



2025
EDITION



The Diaspora and Migration Newsletter

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad

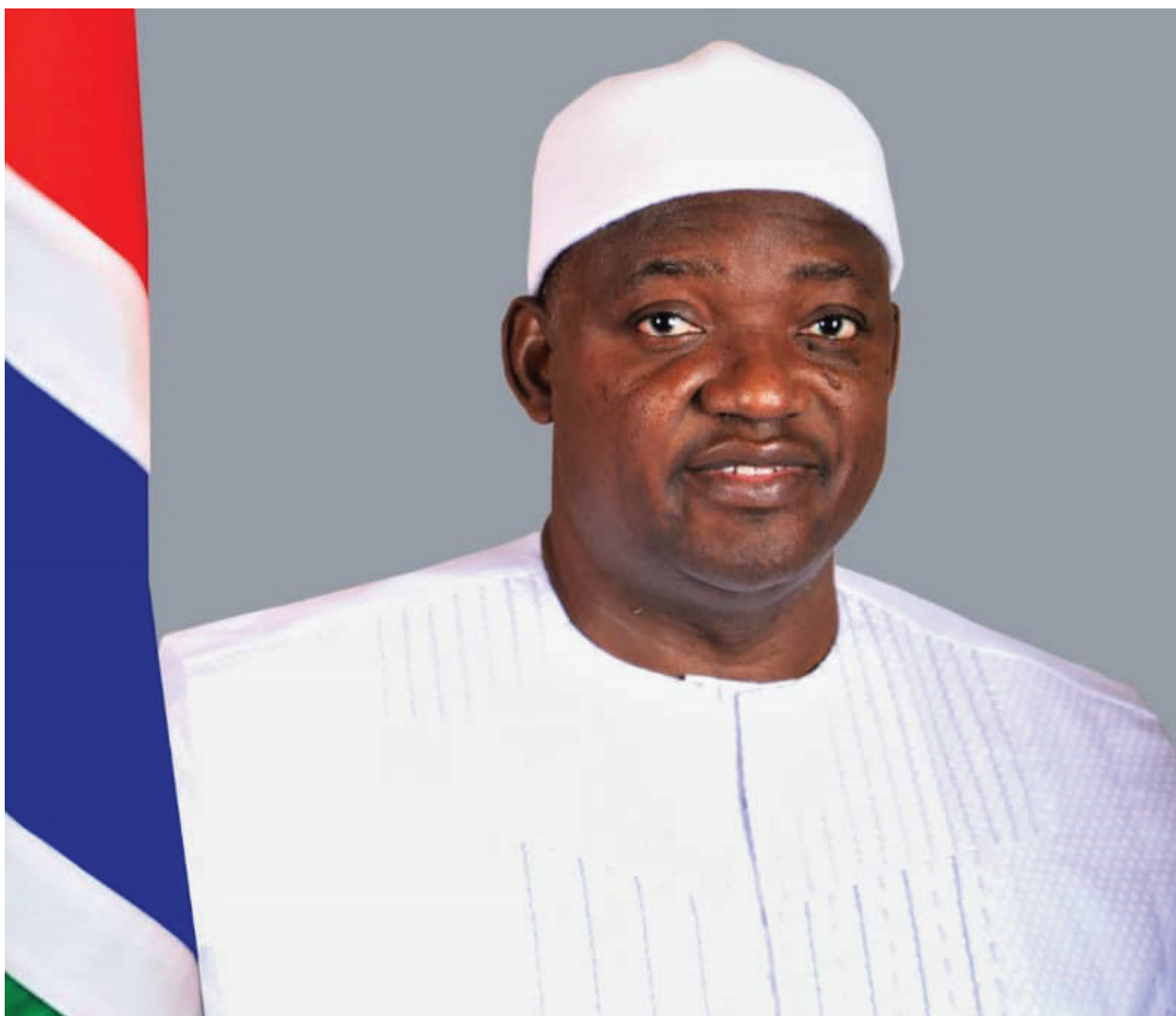


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H.E. Mr. Adama Barrow
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE GAMBIA ARMED FORCES



