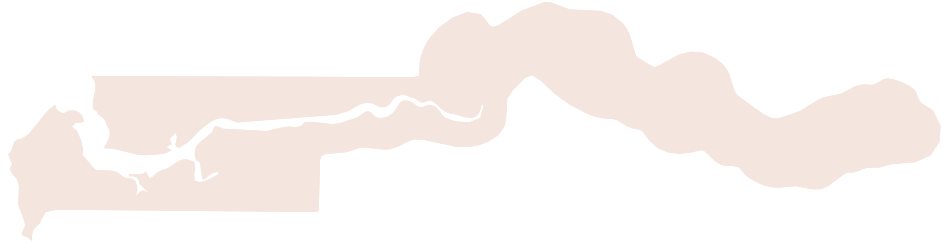




# Diaspora engagement mapping THE GAMBIA

## Facts & figures



### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad<sup>2</sup>



Voting from abroad



### Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **22.4%**

Remittances inflow (USD million): **524.65**

### Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from UNDESA (2024) and remittances from the World Bank (2023).

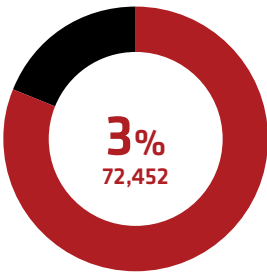
### Emigration



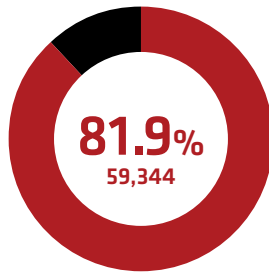
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 81.2%  
♀ 18.8%



♂ 88.1%  
♀ 11.9%

### Top countries of destination



Spain	29,653
Italy	26,164
Senegal	5,764
Ghana	2,109
Mali	1,629

1 The constitution allows dual citizenship for Gambian nationals born in the country, but not for naturalised citizens. *Republic of The Gambia, Constitution of The Gambia, 2002*. Available at: <https://judiciary.gov.gm/sites/default/files/2021-07/Constitution%20of%20The%20Gambia.pdf> (Accessed: 12 November 2024).

2 The constitution (Section 39) guarantees the right to vote to all citizens.

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1996** ● The **Elections Decree** (Section 11) mandates the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to maintain a list of Gambian registered voters in foreign countries.<sup>3</sup> Currently, Gambians abroad have the option of returning to The Gambia during registration periods to register within their constituencies of origin – the only way that they can exercise their right to vote.<sup>4</sup>
- 2001** ● The **Constitution of the Second Republic of The Gambia** establishes the legal basis for citizenship and the right to vote. An amendment in 2001 (Section 12a) allowed persons born in the country - but not those naturalised - to hold other nationalities.<sup>5</sup> The constitution (sections 26 and 39) also allows every citizen, without excluding those residing abroad, the right to vote and hold public offices. The Supreme Court reaffirmed, “*Every Gambian, including those residing outside the jurisdiction, is entitled to be registered and to vote in election to the offices of President, members of the National Assembly, for local government offices and traditional rulers as well as in referenda.*”<sup>6</sup>
- 2018** ● The **Gambia Diaspora Strategy**, incorporated into the previous National Development Plan 2018-2021, has guided the government’s diaspora engagement approach, especially up until 2021 (to which all its targets refer). The document presents a range of declarations and objectives with specific targets, including the recognition of the diaspora as the country’s “eighth region”, the creation of the Gambia Diaspora Directorate (now the Gambia Diaspora and Migration Directorate), the training of civil servants and non-state institutions on diaspora engagement, the reduction of remittance transfer costs to 3%, the issuance of diaspora bonds, the establishment of a Diaspora Development Fund, the reduction in irregular migration, the facilitation of circular and structured labour migration, the organisation of consultative events, the facilitated access to highly skilled diaspora professionals, and the facilitation of the diaspora vote.
- 2020** ● The **National Migration Policy (NMP) 2020-2030** is a comprehensive policy framework that aligns with the National Development Plan. The policy addresses a range of migration issues which include diaspora engagement and remittances within Pillar IV on Human Capital Development. It sets broad objectives to engage the diaspora in national development, including by facilitating the transfer of their knowledge, skills, and resources. The strategies outlined for achieving these objectives include establishing a diaspora database, conducting a mapping of highly qualified Gambians abroad, operationalising the Gambia Diaspora Strategy, setting up a diaspora trust fund, organising diaspora meetings, rolling out return and investment incentives, promoting bilateral agreements with destination countries, designing a data collection system for remittances, and promoting the formalisation of remittance transfers. The diaspora is further mentioned in the context of their potential to improve access to international markets.
- 2024** ● The **Recovery Focused National Development Plan (RF-NDP) (2023-2027)**, the country’s development planning framework, contains numerous references to the diaspora. The plan notes the diaspora engagement in the RF-NDP consultation process and includes the diaspora as one of the plan’s “critical enablers”. Moreover, the plan lists several objectives on the topic, including enabling diaspora voting overseas, developing diaspora bonds, creating conditions for diasporas to contribute to development, enhancing consular and protection assistance, undertaking a diaspora

