and guide returnees.
 - o Continue **organising job fairs and other relevant activities** to make the demand and supply meet.
- **Strengthen efforts to build partnerships with organizations providing PSS, TVET or further access to finance to strengthen reintegration offer.** Specifically:
 - o Assess the **option of partnering with CSOs** which could take on an important role in job counselling and orientation (and MHPSS).
 - o **Increase information about referral opportunities** during the counselling session.
 - o **Continue training on the IMAP platform**, and consider adding new non-EUTF partners into it.
- **Continue efforts to compensate for the scarcity of mental health providers in The Gambia.** Specifically:
 - o Continue efforts to **make MHPSS staff more mobile and accessible** in the main areas/communities of return.
 - o **Organise group counselling** on a more systematic basis to help returnees share their experience and roll out peer-to-peer support in collaboration / with facilitation of MICs and local associations.
 - o Continue to **build the capacity of key community health structures to be able to deliver basic MHPSS services** to returnees in their respective communities, and to **train more returnees and community volunteers as ambassadors** who will be able to identify returnees with psychosocial distress and make immediately referrals.
- Continue efforts to **address the problems linked to grouping people in collective and community projects.** Specifically:
 - o **Conduct an assessment on the impact of community-based projects on their community**, especially how the Village Development Committees use their share of the projects' profits.
 - o **Mainstream the training on conflict resolution and entrepreneurship to all types of projects.**

To YEP and Tekki-Fii partners, it is recommended to:

- Continue efforts to **facilitate returnees' involvement in the programme.** Specifically:
 - o Use the **referrals platform on a systematic basis.**
 - o Ensure **proactive outreach through MICs and roadshows** (if pursued and possible with COVID-19).
 - o Ease the application process by **harmonising the various forms.**
- Continue efforts to **strengthen The Gambia TVET and MSMEs landscape.** Specifically:

- Continue efforts to build capacity in TVET centres to expand the number of trainees that TVET partners can receive while improving TVET quality.
- Continue supporting agencies and NGOs/CSOs supporting the development of MSMEs.
- Continue engaging in capacity building at the national level, including evaluating the level of implementation of the Youth and Trade Roadmap developed by ITC.

To the EU (for future programming), it is recommended to:

- **Consider providing in cash assistance**, possibly in several instalments to ensure proper use of the funds.
- **Envisage increasing the amount allocated to each returnee** to better align with The Gambia's economic context.

3.5.2. Good practices from other countries

IOM Mali introduced a '**contrat d'adhésion**' (enrolment contract) to explain the scope of reintegration assistance and informing potential beneficiaries that such support is not (only) a right but also comes with conditions and obligations. By signing it, returnees commit to giving accurate personal information and staying in touch with IOM. Some NGO partners of IOM Cote d'Ivoire introduced a similar '**letter of engagement**' which sets out rules and participants' commitments for collective and community-based projects. This approach helps trigger a conversation and common understanding among beneficiaries and gives them a greater sense of responsibility.

In Burkina Faso, IOM contracted two **NGOs to strengthen the field monitoring and follow-up support to returnees** throughout their reintegration process in addition to the work of IOM's case managers. These NGOs were in the position to provide extra assistance to group projects and **convey or escalate complaints to IOM** whenever necessary.

In Nigeria and Burkina Faso, IOM offered a five-day **business skills training to a large number of returnees**. In Nigeria, **trained national agencies and NGOs deployed in the main areas of return to provide the training to all returnees** at the end of which returnees receive advice on their reintegration or business plan (as of the end of 2020 fully 10,000 returnees had benefited from the training and associated counselling). In Burkina Faso, during the first phase of the JI, the training was offered to those returnees interested in an entrepreneurship project only, and **delivered by an experienced, national/public institution**.

In Guinea, IOM funded some **scholarships to enable returnees to enrol in master's degrees abroad via e-learning**. This was particularly relevant as the percentage of Guinean returnees with secondary and higher education is well above the regional average.

4. MIGRATION GOVERNANCE IN THE GAMBIA

4.1. POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

At the outset of 2020, Gambian migration policies and institutional capacity were largely under-developed and required considerable strengthening. However, the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021 represented a turning point in terms of the validation of migration-related policies, attesting to the increased national interest and ownership towards addressing the subject¹. Migration receives little attention in the National Development Plan, except for the diaspora policy (see below). This oversight is remedied through the National Migration Policy (NMP) which was created with support from IOM. Drafted in 2017-2018, the **NMP was validated in March 2019, endorsed by the Cabinet in July 2019, and published and officially launched at the end of 2020²** following delays mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to press releases, the objective of the NMP is to address all aspects of migration in a comprehensive manner, and a wide range of ministries are planned to oversee implementing the various components of the policy, under the leadership of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM), which will ensure complementarity and synergies between the actions of all relevant actors. The policy received positive feedback from actors interviewed during the final round of the TPML, notably noting that the policy would enable The Gambia to meet target 10.7 under the SDGs. However, it was also noted that many elements remain to be considered before an effective implementation of the NMP can take place: defining priorities and allocating budget lines, ensuring partners' ownership, encompassing capacity building activities, and planning the inclusion of regional and local authorities, a key measure for the sustainability of the policy. Taking these elements into account would pave the way for the government to exchange with the society more proactively on possibilities of governing migration. On February 15th, 2021, IOM The Gambia in collaboration with MoTIE facilitated a workshop which **validated Gambia's first Labour Migration Strategy**. Two days later, two subsequent documents were validated: the "Pre-departure training manual" and the "Policy guidelines for ethical recruitment". As with the national migration policy, it remains to be seen how this policy will be implemented to become the primary framework facilitating the safe recruitment of workers and link labour migration to national development.

Like many countries in the sub-region, the Gambian government is very interested in issues related to productive investment from the diaspora and countering brain drain, as illustrated by the prominence of these issues in the National Development Plan. As of 2017, remittances equivalent to almost 20 per cent of Gambian GDP, making The Gambia one of the world economies most dependent on transfers from its diaspora. Baseline studies such as the Migration Profile 2017 or the mapping of return migrants' profiles therefore recommended at the time engaging with the diaspora to foster investments in the country, supporting negotiations to create opportunities for legal migration, and enhancing anti-human trafficking efforts. Recognising this need, **international actors supported the Gambian government in a more structured and strategic management of the diaspora issue.** Through the first phase of the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia project (MQDG1 from 2017 to 2018) led by GK partners and co-funded with the Swiss Government and with in-kind support from the GoTG, a 10-year Gambian Diaspora Strategy was developed. The strategy aimed at optimising the benefits of migration for Gambian development, including through the set-up of a Gambia Diaspora Directorate, and the creation of a framework for reducing the cost of remittances. The second phase of the project (2019-2022) aims at building the capacity of stakeholders, facilitating diaspora engagement and structuring diaspora investments. MoFA also officially asked IOM to develop a fully-fledged Diaspora Strategy, building on the pamphlet developed by the above-mentioned project.

¹ Given the recentness of these events, updated stakeholder's opinion on these policies could not be collected.

² The official launch of the policy took place on December 23rd, 2020.

These strategies¹ allow a certain balance between domestic (remittances from migration) and international (reducing irregular migration) interests, therefore paving the way for improvements in the field of migration governance in The Gambia. Support for the development of these migration-related policies has been mainly outside of the EUTF funding, despite the involvement of some of the same implementing partners.

The Gambian government's commitment to the effective implementation of migration-related actions is demonstrated by the establishment of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) led by the Office of the Vice President (OVP). Launched in 2019, this initiative is a government-led inter-agency platform for all migration actors, chaired by the OVP and supported by IOM with the UN-PBF project. The NCM's work is aimed at addressing migration issues in a timely manner, mainstreaming of migration into national development plans, and ensuring policy coherence, including by playing an important role in the implementation of the new migration policy. The placement of this platform under the aegis of the OVP was considered relevant by interviewed actors, even if migration issues are still mainly managed by the MoI and the MoFA. Its position at the highest political level suggests a possible overcoming of the problems linked to the lack of communication between actors while considering the transversal nature of migration issues. While some stakeholders were concerned about the apparent inactivity of the mechanism during the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been reassured by recent activities: on 17 February 2021, stakeholders convened for a high-level meeting of the NCM to review its progress and develop a 2021 workplan. Additionally, the eight Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) have been established² and started to meet. However, many parameters still need to be considered to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of this mechanism. Stakeholders interviewed, including the EUD, note that it remains to be seen how this platform will perform in a context of public sector weakness after years of dictatorship, significant brain drain, lack of structural capacity, and constant turnover in ministries. Furthermore, the ways in which the mechanism's influences the migration related policy making, remains to be witnessed.

4.2. RETURN AND REINTEGRATION GOVERNANCE IN THE GAMBIA

The SOPs for AVRR adopted in October 2018 have clarified the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the process of assisting the return and arrival of migrants. At the start of the joint initiative in The Gambia, the programme's preliminary study identified the need for a clear definition of the distinct roles that Gambian stakeholders can play under EUTF, to best draw on locally owned knowledge and practice. The partners approved the SOP for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration in October 2018, which encompassed roles and responsibilities of involved actors and focused on the key pillars of the integrated approach to reintegration.³ IOM and government partners interviewed indicated that a quicker adaptation and validation of these SOPs in The Gambia would have allowed for a quicker resolution of some overlaps between institutional partners, and thus helped gain some time in terms of implementation, especially in view of the scale of returns to be organised and absorbed at the beginning of the project.

The governance structure set up by the JI has proved useful to systematise the cooperation between IOM and the government as well as other relevant actors. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Technical Working Group (TWG) are the two main coordination mechanisms of the Joint Initiative, with relevant ministries, department agencies and NGOs to provide strategic and technical

¹ Namely the National Migration Policy, the Labour Migration Strategy, and the Gambian Diaspora Strategy.

² Border management, Communication and Advocacy, Cross-cutting issues; Internal Migration, Labor Migration, Migration and Development, Policy, data, and legislation; Return and reintegration.