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THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND GAMBIAANS ABROAD

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FOREWORD



Hon. Sering Modou Njie

*Minister of Foreign Affairs, International
Cooperation and Gambians Abroad*

Dear Gambian Diaspora,

As we celebrate the 2025 Gambia Diaspora Month, I am pleased to extend warm greetings and heartfelt appreciation to all Gambians worldwide. This newsletter is dedicated to honoring the extraordinary contributions of our diaspora women, men, and youth who continue to uplift our nation through their commitment, creativity, and unwavering connection to home.

The Gambian diaspora remains a key pillar of our national development. Your support, through remittances, investments, skills transfer, philanthropic initiatives, and community mobilization, has touched every sector of our society. Whether advancing healthcare, education, innovation, entrepreneurship, or governance, you continue to demonstrate the remarkable impact of Gambians shaping change across borders.

This year's celebration comes at a time when The Gambia is enhancing its structures for meaningful diaspora engagement.

Through strengthened consular support, policy reforms, digital platforms, and closer collaboration with diaspora organizations worldwide, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad (MoFA) is deepening partnerships that translate your contributions into sustainable development outcomes at home.

We are especially proud of our ongoing initiatives, such as the Diaspora Development Fund, the Diaspora Desk at Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), expanded skills-transfer programs, enhanced cooperation with diaspora associations, and inclusive mechanisms that ensure Gambians abroad are part of our Recovery-Focused National Development Plan 2023-2027 (NDP). Your voices and expertise remain invaluable as we collectively work toward a more prosperous, resilient, and inclusive Gambia.

As we honour Diaspora Month 2025, I extend sincere gratitude to all our diaspora communities for your steadfast love of country and the pride with which you carry our national identity around the world. Your achievements inspire us, your resilience empowers us, and your commitment strengthens our resolve to build a brighter future for generations to come.

Let us continue working together united in purpose, guided by shared values, and committed to harnessing the full potential of our global Gambian family.

INTRODUCTION



Amb. Lang Yabou

*Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad*

The Gambian diaspora continues to stand as a powerful extension of the nation itself, often proudly described as our “Eighth Region.” Spread across Africa, Europe, North America, the Middle East, and beyond, Gambians abroad remain deeply connected to home, contributing in ways that shape the country’s growth and resilience every day. As of 2024, more than 236,000 Gambians are estimated to be living overseas, with the majority based in the Global North. Their impact is felt in homes, communities, and institutions across the country through remittances, investments, skills sharing, and unwavering support for families and local initiatives. These contributions are not only financial; they reflect a deep commitment to national progress and a shared sense of

responsibility for the country’s future.

Remittances alone account for approximately thirty- one percent (31%) of The Gambia’s Gross Domestic Product, highlighting the diaspora’s vital role in sustaining livelihoods and driving economic stability. Yet their influence reaches far beyond these figures, extending into education, healthcare, entrepreneurship, digital innovation, and community development. This edition of the 2025 Diaspora Engagement Newsletter captures the growing momentum in strengthening this relationship, supported by improved coordination and national leadership in migration governance. Milestones such as the development of a comprehensive Diaspora Policy and the Revised Diaspora Engagement Strategy for 2025 to 2030 reflect a clear commitment to creating more inclusive systems and expanding opportunities for meaningful engagement.

As a Champion Country of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), The Gambia continues to embrace a forward-looking approach, recognizing migration as a force for unity and sustainable development. At its heart, this vision is about people ensuring that wherever Gambians may live, they remain connected, empowered, and central to building a stronger and more prosperous nation.

**“Strengthening bridges
between The Gambia and
international partners”**

According to official Government of The Gambia figures, private remittance inflows increased by **12.5%**, amounting to more than **US\$872 million in 2025**.