3 Independent Electoral Commission, *Voter Registration for Gambians Resident Abroad*, available at: <https://iec.gm/registration/resident-abroad/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

4 Independent Electoral Commission, *Voter Registration for Gambians Resident Abroad*, available at: <https://iec.gm/registration/resident-abroad/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

5 Huddleston, T., *The Gambia: Country Report 2021*, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, 2021. Available at: [https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/70578/RSCAS\\_GLOBALCIT\\_CR\\_2021\\_7.pdf?sequence=1](https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/70578/RSCAS_GLOBALCIT_CR_2021_7.pdf?sequence=1) (Accessed: 12 November 2024).

6 Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG) project, *Diaspora Voting and Representation*, available at: <https://gambiandiaspora.net/thematic-box/diaspora-voting-and-representation/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

skills mapping exercise, establishing a Diaspora Development Fund, issuing diaspora bonds, and harnessing diaspora talent and skills. It further outlines strategies for achieving these objectives, including encouraging the use of formal remittance channels and training embassy and consular officers on diaspora issues.

The renewed **Gambia Diaspora Strategy [in draft]** has reportedly been developed, with its key components already incorporated into the RF-NDP, but awaits formal validation and adoption. Amongst the initiatives already planned under the new strategy are the issuance of diaspora bonds and the promotion of competition and mobile money in the remittances market.

## » Trends

Most formalised efforts to engage the Gambian diaspora were initiated from 2017 when President Adama Barrow, himself formerly a member of the diaspora in the UK, took office. In doing so, and in no small part helped by diaspora advocacy and activism, he replaced the autocratic regime that had governed the country for 22 years and that was associated with the high levels of emigration that significantly increased the country's diaspora population. Soon after taking the reins and as highlighted in the first Gambia Diaspora Strategy, President Barrow declared the diaspora to be the country's eighth region – a symbolic statement of intent that he reiterated at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018.<sup>7</sup>

Much of the government's work on diaspora engagement since has been developed with the support of the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia project (MSDG), a diaspora-led and co-funded technical cooperation programme that has pioneered action in the policy area since its formation in January 2018. The MSDG has both supported policy and institutional development, including the drafting of the first Gambia Diaspora Strategy and the creation of the government's Diaspora and Migration Directorate, as well as the implementation of programmes that engage various forms of diaspora capital transfer (see Spotlight section below).

For all The Gambia's diaspora engagement progress, challenges remain. Diaspora access to voting remains a crucial pain point for the diaspora, as almost 30 years following the acquisition of legal voting rights, many Gambians abroad are still unable to exercise these rights. Added to this are the challenges of supporting the needs of irregular Gambian migrants, collecting diaspora data, and in interfacing with the diaspora via a diplomatic network with limited geographical coverage.

Compared with other West African diasporas, The Gambia's diaspora resides in an increasingly diverse set of high-income countries, with Nordic countries, among others, emerging as key countries of residence.<sup>8</sup> It is also an increasingly multi-generational community,<sup>9</sup> creating varied opportunities for state-level engagement.