³ Protection and assistance to vulnerable and stranded migrants, Facilitation of voluntary returns, Achievement of sustainable reintegration, Enhancement of government and stakeholder coordination responses, access to accurate information, improvement of data collection.

guidance for the implementation of the project. This regionally harmonised structure has proved its adaptability, as the TWG initially intended as a preliminary discussion platform for the PSC has been divided into Sub-Working Groups on different themes.¹ These structures are operational, IOM stakeholders considered them to be fulfilling their mandate to ensure communication and government participation in the project. However, some note a rather passive attitude on the part of the government, which can sometimes be difficult to mobilise, but whose participation in meetings is always active and appreciated. Restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic slowed the momentum which had been created until early 2020, when the quarterly frequency of these committees was almost assured. A virtual PSC was held in October 2020, which came with its own challenges in terms.

The creation of a Thematic Working Group on Return and Reintegration under the NCM allows all actors involved in return and reintegration activities to coordinate and collaborate, beyond the JI. The group was launched in July 2020, and two meetings have occurred at the time of writing and received positive feedback from participants. This initiative is commendable and addresses concerns about the difficulty of creating government ownership when coordination structures remain under the umbrella of international implementing partners.

Better coordination with various state agencies would have helped to ensure the sustainability of reintegration activities. As mentioned in previous sections, IOM The Gambia has only outsourced some aspects of reintegration assistance: counselling and referral of beneficiaries, psycho-social support, procurement and provision of kits, monitoring, etc. Despite several partnerships with national vocational training centres and medical facilities, the process has remained mostly in-house. It should be noted that national capacities remain limited in certain areas, such as psycho-social support for example, making it difficult to identify partners for referrals.

EUD and IOM representatives agreed that while a satisfactory level of ownership by state bodies may be possible, and that they are encouraged by capacity building exercises and collaboration, the prospects for sustainability in the absence of additional funds remains meagre. The first round of TPML analysis in The Gambia found that given the country's history, government actors lacked technical competencies and financial means and that significant technical support and financing to reinforce national actors' capacity regarding reintegration was a necessary step towards the government's full leadership and inclusion in the oversight and coordination process. Several capacity building exercises were held during the JI, especially in the first two years, and these activities were welcomed by participating state agents. The sustainability of this capacity building is nevertheless jeopardised by the high rate of turnover in the government, which has been mitigated by encouraging GoTG officials to organize knowledge sharing sessions upon returning from training sessions, and to keep records of workshops. Capacity development has also taken place informally through joint participation in consultations, meetings, and workshops, but also in collaboration with some member states with representations in The Gambia. However, these activities have remained relatively sporadic, which can be partly explained by the massive influx of returnees to The Gambia that has mobilized IOM since the beginning of the Joint Initiative, the relatively low budget line allocated to capacity building, and the COVID-19 pandemic which hampered in-person workshops and trainings. All the actors interviewed agree that there is still a great need for technical, human, and financial reinforcement of governmental stakeholders in the field of migration and especially return and reintegration.

¹ Community Based Projects, Reintegration, MHPSS, Reception, Awareness Raising.

4.3. RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOOD PRACTICES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

4.3.1. Recommendations

To IOM, it is recommended to:

- **Support the effective implementation of the NMP.** Specifically:
 - o Support the **development of an action plan and a specific budget.**
- Continue engaging and supporting the NCM. Specifically:
 - o Consider **intensifying capacity-building activities for the ministries involved** and/or members of the Thematic Working Groups.
- **Continue efforts to include Ministries, Departments, and Agencies in the provision of reintegration assistance.** Specifically:
 - o Actively **include them in the implementation phase of the project**, to facilitate the transition to an increased role of federal and state agencies.
 - o Continue efforts to **provide systematic and sustained capacity building to civil servants** (*ad hoc* short-term trainings having limited results due to current capacity gaps and high levels of turn-over).
 - o Explore the opportunity **to support the Management Development Institute to implement a public administration curriculum** to develop a larger and better-equipped pool of civil servants on the matter.

To the EU, it is recommended to:

- Ensure that **future migration-related programmes are designed to support the implementation of specific aspects of NMP**, to ensure they are aligned with national priorities and avoid duplication of efforts between programmes / donors.
- **Better align EU programming with the priorities of the Gambian government**, notably on migration for development, which currently receives very little funding from the EU (this can be done through, for example, encouraging diaspora entrepreneurship, funding pilot labour and student mobility schemes towards Europe while remaining aware of risks related to brain drain, and supporting the lowering of remittances cost).

4.3.2. Good practices from other countries

In Guinea-Bissau, the General Directorate for Migrations and Borders **designated a focal point to work closely with IOM** on return assistance and reintegration counselling and ensure continuity and learning by doing despite the country's institutional instability.

In Cameroon, **IOM involved national authorities in the delivery of reintegration assistance** more actively than in most if not all other Joint Initiative countries. For example, the Ministry of Youth dedicated 15 of its officers to returnees' reintegration counselling while four officers of the Ministry of Social Affairs directly provide social and psychosocial support. TVET is delivered through decentralized State structures. Four technical working groups were created on assistance upon arrival, reintegration, awareness-raising and data collection, whose membership included all relevant ministries. This approach supports government ownership and reduces its dependency on external funding and capacity.

In Nigeria, **IOM delegated part of the reintegration process and of the case management responsibilities to government and NGO partners.** Job counselling, business skills training and a first psycho-social assistance group session are implemented by NGO and government entities trained and supervised by IOM and deployed in the main areas of return. 'Case management expert teams'

trained by IOM and comprised of government and NGO staff advise returnees on their reintegration/business plans. Five NGOs were tasked with ensuring the reintegration (i.e., the delivery of IGA equipment) of 300 returnees each. Lastly, IOM trained 'Monitoring and Evaluation expert teams' comprised of government and NGO staff who will, along IOM M&E staff, implement the reintegration monitoring and sustainability surveys.

In Ghana, the government (with non-EUTF funding) is in the process of setting up a **Return and Reintegration desk at the Migration Management Bureau** and a **Migrant Information Centre for Returnees at Kotoka International Airport**, to strengthen the quality of reintegration services offered via a mapping of relevant actors (incl. IOM, GIZ, AG Care, etc.) and referral mechanisms towards and between them. The intention is for the government to take ownership of the entire process, and IOM to support and provide assistance to the migrants/returnees within its mandate.

5. AWARENESS RAISING

5.1. OBJECTIVES AND APPROACHES

This section addresses the migration-related awareness-raising (AR) activities implemented by IOM The Gambia (under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative) and under the Tekki-Fii programme, implemented by ITC, GIZ, IMVF and ENABEL. While IOM's activities are directly aimed at informing on the risks associated with irregular migration and its alternatives, Tekki-Fii's AR campaign is mainly a way for IPs to communicate about their activities and reach out to potential beneficiaries of their TVET and business support programmes. Both initiatives used a mix of 'direct' (in person) and 'indirect' (mass media) communication.

Table 2 below gives an overview of the activities that IPs carried out in The Gambia.

	IOM	Tekki-Fii (ITC, GIZ, IMVF)
Location	The Gambia	
Target groups	Potential migrants, returnees Families and community leaders	Youth
Objectives	Inform on the risks related and alternatives to irregular migration	Inform on professional opportunities available in the country and alternatives to irregular migration
Activities (main)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community dialogues, theatre, concerts, film screenings, sport events, school outreach - TV, Radio, social media - Establishment/refurbishment of Migration Information Centres (MICs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roadshow, intergenerational dialogues, skills & sports fairs, concerts - Print media, radio, TV, internet, social media
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnership with local organizations (GRB, Activista, GAWFA, etc.) to increase outreach - AR activities carried out from the Migration Information Centres (MICs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ITC supervises the overall Tekki-Fii media campaign - All partners engage their implementing partners in the campaigns - IMVF conducts sports events by United Purpose to foster social cohesion

Table 2: AR activities funded by EUTF in The Gambia

A sample of 205 respondents were interviewed as part of the two surveys conducted by Altai Consulting in March (cycle 2: 105 respondents) and December 2020 (cycle 3: 100 respondents) in The Gambia. Further details on survey methodology are provided in Annex 0. This included 205 individuals exposed to face-to-face awareness-raising activities (168) and/or mass communication (187) related to migration. Respondents were in the Banjul (73), West Coast (62), North Bank (33), Lower River (2), Central River (5) and Upper River (30) regions. Respondents were selected based on lists of locations and focal points provided by IOM and Tekki-Fii partners, though no lists of specific participants were provided. Assessment of results regarding shifts in attitude have been made on a declarative basis, in the absence of an objective baseline available on respondents' attitudes and knowledge on migration-related issues prior to the activities in which they participated.

5.2. DESIGN AND TARGETING

Given the Gambian context, previous studies that could inform sensitization programming did not exist at the outset of EUTF programming, and the design of the JI awareness-raising activities were therefore based on a participatory approach. The development of the awareness raising component of the Joint Initiative should be placed in context: very few campaigns had been implemented in the country, and IOM The Gambia had no staff associated with this activity until late 2017. Everything thus had to be built from the ground up, and in particular, few baseline studies were available to inform implementation¹. As a result, IOM The Gambia adopted a participatory, innovative, and evolutive approach to its outreach activities, with the joint objective of ensuring the relevance to the context, but also to build the evidence base for future programming.

Throughout the programming of the awareness-raising component of the joint initiative, IOM The Gambia has demonstrated its capacity to learn, adapt and innovate, enhancing the relevance of the actions undertaken on many levels.

- **The geographic targeting of regions and specific villages was conducted according to their migration-prone context:** The selected CSOs focus on migration-sensitive regions (WCR, GBA, NBR, LRR and URR). In addition, for the three MICs in LRR, URR and WCR, 10 communities and seven schools were identified as the most sensitive to migration, and this is where the outreach activities took place, further broadening the reach of the project. Finally, the set-up of a MIC in NBR after the December 2019 shipwreck shows IOM Gambia's ability to adapt to changing migration patterns.
- **IOM's targeting has evolved over the course of the project to include secondary targets influencing migration decisions, but also to refine the targeting of potential migrants.** Thus, while 2018 focused mostly on potential migrants, in 2019 this target was expanded to include women in communities to take into account their important influence in the migration decision, and journalists to inform discourse on migration. In 2020, IOM also focused some of its effort on designing school outreach campaigns, in order to address this issue as early as possible, since migratory intentions may be formed before adulthood. Through the implementation of community outreach activities, IOM The Gambia also indirectly targets traditional and religious leaders to sensitize them to ways to advise on safe and regular migration. This is important since district chiefs represent a vital link to transform societal discourse on migration, complementing efforts to reach journalists. The main target group, however, remained potential migrants, as evidenced in the surveys where more than 80% of respondents were young people (168/205), and three quarters were men (154/205).