Fatou Kinneh Jobe

*Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs
International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad*

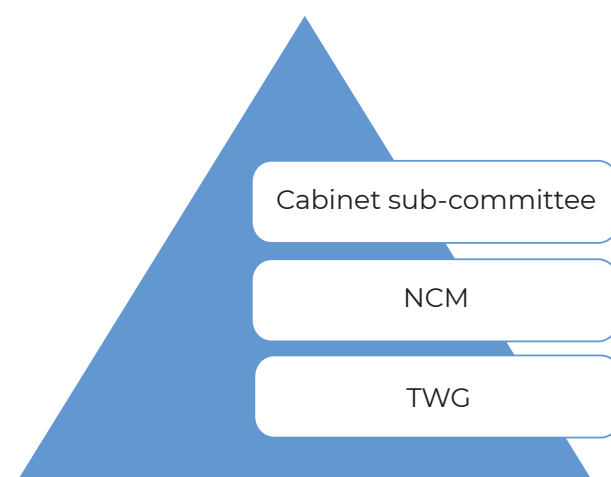
INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

The institutional framework guiding The Gambia's diaspora engagement is anchored in the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM). As a Global Champion of the GCM, The Gambia is committed to implementing all twenty-three (23) Objectives through eight Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) under the NCM. Diaspora engagement efforts

are primarily aligned with Objectives 6, 19, 20, and 22, and are led by designated institutions under these TWGs.

The GCM implementation adopts a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, ensuring inclusiveness and leaving no one behind. The NCM convenes quarterly meetings to review and assess Diaspora and Migration development submitted by each TWG. These consolidated findings are then presented to the Sub-Cabinet Committee on Migration, chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad for policy direction and follow-up. This structured, multi-level governance mechanism ensures accountability, coordination, and sustained political commitment to diaspora engagement and broader migration goals as seen in the diagram below.

“Supporting families, communities, and livelihoods”



“Sharing skills, expertise, and knowledge for national development”

ACTORS AND INSTITUTIONS

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND GAMBIANS ABROAD (MOFA)



Ndumbeh Saho

*Director, Migration and Diaspora Directorate,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs International
Cooperation and Gambians Abroad*

MoFA plays a central role in diaspora engagement and migration governance, acting as the principal link between the Government of The Gambia and Gambians abroad through its diplomatic and consular missions. It coordinates policies and programmes to strengthen diaspora participation in national development, including investment promotion, skills and knowledge transfer, and structured engagement mechanisms.

Currently, the Ministry is developing a Diaspora Engagement Policy and revising the Gambia Diaspora Strategy to provide a comprehensive framework for diaspora involvement. It also provides strategic guidance on migration and development issues and is undertaking studies to assess institutional arrangements for tracing missing migrants, which will inform a national implementation plan.

MoFA leads the negotiation and implementation of Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, promoting safe, orderly, and regular labour mobility while protecting Gambian migrant workers' rights. The Ministry also serves as the lead Missing Migrants focal institution, coordinating with missions, host countries, and international partners under initiatives such as the Global Alliance on Missing Migrants and the Rabat Process.

To ensure effective coordination, MOFA appoints Diaspora and Migration Focal Persons across all missions, facilitating engagement, data sharing, and alignment with national priorities and international commitments.

THE GAMBIA IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT (GID), UNDER THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR



Mr. Ebrima Mboob

Director General, Gambia Immigration Department

Gambia Immigration Department (GID) plays a central role in the management of migration governance in the country. Its mandate covers the issuance and management of identification documents, passport services, and residence permits, as well as the oversight of border security and the prevention of irregular migration. Its line ministry, the Ministry of Interior (MOI), works closely with national and international partners to strengthen border infrastructure, enhance data management systems, and build the capacity of frontline officers to ensure safe, orderly, and well-regulated mobility.