7 Barrow, A., *Statement by the President of the Republic of The Gambia at the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly*, United Nations General Debate, 25 September 2018. Available at: <https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/gambia-republic> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

8 Faal, G., *Notes on the Emergence of the Post-Colonial Gambian Diaspora*, Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG) project, December 2018. Available at: <https://gambiandiaspora.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Emergence-of-the-Post-Colonial-Gambian-Diaspora-Dec-2018.pdf> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

9 Faal, G., *Notes on the Emergence of the Post-Colonial Gambian Diaspora*, Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG) project, December 2018. Available at: <https://gambiandiaspora.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Emergence-of-the-Post-Colonial-Gambian-Diaspora-Dec-2018.pdf> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

## Obstacles



- **Access to political rights:** Despite having the right to vote, many diaspora who cannot return to the country to register to vote remain unable to exercise this civic right. Despite a 2021 Supreme Court ruling on a case brought by five in the diaspora, and assurance from the IEC, the diaspora remained unable to vote from abroad in the 2021 presidential elections, ostensibly due to logistical challenges.<sup>10</sup> This has proved a crucial pain point for the diaspora, especially given the IEC's successive failures to deliver on commitments to enfranchise them. While an Elections Bill seeking to advance the diaspora vote and parliamentary representation has been debated at parliamentary committee level, it continues to await open debate in the National Assembly.<sup>12</sup>
- **Limited data:** in countries like Italy, Germany and Spain that host relatively high numbers of Gambian refugees and asylum seekers, the data on Gambian migrants is considered relatively comprehensive and reliable. However, many African countries, including neighbouring Senegal, record relatively low numbers of Gambian residents. It is therefore suspected that such diaspora populations are being underestimated, pointing to both the prevalence of irregular movements of Gambians migrating within the continent, as well as data collection challenges on the part of Gambian and other African states, which connects with the below obstacle relating to the country's limited diplomatic network coverage.
- **Limited resources for outreach:** the resource constraints that the still-nascent Diaspora and Migration Directorate and the government more broadly face limit their capacity to engage in person with their diaspora, which, compared with most other West African diasporas, is more likely to reside outside the African continent. This obstacle manifests in a limited diplomatic network, with its main EU-based embassy in Belgium, together with a collection of volunteer honorary consuls, tasked with serving large diaspora communities and diverse needs dispersed across the European continent. This translates to limited access to consular services for the diaspora and the need for the diaspora to travel long distances to renew passports and conduct other administrative formalities.
- **Negative perception of the diaspora:** despite the recognised developmental contributions of the diaspora and the country's status as one of the world's most remittance-dependent, negative public sentiments in The Gambia exist towards its diaspora. These tend to reignite during polemical political debates and include perceptions that diaspora members gain undue influence in the political arena, and that they tend to support opposition political parties. The MSDG project engaged an "artist-in-residence", Omar Cham, to create poetry designed to alleviate these tensions – performed at the sixth SNF in 2023.<sup>13</sup>

10 Jaiteh, B., *Resistant Starch: Demystifying the Lies*, Voice Gambia, 26 July 2023. Available at: <https://www.voicegambia.com/2023/07/26/resistant-starch-demystifying-the-lies/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

11 Gaye, M., *Diaspora Voting Still in Limbo Amid Concerns Over the Term Limit of the IEC Chairman*, The Standard, 26 July 2023. Available at: <https://standard.gm/diaspora-voting-still-in-limbo-amid-concerns-over-the-term-limit-of-the-iec-chairman/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

12 *Freedom Newspaper*, *Gambia: Diaspora Voting and Representation Must Be a Reality*, 25 May 2024. Available at: <https://freedom-newspaper.gm/gambia-diaspora-voting-and-representation-must-be-a-reality/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

13 *SNF5 Poetry Video*, Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG) project, January 2023. Available at: [https://gambian-diaspora.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SNF5-Poetry-Video\\_480.mp4](https://gambian-diaspora.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SNF5-Poetry-Video_480.mp4) [Accessed 7 November 2024].



## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices

Explore 400+ practices by country, SDG or sector of engagement in the [interactive database!](#)



### MSDG Project: Diaspora-led technical assistance to government

Since 2017, much of The Gambia's progress in developing formal mechanisms to engage the diaspora has taken place in the framework of the aforementioned MSDG project.<sup>14</sup> This project is unique in being a diaspora-led and diaspora co-financed technical cooperation programme, spearheaded by diaspora-owned consulting firm and social enterprise, GK Partners, in the UK – receiving additional co-financing from the Swiss government at various stages of its implementation. This public-private-diaspora partnership operates a symbiotic relationship with the state, allowing the MSDG project to marry private-sector agility and arms-length capacity to engage the diaspora, with the state competencies required to create institutions, policies and laws that facilitate diaspora engagement. The MSDG project is expected to continue for a fourth phase.

CAPACITY BUILDING,  
GOVERNANCE

### Diaspora Development Fund (DDF) (2020)

The Diaspora Development Fund (DDF), developed by the MSDG project, ran from 2020-2023. It mobilised diaspora co-financing and technical support for local development. The first (pilot) year disbursed project grants of €74,890 to 10 Diaspora Fellows (5 women, 5 men), who generated a further €710,280 through cash donations, technical expertise, and in-kind materials, supplies and resources.<sup>15</sup> For every one euro that the DDF funded, the diaspora reportedly generated a further €9.40. Including its subsequent phase, the DDF supported a total of 55 Diaspora Fellows –awarding grants of €5,000 each (300,000 Dalasis), co-financing 67 community and development projects across the country, generating investments valued at €5 million.<sup>1617</sup>

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT,  
PHILANTHROPY

### Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF) (2017)

In September 2017, the President of The Gambia declared that a SNF would be held annually in The Gambia. The SNF is a practical mechanism for diaspora engagement in policy development. The SNFs combine high-level plenary sessions with thematic workshops. They bring together Gambians from diverse socio-economic and political backgrounds, and engage diaspora members from across the world in substantive policy discourse. While the annual SNF may appear similar to other diaspora forums, its distinguishing feature is its institutionalised regularity and high-level support, with the president or delegated cabinet minister speaking at each edition.<sup>18</sup> More than 700 participants from government, the private sector, civil society and the diaspora attended the 2024 edition of the SNF.

COMMUNICATION &  
INFORMATION, NETWORKING

14 Faal, G. and Kitimbo, A., *How The Gambia Offers a Roadmap for Enhancing Diaspora Engagement*, *World Economic Forum*, 2 May 2024. Available at: <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2024/05/gambia-roadmap-for-enhancing-diaspora-engagement> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

15 Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG) project, *Diaspora Development Fund (DDF)*, available at: <https://gambiadiaspora.net/thematic-box/diasporadevelopmentfund/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

16 *The Standard*, *60 Applications to the Diaspora Development Fund from 9 Countries, Awards to Be Made in August 2022*, *The Standard*, May 2022. Available at: <https://standard.gm/60-applications-to-the-diaspora-development-fund-from-9-countries-awards-to-be-made-in-august-2022/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

17 *Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG)*, United Nations Network on Migration, available at: <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/practice/migration-and-sustainable-development-gambia-msdg> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

18 *Voice Out Digital*, *MSDG Holds 7th Stake in Nation Forum*, 13 January 2024. Available at: <https://voiceoutdigital.com/msdg-holds-7th-stake-in-nation-forum/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

CULTURE,  
YOUTH

### Gambian lullabies for later-generation diaspora (2021)

The MSDG project and Yaram Arts collaborated to produce a lullaby workbook and recordings aimed at promoting Gambian culture and languages among the next-generation young diaspora members. The MSDG project, which launched the lullabies at the 2021 SNF,<sup>19</sup> is reportedly testing these materials in the UK with a view to distributing them to schools attended by children of Gambian heritage.