The design of Tekki-Fii's communication activities did not require any prior studies, as the activities were meant to be more informative in nature. Tekki-Fii partners conducted studies prior to the project launching, but rather to develop their job creation/youth insertion results as opposed to the awareness-raising activities. This study may however have contributed to the targeting/framing of the message. The compelling strength of the "Make it here in The Gambia" Tekki-Fii campaigns lies in the concreteness of the message, as it is linked to the opportunities offered by the various projects.

The collaboration between IOM The Gambia and Tekki-Fii campaigns allows for complementary messages about the risks of irregular migration and its alternatives. "*Tekki-Fii*" means "make it here" in Wolof and aims at promoting opportunities in The Gambia as opposed to taking the "back-way". IOM The Gambia provides concrete information on the opportunities offered by Tekki-Fii actors, particularly by the MICs, and IOM's involvement in Tekki-Fii campaigns has complemented their message as well. It should be noted that as of March 2020, most of the messages in these awareness-

¹ Lessons from the regional and other country offices on Communication for Development (C4D), IOM socio-economic profiling of communities of return, 'Back Way' to Europe: How can The Gambia better address migration and its development challenges? By ActionAid 2018.

raising campaigns have been refocused on prevention messages regarding COVID-19 following endorsement by the EU Delegation in-line with the national COVID19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement action plan. However, the IOM messaging still had a migration focus related to the stigmatisation of migrants or the prevention of the illness in border communities.

The means of communication were also chosen according to the field knowledge of the actors: all stressed the importance of face-to-face communication in the Gambian context, but also the importance of using relevant mass media to support the messages conveyed. In a country where irregular migration is deeply embedded in the culture, actors stress the importance of multiplying, repeating, and reinforcing messages in various ways. IPs chose to focus on radio and social networks, a choice that is corroborated by the results of the Altai Consulting surveys (Figure 17).

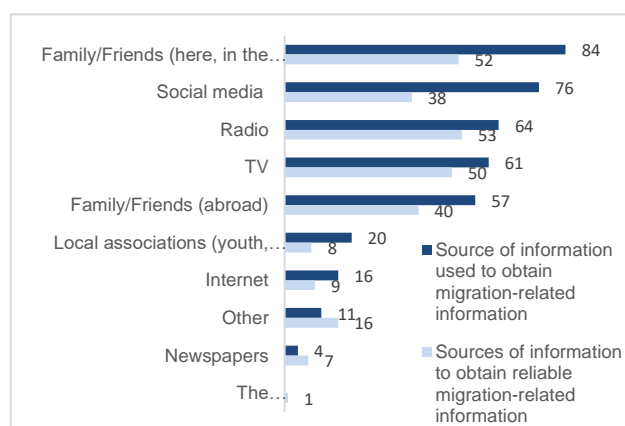


Figure 17: Preferred sources of information

The inclusion of local and community actors was tailored to the Gambian context. The existence of associations of returnees such as the Gambia Returnees for Backway Association (GRB) has been leveraged as IOM The Gambia and other country offices reported that audiences in particular trust the activities organized by returnees rather than campaigns that are branded by international actors only. The appropriateness of this approach will be further explored through IOM The Gambia's new Dutch-funded sensitisation project, "Migrants as Messengers" (MaM). Conveyed directly by returnees, migration-related messages have less chance to be perceived as motivated by a European political agenda. In contrast, the initially planned use of traditional communicators/community mobilizers as in Niger has been deemed not applicable to the Gambian context. The Tekki-Fii project adopts a similar peer-to-peer approach by highlighting the success stories of some of its beneficiaries and inviting them into the awareness-raising activities. At the local level, MICs collaborate with regional governors, village development committees, youth groups and schools by involving them in the design of activities and training them on the messages.

5.3. IMPLEMENTATION

During the project, IOM The Gambia diversified its activities and means of communication, allowing for a better dissemination of migration-related messages and a more local grounding. IOM The Gambia's outreach component through the joint initiative can be broken down into four complementary components:

- Contracting of CSOs and NGOs to carry out awareness raising campaigns on the risks of and alternatives to irregular migration in GBA, WCR, CRR and NBR, the areas with the highest concentration of returnees and departures. Activities include caravans, sports events, attaya sessions, inter-generational dialogues, etc.;
- Refurbishment of Migrant Information Centres (MIC) in URR and LRR and the provision of office furniture and equipment to all MICs in URR NBR, LRR, and WCR, as well as training of staff and outreach activities in schools and communities;
- Engagement of students from secondary and higher education: stage plays on irregular migration, training of journalists, and debate associations at the university;
- Weekly radio shows on widely-listened-to national radio stations.

The involvement of grassroots organisations in the design and implementation phase both legitimised the messages conveyed by IOM The Gambia and ensured a good level of appropriation by these actors. The use of CSOs, associations of returning migrants, regional structures, or local development committees, which are all deeply rooted in their communities, allows for a better reception of messages. Working alongside the NYC, which has a deeply rooted network at the local level, helps in informing and mobilising people prior to the activity, ensuring high levels of participation in events, according to local stakeholders interviewed.

IOM's efforts in the refurbishment of Migrant Information Centres (MICs), as well as ITC's efforts related to the refurbishment of youth centres, enabled the establishment of follow-up mechanisms enabling participants and non-participants to always access information on irregular migration and its alternatives. While some actors were concerned about the limited space of some MICs, the recent refurbishment works enable at least two of the centres to truly become multi-purpose structures to hold events for groups of people, such as sporting events or additional psycho-social support for returnees. The leadership of these structures expressed their satisfaction with the renovation actions, but emphasised their continuing need for material support, particularly vehicles and computers.

The Tekki-Fii campaign is based on in-person information sessions and on the wide use of mass communication mediums, which enabled it to gain high visibility and good reception. In 2019, all four actors engaged in a nation-wide roadshow to promote the Make it in The Gambia concept. The show featured live technical demonstrations of solar energy and earth building technology, football matches, public forums on skills training and agri-business, behaviour change communication on the perils of irregular migration, and live concerts. A similar campaign was planned for 2020 but was replaced by awareness raising activities on COVID-19. While the impact of this campaign was different from what was expected, the logo of the actors and the project supported the promotion of the overall message of "Make it in The Gambia". Moreover, such a campaign seems to have helped the overall perception of Tekki-Fii and the EU in The Gambia. The complementary use of various communication channels to target diverse population groups of various background and ages (TV, radio, social media, billboards, etc.) reinforces key messages through strong messaging and visuals.

The combination of the Tekki-Fii and IOM campaigns allows the effective combination of messages about the risks of irregular migration, but also about concrete employment alternatives in the country. The TPML surveys show that in The Gambia, due to the presence of Tekki-Fii, the number of people exposed to both messages simultaneously is higher.

The involvement of the Gambian government at the centralised level needs to be reassessed considering recent progress in the establishment of the NMP and NCM. The participation of the Government of The Gambia in the SWG on awareness raising of the JI was assessed as satisfactory: prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the group used to meet monthly and was efficient in getting feedback on current activities and input for future ones. Government actors not directly concerned could be included on an ad-hoc basis to ensure their ownership of certain topics, for example MoBSE was involved in the gamification project for schools. Furthermore, the actors involved in the Tekki-Fii campaign indicated their satisfaction with their collaboration with NYC and the government authorities. Stakeholders underline that it remains to be seen, however, how the NCM TWG on communication and advocacy will allow for national coordination of advocacy efforts on migration-related issues. Notably, a national strategy like those produced in the subregion by EUTF-funded actors (e.g., AECID in Mali) or governments themselves (e.g., in Cote d'Ivoire) could help initiate other players to take ownership of campaign tools and messages while harmonising awareness-raising efforts in the country, thus creating a national coherence and more significant impact.

5.4. PARTICIPATION, SATISFACTION, AND FEEDBACK

IPs have indicated that numerous incentives are in place to motivate people to attend awareness-raising sessions (prior communication, food and drinks, and distribution of T-shirts). However, **response to the TPML surveys do not reflect such intense use of incentives:** while out of the 187 participants interviewed¹, 80% (150) recalled prior communication, less than half (74) remembered having had food and drinks. More than half of the food and drink recipients indicated that this had an impact on their participation (48/74), suggesting that its provision could benefit from being generalised.

IOM's implementing partners all reported positive reception and good engagement of the population in the awareness-raising activities. The various civil society organizations and representatives of the MICs interviewed indicated that the population engaged well in the activities and that both participants and community leaders expressed their satisfaction and appreciation for the initiative: most would like to see it repeated and extended to other communities. Regarding the radio broadcasts, IPs indicated there was a satisfactory audience with numerous phone calls. **The TPML survey corroborates this assessment.** Virtually all participants surveyed (184/187) reported being either satisfied or very satisfied with their participation in the awareness-raising activity. Nearly all would also likely or very likely participate in such activities again (183/187).

The level of participation in the Tekki-Fii campaign is revealed by their engagement data on social networks. As of June 2020, the YEP Twitter account had reached 262,000 people and YEP Facebook page 227,400, while an estimated 152,215 Gambian citizens reached by the Tekki-Fii campaign, indicating clear progress for the digital campaign in terms of outreach.

5.5. RESULTS AND IMPACT

Making awareness-raising programmes' design and implementation relevant to the Gambian context resulted in a very high level of assimilation of the message. Regardless of the communication medium, activity type, or topic, almost all respondents found the messages conveyed by IPs easily understandable (186/187) and convincing (187/187), indicating that the messages' wording and language are indeed appropriate to each community context. This level of comprehension is directly reflected in that the same number of people (185/187) indicated having learned something through the activity or the communication. Less than two-thirds (111/187) of participants said they were already somewhat familiar with the topic, corroborating the contradictory feedback collected by Altai Consulting regarding participants' prior knowledge. It is worth noting that the learning rate is slightly lower for communication through mass media (90%).