In addition to these operational responsibilities, MOI has taken a leadership role in shaping national migration governance frameworks. Most notably, it spearheaded development of the National Migration Policy 2020–2030 (NMP), which provides a comprehensive and

forward-looking blueprint for managing migration in a way that supports national development, protects migrants' rights, and enhances coordination among government institutions. The Ministry also collaborates with other agencies on return and reintegration processes, ensuring that returning migrants, both voluntary and involuntary, receive appropriate support, documentation, and referral services to facilitate their sustainable reintegration within their communities.

Collectively, these efforts illustrate the Ministry's commitment to building a coherent, rights-based, and development-oriented migration management system in The Gambia.

THE CENTRAL BANK OF THE GAMBIA



Hon. Buah Saidy

Governor, Central Bank of The Gambia

The Bank plays a pivotal role in advancing diaspora financial inclusion through the implementation of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (2021-2025). As part of this effort, the Bank continues to promote the use of secure and affordable formal remittance channels, working closely with financial institutions to introduce tailored diaspora banking products, including dedicated diaspora accounts and savings instruments. The expansion of mobile wallet transfers has also been a major focus, enabling faster, more accessible, and more transparent transfer options for Gambians at home and abroad.

The Central Bank of The Gambia announced that diaspora remittances reached approximately US\$872–872.85 million in 2025 through formal channels. This remarkable contribution reflects the resilience of diaspora flows compared to other financial inflows and demonstrates the strong commitment and enduring connection of Gambians abroad to their families and to the development of their country.

In addition, the Central Bank is actively pursuing measures to lower the cost of remittances by fostering greater competition among Money Transfer Operators (MTOs) and encouraging innovation in digital financial services. These reforms aim not only to enhance efficiency within the remittance market but also to ensure that diaspora funds reach families and communities with minimal loss. Collectively, these initiatives underscore the Bank's commitment to creating a robust, inclusive, and modern financial ecosystem that strengthens

the developmental impact of diaspora contributions.

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS



Hon. Seedy K.M Keita

Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, Gambia

The Ministry has increasingly integrated the diaspora into national development financing, recognizing their role as key partners in driving sustainable growth. In recent years, the Ministry has advanced initiatives aimed at leveraging diaspora capital, expertise, and long-term commitment to national development priorities. This includes the development of a comprehensive diaspora bond framework designed to create secure and attractive investment opportunities for Gambians abroad, while simultaneously strengthening the country's fiscal resilience.

In addition to recognizing the diaspora as an innovative source of funding for the NDP the Ministry is actively promoting the creation of diaspora-focused investment products, including diaspora bonds, as well as portable social security mechanisms that allow Gambians working abroad to maintain

and transfer their social protection benefits when returning home or moving across borders. These initiatives reflect a broader commitment to enhancing diaspora inclusion in national planning processes and fostering an enabling environment that encourages their sustained engagement in The Gambia's development agenda.

THE MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT



Hon. Mod K. Ceesay

*Minister for Trade, Regional Integration and
Employment in The Gambia*

The Ministry facilitates diaspora investment by enhancing the ease of doing business, managing a one-stop investment service, providing targeted incentives, and regulating labour migration and private employment and recruitment agencies. These efforts have contributed to the development of key policy frameworks, including the Labour Migration Strategy and its Plan of Action (2022–2026), as well as the Standard Operating Procedures for the Code of Conduct of Private Employment

and Recruitment Agencies in The Gambia. In addition, the Ministry operates regional job centers in collaboration with the Department of Labour, providing information and support to Gambians seeking employment opportunities both within and abroad.

Building on these initiatives, the Ministry continues to advance regular migration pathways through labour mobility agreements and strategic partnerships that facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration. Simultaneously, it promotes diaspora investment by strengthening the regulatory and business environment, supporting private sector development, and creating enabling platforms and incentives for Gambians abroad. These measures encourage the diaspora to invest, share skills, and actively contribute to sustainable economic growth and the broader development of The Gambia.