REMITTANCES,  
DATA

### Real-time remittance data reporting (2021)

Previously, much of the available data on remittances to The Gambia was collated by the World Bank. However, the MSDG Project has worked with the Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG) to strengthen remittance data collection, including holding quarterly technical roundtables to convene the key remittances stakeholders. This led to the establishment of monthly collation of activity volumes from Money Transfer Operators, the proactive identification of pay-out agents, and the installation of real-time payment monitoring software enabling Bureaux des Changes outlets (where many Gambians collect their remittances) to enable real-time reporting of key remittance data to the CBG.<sup>20</sup>

COMMUNICATION &  
INFORMATION, GOVERNANCE

### National Assembly TV

The diaspora-led MSDG Project supported the National Assembly of The Gambia to broadcast parliamentary proceedings online. The proceedings are now broadcast online, including on Facebook and YouTube, and the National Assembly itself has taken over the responsibility for continuing the initiative. This has increased transparency and accessibility to political debates both amongst the general public in The Gambia and in the diaspora alike. The project also enabled Gambian parliamentarians to participate in debates remotely in a secure manner, which paves the way for the planned incorporation of diaspora representation in the National Assembly.

<sup>19</sup> Facebook Live, *SNF4 Launch of Recordings of Gambian Lullabies & Workshop on Gambian Culture*, available at: [https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=726620021606480](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=726620021606480) [Accessed 7 November 2024].

<sup>20</sup> The Gambia Diaspora & Migration Directorate, *Remittances*, 2021. Available at: <https://diaspora.gm/remittances/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

## Annex: List of Actors

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 430+ institutions](#)

### Diaspora related institutions



#### **African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate** AU CIDO

The Gambia nominates a diaspora focal point to the African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AU CIDO) Continental Meetings, which works to coordinate diaspora policy across AU MS.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

#### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad** MoFA

The MoFA is the ministry responsible for foreign policy and international relations. The addition of “Gambians Abroad” to the ministry’s name occurred during the administration of President Adama Barrow, around 2017, as part of a broader governmental restructuring aimed at formalising the country’s engagement with its diaspora. The MoFA has designated First Secretaries or Counsellors in The Gambia’s diplomatic missions abroad as diaspora and migration liaisons or focal points.<sup>21</sup>

#### **Ministry of Interior** Mol

The Mol is the coordinating ministry of the National Migration Policy,<sup>22</sup> which also addresses diaspora engagement. The Mol also oversees the Gambia Immigration Department.

- At sub-ministerial level

#### **The Gambia Diaspora and Migration Directorate** GDMD (Unit within ministry)

Following the declaration of the diaspora as the Eighth Region of the country by President Adama Barrow, and in line with the National Development Plan, the GDMD (initially named the Gambia Diaspora Directorate) was established in 2018 within the MoFA to serve as a service delivery unit.<sup>23</sup> The directorate facilitates structured interface between the government and the diaspora, coordinates diaspora-related issues with different ministries, departments and agencies of the government. The directorate also leads the Technical Working Group for Migration and Development under the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration, a government-led inter-agency coordination platform responsible for coordinating migration governance.<sup>24</sup>

21 Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, *Recovery Focused National Development Plan (RF-NDP) 2023-2027*, Government of The Gambia, February 2024. Available at: <https://mofea.gov.gm/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/RF-NDP-2023-2027.pdf> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

22 The Gambia Diaspora & Migration Directorate, *National Migration Policy*, available at: <https://diaspora.gm/national-migration-policy/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

23 The Gambia Diaspora & Migration Directorate, *Our Mandate*, available at: <https://diaspora.gm/ourmandate/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

24 The Gambia Diaspora & Migration Directorate, *Our Mandate*, available at: <https://diaspora.gm/ourmandate/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

## **The Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency** GIEPA 2010 (Sub-ministry)

GIEPA is the national agency, established in 2010, responsible for the promotion and facilitation of private sector investments into The Gambia. It has established a diaspora advisory desk and developed a Diaspora Brochure.<sup>25</sup>

## **Gambian Immigration Department** GID 1965 (Sub-ministry)

Established at independence in 1965 to manage borders, GID issues and renews identification cards and travel documents to Gambian nationals abroad. It has deployed officers to some diplomatic missions, including in Senegal and the USA, to handle visa issuance and travel document issuance and renewal for the diaspora.