The results in terms of attitude change are, however, more mixed. Survey responses indicated that only 40% of attendees reported an increased awareness of irregular migration dangers (59/149), with 55% reporting no change in their assessment of risk (82/149), which may be explained by extremely high initial risk perception². Results are similar regarding job opportunities in the country: while a quarter (39/162) of attendees exposed to activities related to employment opportunities already felt options were available in The Gambia, this number rose to 42% (68/162) after participating in the activity. As Tekki-Fii's primary channel of communication is mass media, these figures are higher for respondents exposed to such channels (47% to 65%). However, this figure is still low given the efforts made in The Gambia to inform the population about job opportunities. This can be explained by various factors: the still-marked unemployment crisis in The Gambia, as well as criticism from those who were rejected from the YEP or Tekki-Fii programmes.

¹ While 162 individuals have been interviewed on their participation to in-person activities, some have participated to more than one activity.

² 119/149 deemed them very high or high before participating in the activity.

Only 35 participants indicated that they had been exposed to messages about legal migration opportunities, of which only 17% had a positive change of attitude toward the possibilities of legal migration. While free movement within the ECOWAS space is well known to Gambians due to their proximity to Senegal, these data seem to point to a gap of knowledge on other safe migration options for Gambians. Some of the campaign's implementing partners indicated their difficulties in mobilising embassies and consulates to come and provide more credible information on the application process for visas. Furthermore, just as the provision of concrete job opportunities reinforces the credibility of the associated message, technical support in visa application processes would alleviate mistrust toward visa availability.

The snowball effect of these activities and communications is nevertheless visible in the rates of information sharing and, to a lesser extent, the search for additional information. Information sharing is exceptionally high on the topics of legal migration avenues (35/35) and employment opportunities (116/122), and still significant on migration-related risks (134/149) (Figure 18). Recipients of this information are mostly the first and second circles of the respondent's network, including friends and family, neighbours, and community members (Figure 19). A similar but less-pronounced trend can be observed regarding the search for additional information: two-thirds of respondents indicated having sought complementary information on job opportunities, avenues for legal migration, and migration-related risks (respectively 21/35, 79/122, and 95/149). Few respondents sought further information from official sources: 41 went to national authorities, 70 to a MIC, and 17 to an employment centre (Figure 19). It should be noted that these rates are lower for media communications than those reported above for face-to-face activities: 85% versus 93% for sharing information learned, and 51% versus 63% for seeking further information.

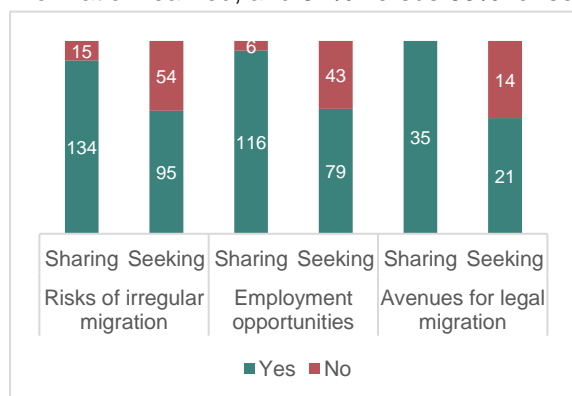


Figure 18: Dissemination of information following the activity/communication

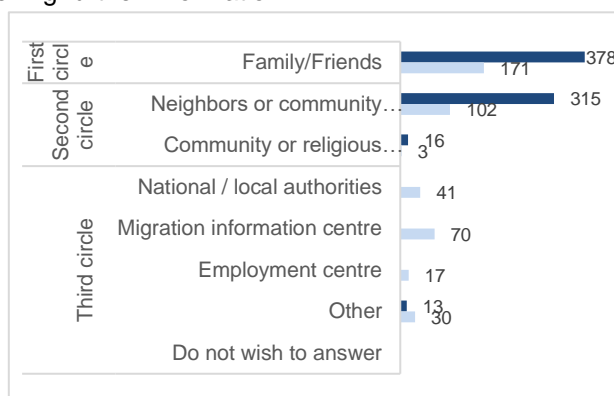


Figure 19: Recipients of information sharing and seeking

Effects on migration intentions are low but noticeable. Two-thirds of respondents took concrete measures related to migration due to the campaign. These include deterring acquaintances from using a smuggler, looking for a job, contacting acquaintances abroad regarding the possibility of returning, and applying for a passport/visa. Willingness to migrate irregularly decreased (Figure 20), while the desire to migrate regularly remained the same, indicating that respondents may be more prone to finding opportunities in The Gambia rather than abroad as a replacement for irregular travel, highlighting a potential joint impact of the IOM and Tekki-Fii campaigns.

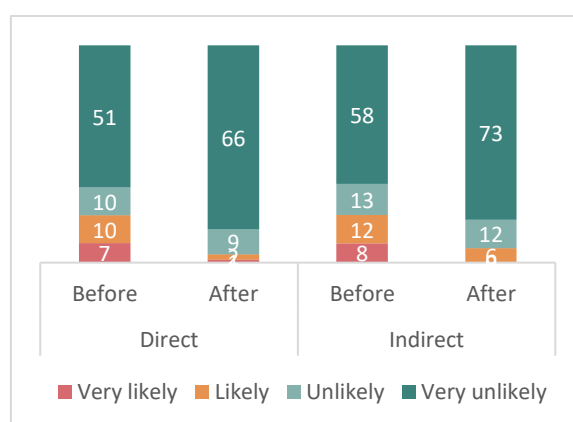


Figure 20: Likelihood that respondents will migrate irregularly

5.6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

IOM has a formal process in place for monitoring activities. As confirmed by the IOM team, IOM in The Gambia has specific monitoring tools in place for awareness-raising campaigns, including focus group discussions with beneficiaries one week after the activity, key informant interview with community influencers and leaders that are conducted one month after activities, and beneficiary surveys. This allows IOM to see if the sensitisation message was remembered and shared with community members, and therefore if the message reached its objective.

The monitoring of Tekki-Fii awareness-raising activities is conducted in a similar way to return and reintegration activities. All activities related to awareness-raising are monitored as per the project's log frame, and this component was also included in the various evaluations conducted on the projects.

5.7. SUSTAINABILITY¹

The campaigns' sustainability can be achieved through two complementary levels: partners continuing to carry out activities and beneficiaries themselves continuing to spread the message.

While the implementation of awareness-raising campaigns through NYC-operated MICs represents the best option in terms of sustainability, and despite a strong commitment, most actors remain unable to continue awareness-raising activities without additional funds. If the national ownership of migration issues is strengthened by the fact that the MICs are completely operated by NYC, the question of sustainability arises, particularly regarding staff salaries. While NYC seems to have agreed to maintain a budget line in 2021, and to be committed to addressing the issues of irregular migration and unemployment, the continuation of these centres, particularly after the 2021 elections, could be jeopardised. Furthermore, while some Gambian CSOs may organise activities under their own funding (e.g., YAIM), IOM staff indicated that most of the time they are completely dependent on external funding.

By investing in the training of journalists, community influencers, and leading students, IOM has ensured the continued sharing of its messages in the target communities by transforming recipients into actors of change. There was some training of trainers, as well as of journalists and journalism students. In addition, some implementing partners noted that certain community leaders had taken the initiative to organise sessions on their own and were subsequently supported in doing so.

The legacy of the Joint Initiative's outreach component also lies in its lessons learned, which are already paving the way in informing future IOM programming. IOM interlocutors indicated that the most important lesson learned was the that of evidence-based programming. Thus, good practices from the Joint Initiative's sensitisation activities, such as the targeting of secondary targets, the importance of participatory communication (discussing rather than presenting), the use of interactive methodologies (such as games), and peer-to-peer approaches (especially with returnees), will be used in future projects. Particularly, IOM's new awareness-raising project, Migrants as Messengers, builds on some of these practices and will use a stronger evidence base.

¹ Given that Tekki-Fii campaigns mostly aim to get people to register to the programme, the concept of sustainability beyond the programmes does not really make sense, except in terms of publicity for the various training centre programmes and MSMEs support programme, and better reputation of certain business lines, notably agriculture.

5.8. RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOOD PRACTICES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

5.8.1. Recommendations

To IOM, it is recommended to:

- Further **increase the evidence base for awareness-raising activities**, especially by conducting surveys and formative research to fill remaining knowledge gaps and refine the design and implementation approaches of AR activities
- Continue to **include information on avenues for legal migration opportunities** in activities.
- Continue **using a mix of in-person community events and mass media campaigns** in order to achieve both broad reach as well as deeper community-reinforced impact.
- Pursue efforts to **engage traditional and religious leaders as well as returnees' associations** and **explore opportunities to engage the diaspora** in awareness raising programmes.
- Continue **strengthening MICs and ensuring their operational status**, including by further providing mobility and hardware equipment to enhance their ability to act as interlocutors in the future.
- Continue **linking up young people and potential migrants with job opportunities** offered by EUTF-funded actors but also beyond those (e.g., other national actors and development programmes).
- Consider **strengthening M&E systems for future AR activities**, including through an **impact evaluation across campaigns**.

5.8.2. Good practices from other countries

In Senegal and Guinea, the EUD funded a **television and web series on youth and migration**. Branded as 'Tekki-Fii' in Senegal (common branding for all EUTF IP awareness raising activities in the country), it was aired both on the number 1 national TV channel and social media.

In Nigeria, IOM created a **coordination group** which allowed to improve coordination and the quality of awareness-raising messaging and drafted a **national migration awareness-raising strategy** for the country. The group meets on a quarterly basis to inform each other on respective on-going and planned activities in at least three states, which allows to avoid overlaps. Members received trainings on communications for development, social media, and M&E for awareness-raising, which reportedly improved the overall quality of messaging. However, its membership is focused on IOM's core partners and does not include some other relevant players. **In Mali, AECID commissioned the elaboration of a national information, communication and awareness-raising strategy** that will constitute a good basis for implementation by the ministry of Malians living abroad (MMEIA). The MMEIA was closely associated in the elaboration and validation process, ensuring a satisfying level of ownership.

IOM Cote d'Ivoire developed **training materials, implementation guides and other resources to facilitate the roll-out of awareness-raising activities and ensure/harmonise their quality**, which was particularly relevant as areas of departure (and therefore awareness-raising intervention areas) are geographically spread throughout the country. These resources were also **distributed to field partners, women and youth associations targeted by these activities, and the regional committees against irregular migration** created by the General Directorate for Ivorian's citizens Abroad, to order to promote the ownership and continuation of field activities independently from IOM funding.