OVERVIEW OF DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT POLICY, LEGISLATION, AND STRATEGY

The Government of The Gambia has demonstrated a strong commitment to structured and strategic diaspora engagement, recognizing the vital role of the diaspora in national socio-economic development. The current *Gambia Diaspora Strategy* is a comprehensive roadmap to integrate the diaspora more effectively into national development processes. This strategy has been fully

incorporated into the NDP, reinforcing its centrality in national planning and its focus on maximizing diaspora contributions while addressing challenges such as irregular migration.

Complementing this is the NMP, which provides a policy framework for managing migration to promote development, protection, and reintegration. Additionally, The Gambia has domesticated GCM into Development Plans, aligning global commitments with national priorities. These policies have been developed through inclusive consultations with diaspora communities, ensuring their voices and experiences shape national migration governance.

GOOD PRACTICE OF THE GAMBIA'S DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

The Government of The Gambia has taken significant strides in leveraging the potential of its diaspora through a wide range of innovative and inclusive mechanisms. These efforts are primarily guided by the Gambia Diaspora Strategy, which seeks to institutionalize and streamline diaspora engagement across development, investment, governance, and social cohesion.

DIASPORA DEVELOPMENT FUND (DDF)

A flagship initiative under the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG) project, the Diaspora

Development Fund (DDF) offers financial and technical support to diaspora-led development initiatives. The fund aligns closely with the GDS commitment to promote diaspora contributions through co-financing mechanisms. The Gambia MSDG Diaspora Development Fund supports 60 projects across The Gambia and provides matched funding for community and entrepreneurial ventures. Launched formally in January 2022, the expanded DDF programme has allocated €275,000 in grants, an average of €5,000 per recipient, to fifty-five (55) Gambian Diaspora Fellows, with expectations of additional match-funding raised by the fellows themselves.

The GDS outlines DDF's role in fostering sustainable development by supporting hometown associations, alumni groups, and sectoral non-profits, while also providing investment tools like loans and equity to diaspora entrepreneurs. This strategy echoes the GCM (Objective 19, Section 35), which calls for financial tools and partnerships to facilitate diaspora-led development and business creation.

TAX BREAK INCENTIVES

GIEPA offers tax break incentives through its Special Investment Certificate (SIC) and Domestic Investment Certificate (DIC) schemes to encourage diaspora investment. These incentives provide up to five years of tax exemptions for qualifying diaspora-led ventures, particularly in priority sectors such as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), as well as agriculture. This strategic support aims to foster diaspora start-ups, stimulate job creation, and promote innovation. As a

result, there has been a notable increase in diaspora investments, especially in the health and tourism sectors, contributing significantly to national development

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND CONSULAR SERVICES

The establishment of the fully operational Diaspora Directorate within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a significant institutional advancement. This unit serves as a central point for diaspora relations, coordinating with other ministries and facilitating structured communication. It also operates a voluntary diaspora registration portal to enhance data on Gambians abroad and map their potential for national development.

To improve consular service delivery, Gambian diplomatic missions have begun appointing Diaspora Focal Persons. These individuals act as liaisons between embassies and diaspora communities, particularly in contexts where resource constraints limit the availability of professional diplomatic staff.

Furthermore, the government has appointed Honorary Consuls qualified among Gambians residing abroad to expand the reach of consular services and promote investment, trade, education, and cultural exchange. This cost-effective model enables the provision of services in regions far from official embassies, strengthening diaspora ties and national engagement

COMMUNITY-BASED WELFARE SUPPORT

Diaspora community organisations and faith groups play a vital role in supporting Gambians abroad. However, the growing number of distressed migrants has led to rising demands on diplomatic missions for welfare support. In response, a Register of Community Volunteers (CVs) is being proposed to provide a structured approach to welfare delivery. Volunteers will assist with visits to detention centers, hospitals, and help manage cases involving deceased Gambians without next of kin. These partnerships with credible diaspora organisations help bridge welfare gaps and enhance social protection in the diaspora

RECOGNITION OF MULTIGENERATIONAL DIASPORA

As migration slows and settled Gambian populations abroad grow, attention is shifting to the second and third generations. These individuals often lack direct ties to The Gambia, increasing the risk of cultural and civic disengagement. Diplomatic missions, in partnership with diaspora organisations, are encouraged to maintain a register of children born to Gambian parents and issue them Certificates of Gambian Citizenship. Additionally, the introduction of the Gambian Diaspora Internship (GDI) programme aims to integrate young diaspora members through practical experience, mentorship, and civic education, helping to sustain identity and connection to The Gambia (MSDG, 2023).