## **The Gambia Bureau of Statistics** GBoS 1965 (Sub-ministry)

The GBoS, established at independence in 1965, operates under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. It is responsible for analysing data on migration. The National Migration Policy aspires to establish within GBoS a department charged with the responsibility of regularly updating migration statistics in collaboration with other stakeholders, including data derived from registers of Gambians at respective missions abroad and from Gambians in diaspora organisations, as well as remittances data.<sup>26</sup>

## **Central Bank of The Gambia** CBG 1971 (Sub-ministry)

The CBG, established in 1971, supervises and regulates remittances markets, and collects data on remittances. The CBG, the Ministry of Finance, MoFA, and the MSDG Project convened regular technical roundtables to discuss improvements in policy and practice. The Governor of the CBG also provides a statement on remittances at the annual SNF.<sup>27</sup>

## **Diaspora organisations in Europe**

### **Association des Gambiens du Nord (France)** France

- ☑ **Integration activities**
- ☑ **Development activities**

This organisation supports Gambian residents in Northern France by promoting cultural exchange, social support, and development projects in The Gambia.

### **Association of Gambians In Sundsvall, Kvissleby, Sweden** 2016 Sweden (Sundsvall)

- ☑ **Integration activities**

The association in Sundsvall provides a welcoming space for Gambians in Sweden, helping members adapt to Swedish society while staying connected to their roots. It organises cultural gatherings, offers integration support, and provides resources to assist with daily challenges.

25 Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), *Diaspora Brochure*, 24 August 2023. Available at: <https://www.giepa.gm/media-and-resources/p/item/19429/diaspora-brochure> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

26 The Gambia Diaspora & Migration Directorate, *National Migration Policy*, available at: <https://diaspora.gm/national-migration-policy/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

27 IFAD & Developing Markets Associates Global, *The Gambia Country Diagnostic: Remittances Market Analysis*, International Fund for Agricultural Development, June 2023. Available at: [https://gfrid.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Diagnostics\\_TheGambia\\_2023\\_preliminary\\_release.pdf](https://gfrid.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Diagnostics_TheGambia_2023_preliminary_release.pdf) [Accessed 7 November 2024].

Read more about diaspora organisations  
in "[Starting guide: What is a diaspora  
organisation](#)"







**Association Patriotique de Gambien de France** 2022 France (Briançon)

**Integration activities**

This association provides integration support to Gambians living in France.

**Brighton and Hove Association of Gambian Citizens** United Kingdom

**Integration activities**

The association promotes Gambian culture (including music, dance, and food) and encourages the diaspora community in Brighton and Hove to engage with others in the city to share experiences, support and contribute to the city.

**Friends of The Gambia Association** 2003 United Kingdom

**Development activities**

The association is focused on educational and healthcare projects in The Gambia, while also bringing together the UK Gambian community through shared development goals.

**Gambia Association Denmark** 2015 Denmark

**Integration activities**

The association brings together Gambians residing in Denmark.

**Gambia Association Ireland** 2010 Ireland (Dublin)

**Integration activities**

The association brings together Gambians living in Ireland through cultural activities. It has also supported youth development through a diaspora mentorship scheme.

**Gambia Cultural Association In France** 2016 France

**Integration activities**

This cultural association works to preserve and celebrate Gambian heritage within France while promoting integration. It regularly hosts cultural events and provides social support, connecting members to their roots and fostering unity within the diaspora.

**Gambia Swiss Congress** 2016 Switzerland

**Integration activities**

**Development activities**

Founded by six Gambian associations across Switzerland, this umbrella organisation supports Gambians in Switzerland by promoting socio-economic development and resilience. It contributes to the welfare of Gambians both in Switzerland and in The Gambia through various projects and community-building activities.

## **Gambia Youth Association A.P.S Italy**

### **Development activities**

This youth-focused association is dedicated to engaging young Gambians in Italy.<sup>28</sup> It encourages social participation, offers leadership training, and promotes developmental projects that help youths contribute both to their communities in Italy and in The Gambia.