1.ANNEXES

1.1. ACRONYM TABLE

AR	Awareness raising
CRR	Central River Region
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
ENABEL	Belgian development agency
EUD	European Union Delegation
EUTF	European Union Trust Fund
GID	Gambia Immigration Department
GIZ	German Agency for International Development Cooperation
GRB	Gambia Returnees from the Backway association
GRCS	Gambian Red Cross Society
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IMVF	Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr
IP	Implementing partner
ITC	International Trade Centre
JI	Joint-Initiative
LGA	Local Government Area
LRR	Lower River Region
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MHPSS	Mental Health & Psychosocial Support
MIC	Migration Information Centre
MOEFA	Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoH	Ministry of Health
MOHERST	Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology

MOTIE	Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration & Employment
MOYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
NAOSU	National Authorising Officer Support Unit
NCM	National Coordination Mechanism on Migration
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NMP	National Migration Policy
NSGA	Nova Scotia Gambia Association
NYC	National Youth Council
PARA	Post-arrival And Reintegration Assistance
PBF	United Nations Peacebuilding Fund
P2P	Peer-to-peer
PSC	Project Steering Committee
OVP	Office of the Vice-President
R&R	Return and Reintegration
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SWG	Sub-Working Group
ToC	Theory of Change
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Thematic Working Group
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
URR	Upper River Region
WHO	World Health Organization
YEP	Youth Empowerment Project
YTR	Youth and Trade Roadmap

1.2. LIST OF KEY INFORMANTS' INTERVIEWS

Type of organisation	Organisation	Position	Date
EUTF	EUD	Head of Cooperation of the EU	September 10th 2019
EUTF	EUD	Programme manager	September 30th 2019 March 10th 2020 December 11th 2020
IP	IOM	Coordinator	September 12th 2019 March 9th 2020 December 11th 2020
IP	IOM	M&E officer	March 9th 2020 December 11th 2020
IP	IOM	M&E assistant	October 2nd 2019 December 10th 2020
IP	IOM	Awareness raising assistant	March 6th 2020 December 9th 2020
IP	IOM	Communication Officer	December 9th 2020
IP	IOM	Reintegration Assistant	October 2nd 2019
IP	IOM	Reintegration Officer	March 6th 2020 December 10th 2020
IP	IOM	Partnership assistant	December 10th 2020
IP	IOM	Head of IOM sub-office	December 10th 2020
IP	IOM	MHPSS Officer	April 6th 2020 December 14th 2020
IP	ITC	Project Coordinator	September 11th 2019 March 9th 2020 December 18th 2020
IP	ITC	Technical Adviser and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	March 9th 2020
IP	ITC	Media and Communications Officer	March 9th 2020
IP	GIZ	Team Leader	September 11th 2019 March 5th 2020
IP	GIZ	Head of Business Development Component	March 5th 2020
IP	GIZ	Head of TVET Component	December 10th 2020
IP	ENABEL	Project Coordinator	September 11th 2019 March 12th 2020 December 10th 2020
IP	IMVF	Project Coordinator	September 11th 2019 March 12th 2020 December 22nd 2020
IP	Spanish Red Cross	Community Development Delegate	December 14th 2020
IP	Spanish Red Cross	Monitoring and Evaluation Regional Delegate	December 14th 2020
IP	Save the Children	Project Coordinator	December 14th 2020
IP	Save the Children	Project Officer	December 14th 2020

National Authority	Mol	Principal Assistant Secretary and Focal person for migration	March 11th 2020
National Authority	Office of the Vice President	Deputy permanent secretary	March 11th 2020
National Authority	NYC	Executive director	March 4th 2020
National Authority	Department of Community Development	Senior Community Devt. Officer - Research, Planning and Monitoring	December 15th 2020
Partner national organisation	University of the Gambia Journalism Association	President	March 11th 2020
Partner national organisation	University of the Gambia Debate Association	President	March 15th 2020
Partner national organisation	Social Development Fund	Head of operations	March 19th 2020
Partner national organisation	NYSS	Executive Director	December 16th 2020
Partner national organisation	GIEPA	Enterprise Support Manager	December 16th 2020
Partner national organisation	MIC WCR	Head	December 15th 2020
Partner national organisation	MIC LRR	Head	December 15th 2020
Partner national organisation	MIC URR	Head	December 16th 2020
Partner NGO	COOPI	Project Manager	March 23rd 2020 December 10th 2020
Partner NGO	Nova Scotia	Senior Project Manager	March 6th 2020
Partner NGO	GAWFA	Executive director	March 12th 2020
Partner NGO	GAWFA	Operation manager	March 12th 2020
Partner NGO	Gambia Returnees from Backway	Coordinator	March 12th 2020
Partner NGO	Activista	National Coordinator	March 13th 2020
Partner private sector	EMPASS	General Manager	December 15th 2020
Partner private sector	GTMI	Director	October 1st 2019
Partner private sector	Ida's Idea Training Centre	Director	October 1st 2019
Partner private sector	Insight training centre	Principal	March 11th 2020
Other actor	ERRIN	Project Manager	December 14th 2020
47 key informants			

1.3. LIST OF COLLECTED DOCUMENTS

1.3.1. Research papers, DoA, Reports

Organisation / Author	Date	Title
Action Aid	2018	Backway to Europe: How can The Gambia better address migration and its development challenges?
Altrogge, J. and F. Zanker	2017	The politics of migration governance in The Gambia
Altrogge, J. and F. Zanker	2019	The Political Economy of Migration Governance in The Gambia
COOPI	2019	Fact Sheet for the project "Enhancing youth employability in The Gambia"
COOPI	2020	Intermediary Narrative Report
ENABEL	2018	Description of Action - T05-EUTF-SAH-GM-03-04
ENABEL	2020	Annual Result Report
European Asylum Support Office	2017	Country of origin information report, The Gambia
European Commission	2018	Good practices between the Government of the Republic of The Gambia and the European Union for the efficient operation of the identification and return procedures of persons without authorisation to stay
FMM West Africa	2017	Migration in The Gambia - A country profile 2017
GIZ	2018	Target-Group-Specific Approaches to Reintegration for Education and Technical Vocational Education and Training in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Contexts
GIZ	2018	Key measures for sustainable reintegration of returning migrants into the labour market
GIZ	2018	Description of Action - T05-EUTF-SAH-GM-03-01
GIZ	2019	Tekki-Fii Revised inception report
GIZ	2019	EU-GIZ Tekki-Fii Project – Progress Report
GIZ	2019	State of TVET: Youth Labour Market Assessment
GIZ	2019	Second interim report
GIZ	2019	Diaspora Engagement Self-Assessment
GIZ	2020	Third interim report
GIZ	2021	Fourth interim report
Government of the Gambia	2018	The Gambia National Development Plan (2018-2021)
Government of the Gambia	2018	Diaspora Strategy
Government of the Gambia	2019	ToR for the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration for The Gambia
Government of the Gambia	2020	Voluntary National Review - A report on the progress of implementation of SDGs
IBF	2018	Needs assessment study for the development and implementation of legislation and strategies to counter migrant smuggling covering Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea, and ECOWAS

ICMPD	2015	A survey on Migration Policies in West Africa
IMVF	2018	Description of Action - T05-EUTF-SAH-GM-03-03
IMVF	2020	First Interim Narrative Report
IOM	2016	Action Document for the EU Trust Fund - T05-EUTF-SAH-GM-02-01
IOM	2018	Standard Operating Procedures for the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration in The Gambia
IOM	2018	Interim Narrative Report to the European Union
IOM	2019	Mobility assessment on internal migration
IOM	2019	EU-IOM JI Biannual Reintegration report #1
IOM	2019	EU-IOM JI Biannual Reintegration report #2
IOM	2019	Migration and communication: Information and Awareness-raising Campaigns in Countries of Origin and Transit
IOM	2019	Campagne Migrants as Messenger (MaM) - L'impact de la communication entre pairs sur les migrants potentiels au Sénégal
IOM	2019	Reintegration counselling: a psychosocial approach
IOM	2019	Redesigning MICs in The Gambia to promote safe migration
IOM	2019	Second Interim Narrative Report to the European Union
IOM	2020	EU-IOM JI Biannual Reintegration report #3
IOM	2020	Evaluation of reintegration activities in the Sahel and Lake Chad Region
IOM	2020	EU-IOM JI Lessons Learnt and Recommendations for Future Programming
IOM	2020	Promoting Safe Migration in 2020 - West and Central Africa
IOM	2020	Returned migrants' debts and their impacts on reintegration in The Gambia
IOM	2020	Irregular Migration Towards Europe - Western Africa - Atlantic Route
IOM	2021	EU-IOM JI Biannual Reintegration report #4
IOM	2021	Sub-regional study on the debt of migrants assisted with voluntary return and its impact on the sustainability of reintegration in countries of origin
ITC	2016	Description of Action - T05-EUTF-SAH-GM01
ITC	2018	Narrative Progress Report - Year 1
ITC	2018	Strategic Youth and Trade Development Roadmap of The Gambia
ITC	2018	Q1 Report 2018, Update Progress Report
ITC	2018	Q2 Report 2018, Update Progress Report
ITC	2019	The Gambia Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Roadmap 2020-2024
ITC	2019	Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in The Gambia - A network analysis of institutions supporting entrepreneurship
ITC	2019	Evaluation report - Midterm Evaluation of the Youth Empowerment Project in The Gambia
ITC	2019	Q3 Report 2018, Update Progress Report
ITC	2019	Narrative Progress Report - Year 2
ITC	2019	Q1 Report 2019, Updated Progress Report
ITC	2019	Q2 Report 2019, Updated Progress Report

