

The GAMBIA

Capital

Banjul

Ethnic Groups

Mandinka/Jahanka 33.3%, Fulani/Tukulur/Lorobo 18.2%, Wolof 12.9%, Jola/Karoninka 11%, Serahuleh 7.2%, Serer 3.5%, other 4%, non-Gambian 9.9%

Languages

English (official), Mandinka, Wolof, Fula, other indigenous vernaculars

Religions

Muslim 96.4%, Christian 3.5%, other or none 0.1%

Population

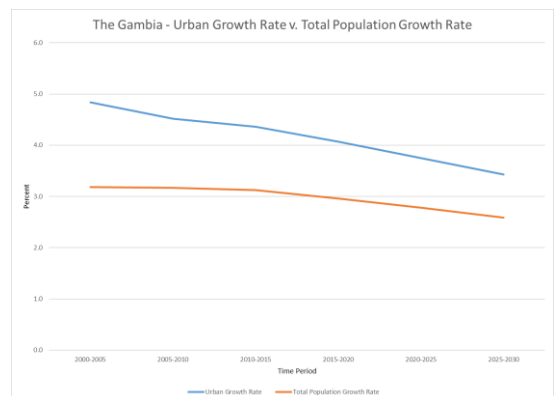
Total: 2.5 million
Median age: 21.8 years
Population growth rate: 2.23%
Urban: 64.5%
Rural 35.5%

Fertility

Birth rate: 28.03 births/1,000 population
Total fertility rate: 3.66 children born/woman
Sex ratio of population: 0.98 male(s)/female

Mortality

Death rate: 5.71 deaths/1,000 population
Life expectancy at birth: 67.98 years
Maternal mortality rate: 597 deaths/100,000 live births
Infant mortality rate: 36.44 deaths/1,000 live births



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Migration

Net migration rate: -0.04 migrants/1,000 population

Health

Current health expenditure: 2.6% of GDP

Physician density: 0.08 physicians/1,000 population

Adult obesity: 10.3%

Alcohol consumption per capita: 2.67 liters of pure alcohol

Education

Education expenditures: 2.8% of GDP

Literacy: 50.8%

Population Distribution

settlements are found scattered along the Gambia River; the largest communities, including the capital of Banjul, and the country's largest city, Serekunda, are found at the mouth of the Gambia River along the Atlantic coast

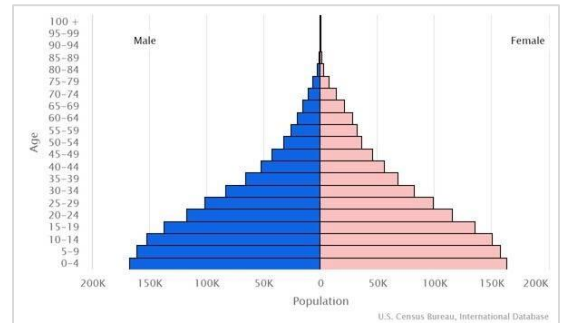
Demographic Profile

The Gambia's youthful age structure – approximately 50% of the population is under the age of 25 as of 2021 – is likely to persist because the country's total fertility rate remains strong at nearly 4 children per woman. The overall literacy rate is around 50%, and is significantly lower for women than for men. At least 70% of the populace are farmers who are reliant on rain-fed agriculture and cannot afford improved seeds and fertilizers. Crop failures caused by droughts between 2011 and 2013 increased poverty, food shortages, and malnutrition.

The Gambia is a source country for migrants and a transit and destination country for migrants and refugees. Since the 1980s, economic deterioration, drought, and high unemployment, especially among youths, have driven both domestic migration (largely urban) and migration abroad (legal and illegal). Emigrants are largely skilled workers, including doctors and nurses, and provide a significant amount of remittances. The top receiving countries for Gambian emigrants are Spain, the US, Nigeria, Senegal, and the UK. While the Gambia and Spain do not share historic, cultural, or trade ties, rural Gambians have migrated to Spain in large numbers because of its proximity and the availability of jobs in its underground economy (this flow slowed following the onset of Spain's late 2007 economic crisis).

The Gambia's role as a host country to refugees is a result of wars in several of its neighboring West African countries. Since 2006, refugees from the Casamance conflict in Senegal have replaced their pattern of flight and return with permanent settlement in The Gambia, often moving in with relatives along the Senegal-Gambia border. The strain of providing for about 7,400 Casamance refugees increased poverty among Gambian villagers. The number of refugees decreased to around 3,500 by 2022.

Age Structure



Population Distribution