## **Gambian Association in Oslo, Norway Norway (Oslo)**

### **Integration activities**

The association provides a support network for Gambians in Oslo, helping members adapt to Norwegian society. It organises cultural events and community-building activities that foster a sense of identity and solidarity among Gambians in Norway. The association organises a one-week celebration of Gambian and African culture.

## **Gambian-Italian Association of Students and Researchers Italy**

### **Integration activities**

### **Development activities**

This association connects Gambian students and researchers across Italy, fostering a supportive academic and social community. It promotes educational exchange, mentorship, and collaboration on projects that advance both personal and professional growth.

## **Gambian Organisation in Sweden 1975 Sweden**

This organisation supports Gambians in Sweden through social activities and integration support while also engaging in development projects that benefit communities in The Gambia.

## **Gambia Refugees Association (GRA) Europe Branch Germany**

The GRA advocates for Gambian refugees and asylum seekers in Europe.

## **Kairaba - Asociación de Gambianos en España Spain**

### **Integration activities**

This association provides support for Gambians in Spain through cultural and social initiatives that foster unity and integration. Members can access resources, engage in community events, and stay connected with Gambian culture while adapting to Spanish life.

<sup>28</sup> International Organization for Migration, *Diaspora Mapping Profile: The Gambia, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau Diasporas in Italy*, 2019, available at: <https://publications.iom.int/books/diaspora-mapping-profile-gambia-guinea-and-guinea-bissau-diasporas-italy> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

### **Kombo Sillah Association UK (KSA UK)** United Kingdom (Bristol)

- ☑ **Integration activities**
- ☑ **Development activities**

KSA UK supports Gambians in the UK through cultural and social events that strengthen ties to Gambian heritage. The association also engages in development projects that support education, healthcare, and social services in The Gambia.

### **MUUÑ** 2014 Spain

- ☑ **Development activities**

MUUÑ is a Gambian-Spanish association focusing on projects that uplift communities in The Gambia. Through diaspora contributions, the organisation supports initiatives that tackle poverty, education, and healthcare needs.

### **RAISE - The Gambian Helping Hands** Germany

- ☑ **Integration activities**
- ☑ **Development activities**

RAISE focuses on providing support to Gambians in Germany while also engaging in development projects back home. Its initiatives include community-building, education programs, and social support services. RAISE was nominated for the Best African Association in Germany Award at the AFRONEWS – Ortel Mobile African Community in Germany Awards in 2021.<sup>29</sup>

### **Suomi-Gambia Yhdistys** Finland

- ☑ **Integration activities**

Suomi-Gambia Yhdistys is an association of Gambians in Finland. The primary aims of the association include fostering unity, cooperation and provision of practical help and support for Gambians living in Finland. The association gives assistance and counselling to its members on integration into Finnish society.

### **Swedish-Gambian Niumi Cultural Association (Niumikafo)** Sweden

- ☑ **Integration activities**

Niumikafo aims to help Gambian families, particularly youths and women to solve their problems by informing and integrating them about the difficulties they may encounter in the society of Sweden.

<sup>29</sup> Ceesay, B., *2 Gambian Associations Nominated for Best African Association in Germany*, *The Alkamba Times*, October 2021. Available at: <https://alkambatimes.com/2-gambian-associations-nominated-best-african-association-in-germany/> [Accessed 7 November 2024].

## **The Gambian Community Nottinghamshire** United Kingdom (Nottingham)

### **Integration activities**

This community group offers support to Gambians through social events, workshops, and integration resources. It provides a welcoming space for Gambians to connect, share experiences, and celebrate their culture in the UK.

## **The Gambian Italian Association** (GIA) Italy

### **Integration activities**

The GIA is formed by young Gambians living in Italy. The aim of the association is to help unite and integrate Gambian migrants into Italian society.

## **Wolverhampton Gambian Community Group** United Kingdom (Wolverhampton)

### **Integration activities**

This community group supports Gambians through community-building and cultural activities. It offers resources for integration and provides a space for Gambians to connect and celebrate their shared heritage.

**Written by: Loksan Harley**  
**Edited by: EUDiF**  
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