ITC	2019	ToR for the Independent Midterm Evaluation of: Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) in The Gambia
ITC	2020	Q3 Report 2019, Updated Progress Report
ITC	2020	Narrative Progress Report - Year 3
ITC	2020	Q1 Report 2020, Updated Progress Report
ITC	2020	Q2 Report 2020, Updated Progress Report
Maastricht Graduate School of Governance	2017	Gambia Migration Profile - Study on Migration Routes in West and Central Africa
Nova SBE	2017	Can Information and Alternatives to Irregular Migration Reduce “Backway” Migration from the Gambia?
OECD	2018	Identifying the Factors Driving West African Migration
Samba Sowe	2017	Local government: A case study of The Gambia
Samuel Hall	2018	Mapping and socio-economic profiling of communities of return in the Gambia
Samuel Hall / The University of Sussex	2020	Mentoring Returnees: Study on Reintegration Outcomes through a Comparative Lens
University College London	2016	For The Gambia, our homeland: The diaspora, development, and politics
Veerle Schippers	2018	Deconstructing aspirations and desires of male Gambian youth taking the path of irregular migration
World Bank	2019	World Bank Gambia overview
73 documents read		

1.3.2. Project documents

Author / Organisation	Title
Activista	Say No to Backway flyer
Chamen Technical Training Centre	Tekki-Fii application form
ERRIN	Project Brochure
ERRIN	ERRIN Country Leaflet - The Gambia
GAWFA	GAWFA campaign brochure
GIEPA	Tekki-Fii Entrepreneurship training application form
GIZ	Tekki-Fii Project overview brochure
GIZ	Tekki-Fii Business Development Component brochure
GIZ	Tekki-Fii TVET Component brochure
GIZ	Questionnaire for applicants
GIZ	MoU between Aspuna Gambia Ltd. and GIZ international services - EUTF Tekki-Fii project for implementation of apprenticeship scheme
GIZ	ToR for the curriculum development in aquaculture
GIZ	Selection Criteria and Scoring System for TVET Applicant Interview
GIZ	Project Factsheet - Skills for Reintegration
GIZ - Momodou Sidibeh & Abdoulie B. Mboge	Curriculum for aquaculture

GIZ - Naccug	ToR for Implementation of Second Cycle of the Solar Grant Scheme for Youths in GBA/WCR, LRR and URR
GIZ - Naccug	ToR for Implementation of the Second Cycle of the Mini-Grant Scheme for Youths in GBA / WCR, LRR and URR
GIZ - Nova Scotia Gambia Association	ToR for Training students of secondary schools and TVET centres on Career Guidance
GIZ - Nova Scotia Gambia Association	ToR for Training of 220 Gambian youths on Life skills
IMVF	Tekki-Fii flyer
IOM	The Backway, Theatre play, Guide for IOM officials
IOM	The Backway, Theatre play, Guide for facilitators
IOM	Workshop report: Migration Classes for the Youth Bantaba
IOM	Request for proposal, services for Awareness raising for migrants and communities on safe migration in The Gambia
ITC	Access to finance flyer
ITC	Tekki-Fii Brochure
Naccug	Tekki-Fii Mini grant success stories
Naccug	YEP Mini grant scheme - 10 entrepreneurs' stories to inspire you
NEDI	Tekki-Fii Agropreneurship training application form
Nova Scotia Gambia Association	Life Skills Programme and Training for Young People in The Gambia
Nova Scotia Gambia Association	Career Guidance for students at TVET centres and secondary schools - Theory for trainers
Nova Scotia Gambia Association	Introduction to GIZ project and Career Guidance for experts, trainers, teachers, and Focal points Career Guidance
Nova Scotia Gambia Association	Guidelines Career Guidance Sessions for teachers at secondary schools and focal points of TVET institutions
Nova Scotia Gambia Association	Life skills training material
Nova Scotia Gambia Association	Career guidance training material
SDF	Loan application form for the YEP mini loan scheme
Start-up Incubator Gambia	Tekki-Fii Entrepreneurship training application form
Tekki-Fii	Available support for returnees in The Gambia - Flyer
TOSTAN	Tekki-Fii Entrepreneurship & Agropreneurship training application form
United Purpose	The Tekki-Fii Youth Development League
40 project documents used	

1.3.3. Press releases and blog posts

IP	Date	Title
IMVF	10/04/19	IMVF attends Tekki Fii campaign launch roadshow
IMVF	15/04/19	Presentation of the Building a Future Programme: Make it in The Gambia – Tekki Fii
IMVF	15/04/19	Presentation of the Building a Future Programme: Make it in The Gambia – Tekki Fii
IMVF	23/04/19	Make it in The Gambia – Tekki Fii promotes a “Sport for Development” training
IMVF	23/04/19	Make it in The Gambia – Tekki Fii promotes a “Sport for Development” training
IMVF	03/05/19	The IMVF team is growing in The Gambia
IMVF	17/09/19	Tekki-Fii – Building a Future: Make it in The Gambia Project organised 2 regional forums
IMVF	24/01/20	IMVF and ADWAC supply garden tools and fertilizer to rural communities
IMVF	04/03/20	IMVF and ADWAC facilitate market linkages for rural farmers in Nyagen, The Gambia
IMVF	02/04/20	Tekki Fii partner ADWAC on the frontline of #COVID19 prevention
IMVF	15/04/20	Tekki Fii – Building a Future: Make it in The Gambia supports Youth Committee’s awareness campaign on COVID-19
IMVF	08/05/20	Tekki Fii project supports community radio stations
IMVF	29/05/20	Jalika Keita: one of the first youths benefitting from the Tekki Fii Agro-Grants
IMVF	08/06/20	IMVF and ADWAC distributed weighing scales to vegetable gardens
IMVF	14/07/20	European Union reinforces the national response to COVID-19 through Tekki Fii project
IMVF	14/07/20	European Union reinforces the national response to COVID-19 through Tekki Fii project
IMVF	26/10/20	Tekki Fii project provides Training for 50 Schools Garden Masters
IMVF	03/11/20	Tekki Fii hands over 3.5 million dalasis worth of gardening materials to the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
IMVF	10/11/20	IMVF and Gambia’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry begin business development training for North Bank Region youths in The Gambia
IMVF	25/03/21	Tekki Fii project provides training for 50 teachers on migration
IOM	19/01/18	UN Migration Agency Holds First Reintegration Information Session for Returnees in Gambia
IOM	21/03/18	IOM Holds Training on Building Local Protection of Migrants in The Gambia
IOM	15/11/18	First group of Gambian returnees graduates from poultry training programme
IOM	15/02/19	Over 3,500 Returned Migrants; 2,000 Receive Reintegration Assistance in The Gambia

IOM	19/03/19	Taking the Backway and Going Back Home: The Uncensored Story of a Migrant Returnee
IOM	22/03/19	Private Sector Joins IOM to Enhance Skills of Gambian Returnees
IOM	29/03/19	Action! Awareness Raising Mobile Cinema Tours The Gambia
IOM	24/04/19	Student-Journalists Trained on Migration Reporting in The Gambia
IOM	26/04/19	Voluntary Humanitarian Return from Conflict-Hit Libya: 72 Stranded Migrants Return to The Gambia
IOM	04/06/19	Psychosocial Reintegration of Gambian Returnees Strengthened through Mobile Health Caravans
IOM	23/08/19	Alternatives to Irregular Migration: IOM Launches Vocational Training Programme for Gambians
IOM	09/12/19	Mauritania: Shipwreck Survivors Returned Home by Authorities
IOM	23/12/19	134 Returnees, Youth Graduate from IOM Vocational Training Programmes
IOM	07/01/20	IOM Hits Milestone: 5,000+ Gambians Supported with Assisted Return
IOM	25/02/20	Providing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Gambian Shipwreck Survivors
IOM	05/05/20	Gambian Returnees Produce Protective Equipment for COVID-19 Frontline Border Officials
IOM	24/07/20	Livelihood, Psychosocial Support as Shipwreck Survivors Contribute to COVID-19 Response in the Gambia
IOM	27/07/20	Stranded Migrants in The Gambia Receive Emergency Food Assistance
IOM	10/08/20	IOM Supports Quarantine Centres in The Gambia with COVID-19 on the Rise
IOM	23/09/20	Returnees in The Gambia's Upper River Region Navigate COVID-19
IOM	25/09/20	Voluntary Returns from Niger to The Gambia Resume After Six-Month Hiatus
IOM	02/10/20	Door-to-Door Gambian Migrant Returnees Debunk Pandemic Untruths
IOM	09/10/20	A Journey Home; A Journey to Recovery
IOM	28/12/20	Gambia launches maiden Migration Policy
IOM	2021	Returnees in The Gambia Rebuild Their Lives Against the Backdrop of Tragedy
IOM	2017-2021	IOM The Gambia's Twitter
IOM	2017-2021	IOM The Gambia's Facebook
IOM	July 2019 - February 2021	Monthly Newsletter
ITC	09/02/17	EU and ITC launch job, entrepreneurship initiative for youth in the Gambia
ITC	12/04/17	Gambia Youth Employment Forum shines spotlight on job creation and entrepreneurship

ITC	20/07/17	Training on Guidance and Counselling promises new hope for returnees
ITC	09/10/17	As risks and borders rise, migrants turn back – but with new purpose at home
ITC	27/10/17	YEP and German delegation explore Gambian TVET sector
ITC	13/12/17	Cutting edge entrepreneurship trainings in The Gambia
ITC	02/01/18	Credit Union Managers come together to develop youth-friendly innovative products
ITC	11/01/18	Youth financial inclusion matters to Gambia YEP
ITC	08/03/18	Enhancing skills training opportunities for Gambian youth
ITC	25/03/18	The Gambia to strengthen role of youth and trade in economic development
ITC	16/05/18	The Gambia invests in jobs for youth through national trade roadmap
ITC	20/06/18	SkYE 2.0 Launched in The Gambia
ITC	10/10/18	From the backway, back home: Making it in The Gambia
ITC	10/12/19	The Gambia adopts roadmap for educational and training institutions to step up support to youth
ITC	20/05/20	Young Gambians are using radio shows to help communities stay safe during the coronavirus and cope with the socioeconomic crisis.
ITC	20/05/20	EU, ITC, GCCI and the Kanifing Municipal Council launch new Challenge Fund for young entrepreneurs to tackle socio-economic challenges caused by COVID-19
ITC	07/09/20	Launch of the Andandorr Programme
ITC	11/12/20	Strengthening Community Coping Mechanisms to Mitigate Risks of Conflicts and Reduce Climate-Related Tensions in The Gambia
66 press releases and blog post read		

1.4. SELECTION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INTERVIEWED RETURNEES

1.4.1. Return and reintegration survey - methodology

Return and reintegration surveys involved the interviews of **297 Gambian returnees** (TPML cycles 1, 2 and 3) who benefitted from a return and/or reintegration assistance from IOM The Gambia (funded under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative) and/or ITC or Tekki-Fii partners.

- ✓ **Quantitative targets:** 100 interviews for each cycle, 300 in total.
- ✓ **Regions covered:** Banjul, West Coast, North Bank, Lower River, Central River, Upper River
- ✓ **Survey eligibility criteria:**
 - Gambian citizens
 - 18 years old and over
 - Living in an area logistically accessible
 - Beneficiary of a return and/or reintegration assistance provided by the aforementioned partners.

✓ **Beneficiaries' selection:**

- Cycle 1: 102 returnees were interviewed in September – October 2019.
 - IOM The Gambia provided Altai Consulting with a database of Gambian returnees, which enabled the team to extract a sample of interviewees.
 - GIZ provided a list of 11 returnees.
 - ITC provided a list of 41 returnees.
- Cycle 2: 101 returnees were interviewed in February – March 2020
 - GIZ provided a list of 20 returnees.
 - ITC provided a list of 13 returnees.
 - ENABEL provided a list of 10 returnees.
 - Snowballing was used by the enumerators to reach the final target.
- Cycle 3: 94 returnees were interviewed in December 2020.
 - IOM The Gambia provided a list of 50 returnees.
 - GIZ provided a list of 107 returnees.
 - ENABEL provided a list of 11 returnees.
 - Snowballing was used by the enumerators to reach the final target.

✓ **Possible biases:**

- Methodological bias. **No systematic sampling was possible. As such, the collected data are indicative of the situation of Gambian returnees but cannot be considered statistically representative** (in particular, interviewees were still in the country, reachable and willing to conduct the interview). As a mitigation measure, enumerators were asked to select respondents to represent a variety of experiences (avoid interviewing too many people in the same location, in the same group of friends, etc.).
- Bias related to the nature of the survey. It is possible that respondents exaggerated their dissatisfaction in the hope of receiving additional assistance in the future. As a mitigation measure, the survey introduction clarifies the independent status of enumerators and the fact that no answer can influence future assistance received.
- Social-desirability bias. It is possible that respondents would choose their answer to be viewed positively, for example by emphasizing good behaviour. As a mitigation measure, enumerators were trained to ensure the anonymity and confidentiality of answers.

1.4.2. Return and reintegration survey – respondents' profile

Demographics

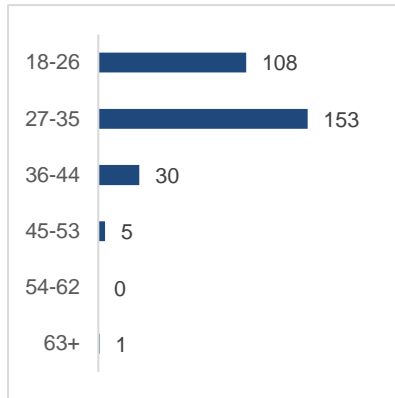


Figure 21: RR respondents age repartition

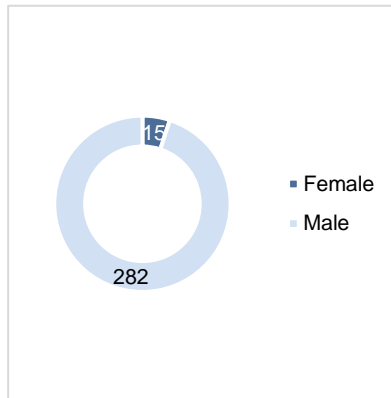


Figure 22: RR respondents gender repartition

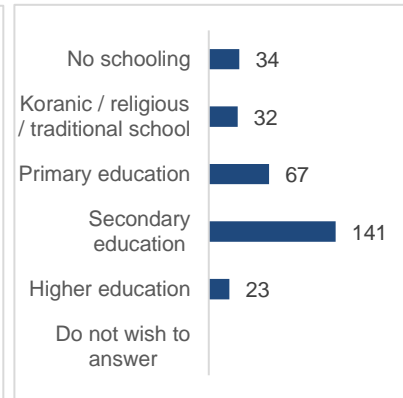


Figure 23: RR respondent's education level

Migration history

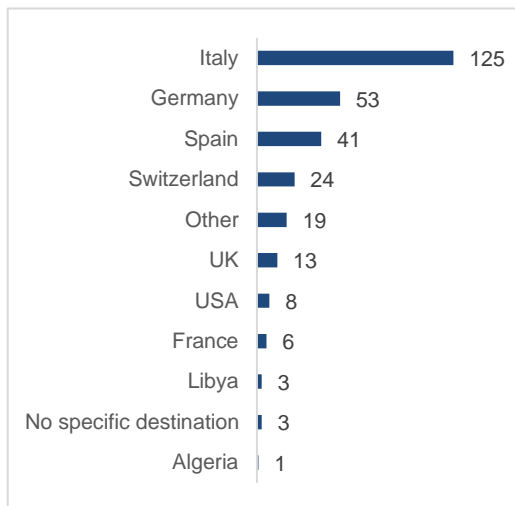


Figure 25: Intended destination country

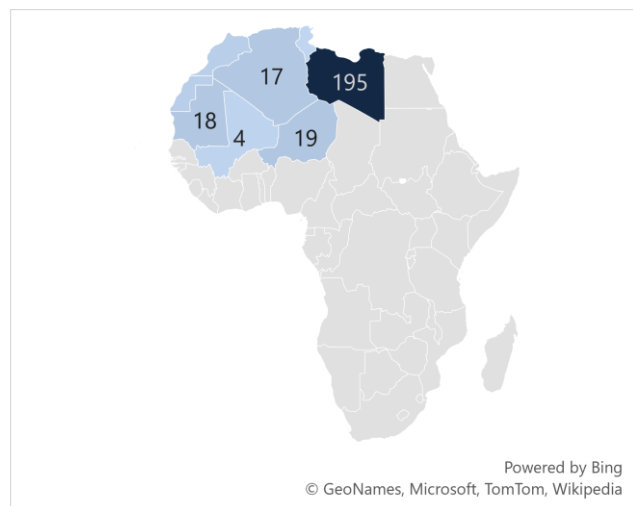


Figure 24: Country from which respondents returned

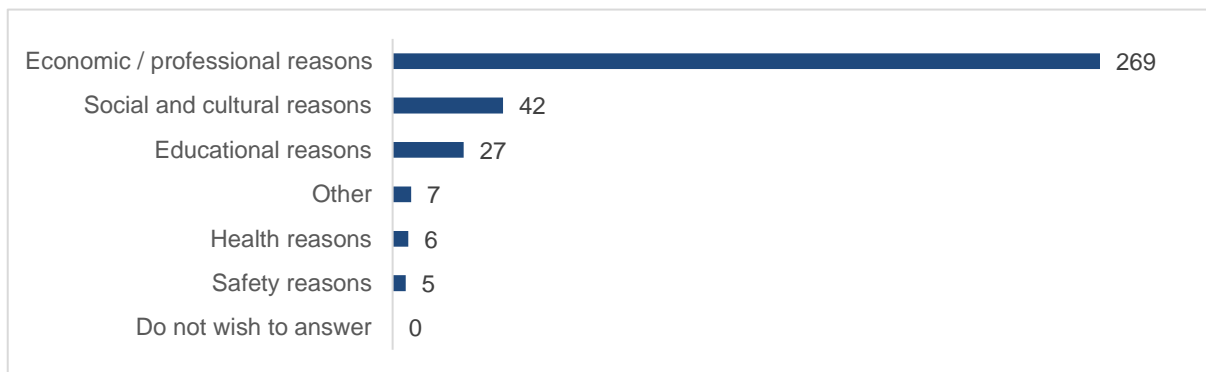


Figure 26: Reasons for respondents' departure from The Gambia

1.4.3. Awareness-Raising survey - methodology

Surveys involved interviews of **205 people who were exposed to an awareness raising activity** (either in person or through mass-media campaigns) implemented by IOM (funded through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative) or Tekki-Fii partners in The Gambia (including ITC).

- ✓ **Quantitative targets:** 100 interviews for each cycle (total of 200).
- ✓ **Regions covered:** Banjul, West Coast, North Bank, Lower River, Central River, Upper River
- ✓ **Survey eligibility criteria:**
 - Gambian citizens
 - 18 years old and over
 - Living in a logistically accessible area
 - Having participated in an awareness-raising activity and/or having been exposed to a mass communication campaign, implemented by IOM The Gambia and/or Tekki-Fii partners.
- ✓ **Beneficiaries' selection:**
 - Cycle 2: Enumerators working with Altai Consulting were put in touch with local CSOs implementing AR activities for them to orient them towards beneficiaries.
 - Cycle 3: IOM The Gambia provided Altai Consulting with a list of sensitization activities planned to take place during the time of the survey, as well as a list of Migrant Information Centres (MICs) focal points in charge of organizing future and past activities.
 - Respondents were interviewed either right after the activity had been carried out, or after focal points provided the team with information allowing enumerators to identify them. Snowballing was also used to reach the target.
- ✓ **Possible bias:**
 - Methodological bias: **No systematic sampling was possible. As such, the collected data are indicative of the situation of beneficiaries of EUTF-funded AR activities implemented by IOM and Tekki-Fii partners in The Gambia but cannot be considered statistically representative.** As a mitigation measure, enumerators were asked to select respondents to represent a variety of experiences (avoid interviewing too many people in the same location, in the same family or group of friends, etc.).
 - Social desirability bias: It is possible that respondents would choose their answer to be viewed positively, for example by emphasizing good behaviour. As a mitigation measure, enumerators were trained to ensure the anonymity and confidentiality of answers.

1.4.4. Awareness-Raising survey – respondents' profile

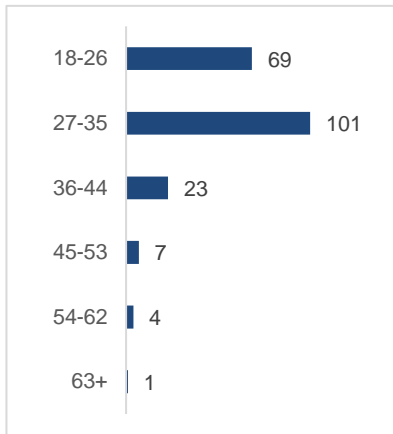


Figure 27: Age of respondents

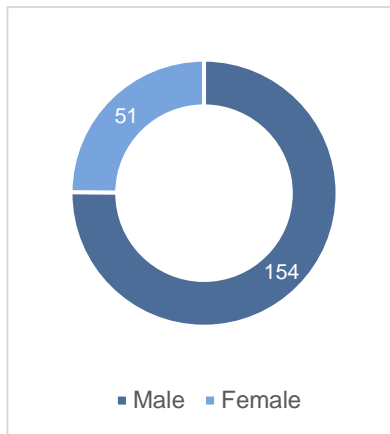


Figure 28: Gender of respondents

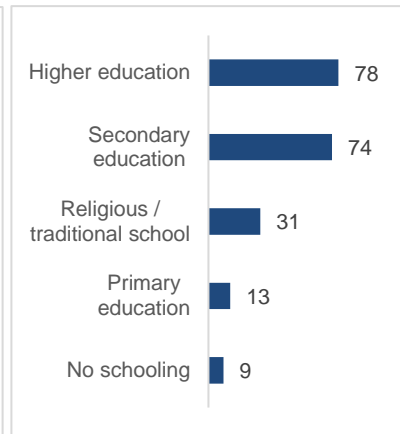


Figure 31: Highest level of education achieved by respondents

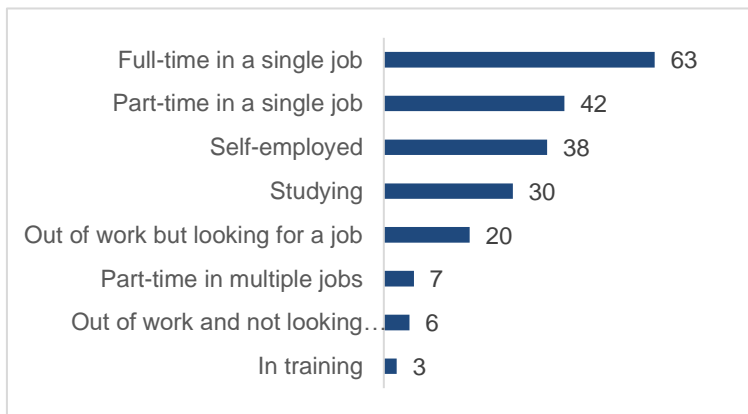


Figure 30: Respondents' employment situation

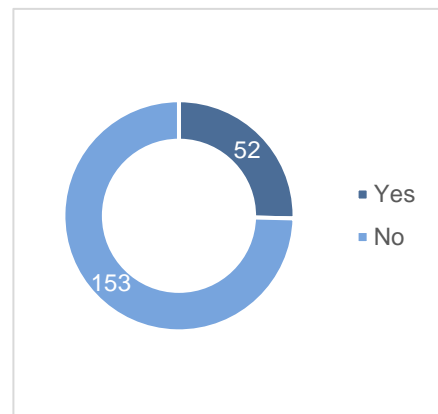


Figure 29: Respondents' previous migration experience

1.4.5. Consent and data protection (both surveys)

- Enumerators were trained on key ethical principles to be followed during the data collection.
- Data is collected through the ODK collect software on tablets or smartphones protected by a password. Once submitted, the data is stored on a secure server with restricted access (only the Altai Consulting TPML team has access to it).
- Respondents are informed about the anonymity and confidentiality with which their data will be treated, both at the beginning and at the end of the interview. Their consent is requested before the interview starts.

In order to protect the identity of persons interviewed, their full name is not collected. Their phone number is collected if they consent to it for a potential future contact. All other collected information is treated with confidentiality.

1.5. ANALYTICAL TABLE OF THE PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY IOM THE GAMBIA

1.5.1. On migrant protection and assistance

Project	EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration	Strengthening Sustainable and Holistic Reintegration of Returnees in The Gambia	Supporting National Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking	Bilateral Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programmes
Donor	The European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF)	UN Peacebuilding Fund	US Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons	Swiss State Secretariat for Migration; German Federal Foreign Office; and others
Objective	Contribute to strengthening the governance of migration and the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants in The Gambia.	Strengthen the foundations for peace by fostering positive economic and social interdependence between returning migrants and host community members, as well as facilitating sustainable reintegration that will contribute to enhanced social cohesion.	Support the Government of The Gambia's efforts to combat trafficking in persons.	Supporting orderly and humane return and reintegration of migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in host or transit countries and wish to return voluntarily to their countries of origin.
Activities related to migration governance	Capacity building of government and local stakeholders on migration governance, sustainable reintegration of returning migrants and ownership of reintegration activities at the national level.	Establishment of the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) on Migration.	Strengthening of the criminal justice system's capacities to identify and investigate traffickers.	
Activities related to migrant protection and assistance	Protection of vulnerable migrants; Provision of reintegration assistance to returning Gambians.	Enhancement of mental health and psychosocial support services for returning migrants through community outreach health teams and capacity building of national and local actors.	Protection services for victims of trafficking and those at risk of trafficking.	AVRR support in collaboration with other IOM missions in countries hosting Gambian migrants; Participation in pilot services aimed at providing improved AVRR-related assistance, including virtual pre-departure counselling and remote psychosocial support.
Activities related to awareness-raising	Awareness raising and sensitization activities targeting the general public on the risks of and the alternatives to irregular migration.	Community linkages for greater social support and reintegration of returnees (complementing interventions provided through the youth centres and expanding this support to other community, social and family structures) through dialogue forums.	Prevention activities to increase awareness of TIP at the national and community level.	

Other activities	Collection and analysis of data on migration.	Research on the implications of irregular migration, return and reintegration on peacebuilding.		
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1.5.2. On communication for development

	Migrant protection and assistance	Communication for development		
Project	EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration	Migrants as Messenger (MaM)	IOM X The Gambia	Strengthening Communication on Migration in The Gambia
Donor	The European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF)	The Kingdom of the Netherlands	German Federal Foreign Office	EU Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG Home)
Objective	Contribute to strengthening the governance of migration and the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants in The Gambia.	Encouraging youth in migration-prone communities in West Africa to adopt new attitudes and behaviours on migration through peer-to-peer messaging.	Encouraging safe migration.	Contribute to enhanced understanding and capacity among the government, media, and civil society to communicate strategically about migration in The Gambia.
Activities related to capacity building of national actors on awareness-raising	Capacity building of government and local stakeholders on migration governance, sustainable reintegration of returning migrants and ownership of reintegration activities at the national level.			Implementation of a comprehensive training programme for government agencies to support government-led strategic communication on migration; Strengthening of media coverage of migration issues by building the knowledge and skills of journalists; Capacity building of civil society organizations to carry out migration-related advocacy work.
Awareness-raising campaigns	Awareness raising and sensitization activities targeting the general public on the risks of and the alternatives to irregular migration.	Campaigns carried out directly by returned migrants who share with their communities and families their experiences, making their stories accessible to local decision makers, community leaders, religious leaders, and potential migrants.	Development of a multimedia campaign to empower young people to make informed migration-related decisions by community members in Brikama, West Coast Region.	

Other activities	Collection and analysis of data on migration.			Evidence base development to inform communication on migration and strengthen migration-related information campaigns.
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1.5.3. On Immigration and border management / Labour mobility and human development

	Migrant protection and assistance	Immigration and border management	Labour Mobility and Human development		
Project	EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration	Enhancing Operational Capacity for Gambian Authorities to Manage Borders	Safety, Support and Solutions in the Central Mediterranean Route	Support to local economic development in The Gambia, Guinea Conakry, and Guinea-Bissau	Africa Regional Migration Programme
Donor	The European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF)	The Government of Japan	UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)	US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)
Objective	Contribute to strengthening the governance of migration and the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants in The Gambia.	Enhance the operational capacity of the Government of The Gambia to manage borders.	Enhance the capacities of government officials, civil society organizations and nongovernment organizations for migrant protection and the development of livelihood and income generation alternatives.	Promote safe migration and create alternatives to the irregular migration of youth by fostering employment in communities of origin	Promote sustainable, humane migration management; and prepare countries to respond to migration emergencies.
Activities related to migration governance	Building the capacities of government and local stakeholders on migration governance, sustainable reintegration of returning migrants and ownership of reintegration activities at the national level Collecting and analysing data on migration.	Enhanced institutional capacity through the promotion of inter-agency cooperation to address immigration-related risks and through social mobilization of communities to ensure peaceful coexistence for economic development Improved physical infrastructure, including facilities and equipment, at border posts for effective border management	Creation of an evidence base on the impact of livelihoods and income generation on the intention to migrate irregularly	Equipment of national and local stakeholders with the necessary tools to link migration to development policies and promote migration sensitive policies	Update of the contingency plans of the Banjul City Council and Kanifing Municipal Council, Enhancement of labour migration governance capacity at the national level and crisis preparedness capacity at local levels; Development of a pre-departure training manual

		Strengthened migration data collection and analysis through expansion of Border Information Management Systems under deployment			for labour migrants and a policy guideline for ethical recruitment, in coordination with the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment
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1.6. OVERVIEW OF REINTEGRATION ACTIONS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF STUDY FOR EACH STUDIED ACTOR

	 	JI 	   
Assistance upon arrival		✓	
Medical assistance		✓	
Psychosocial support		✓	✓
Counselling and orientation	✓	✓	✓
TVET	✓	✓	✓
Entrepreneurship support	✓	✓	✓
Cash for Work		✓	✓

i <https://www.tralac.org/resources/by-country/gambia.html#:~:text=Following%20the%202016%20political%20transition,delay%20in%20budget%20support%20disbursements.>

ii <https://www.hrw.org/fr/africa/gambia>

iii Eurostat 2019

iv Altrogge, J. and F. Zanker. 2019. "The Political Economy of Migration Governance in the Gambia." Freiburg: Arnold-Bergstraesser Institute (ABI).

v IOM, Irregular migration towards Europe, Western Africa – Atlantic route, 18 vov 2020. Retrieved here.

vi UNDP, Socio-Economic-Impact-COVID-19-Gambia-Policy-Brief, March 2020. Retrieved [here](#).