STRUCTURED ENGAGEMENT AND DIALOGUE

The Gambia has institutionalized regular dialogue with its diaspora through quarterly virtual consultative meetings and an annual in-person Diaspora Forum. These sessions provide updates on policy developments, consular services, and diaspora programmes. They also offer platforms for feedback and collaborative planning. The annual Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF) and National Dialogue on Migration, held during the designated Diaspora Month (15 December–14 January), further solidifies this commitment to participatory governance and shared national development.

SKILLS TRANSFER AND CAPACITY SUPPORT

To address capacity gaps in key sectors, the government is implementing skills transfer initiatives such as the Gambia Skilled Workers Scheme and Diaspora Mentorship Programme. These programmes attract diaspora professionals for short-term engagements, providing much-needed expertise in policy planning, ICT, education, and public administration. A pilot skills-matching initiative prioritizes sectors like health, education, and agriculture, with a focus on STEM education and online mentorship. MoHERST has launched the Skills, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fund, supported by the World Bank-funded RISE project, as a major framework to drive start-up support, skills development, and mentorship for Gambian youth including the diaspora, and second-generation

diaspora etc. The SIE Fund aims to enhance technical, innovation, and entrepreneurial skills among youths by funding training, business start-up support, and institutional capacity building.

IMPROVING REMITTANCES AND DIGITAL ACCESS

The Central Bank of The Gambia is enhancing its remittance infrastructure by collaborating with private actors to reduce transaction costs and improve data collection. Supported by IFAD's PRIME Africa initiative, digital remittance services have expanded, with companies like APS International, QMoney, AfriMoney, Yonna, and Wave leading efforts to train rural agents and integrate remittances with microfinance solutions. These efforts contribute to financial inclusion and the growth of the digital economy.

INVESTMENT FACILITATION AND E-GOVERNMENT

The Diaspora Advice Desk (DAD) at the Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA) offers tailored support to diaspora investors, providing guidance and facilitating streamlined business registration processes. The government also plans to roll out e-government services, starting with online passport applications and company registrations, to improve delivery service to diaspora populations

ANNUAL STAKE IN THE NATION FORUM



Dignitaries of the Stake in Nation Forum. Photo: IOM 2026.

On January 10, 2026, the Government of The Gambia, in partnership with GK Partners and in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), hosted the ninth Stake in The Nation Forum at Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara Conference Centre in Bijilo. This landmark gathering that reinforced the growing importance of diaspora engagement in advancing inclusive economic growth in The Gambia. Convened under the theme “Enhancing Participation in the Productive Sectors,” the forum brought together government officials, private sector leaders, civil society representatives, and members of the diaspora to collectively explore practical and innovative ways to harness diaspora skills, investment, and partnerships. The event provided a strong platform for meaningful dialogue and strategic alignment, reaffirming the diaspora as a vital contributor to national development.

The forum also translated dialogue into action through a series of impactful initiatives designed to create tangible opportunities. The Career Development

Forum offered guidance and inspiration to young people, the “Made in The Gambia” Marketplace showcased local products and entrepreneurship, and the launch of the Biri Biri Initiative highlighted the potential of sports and tourism as engines for growth. Together, these efforts strengthened connections between diaspora communities and local stakeholders, while opening pathways for increased investment, job creation, and sectoral development. By fostering closer collaboration and shared responsibility, the forum has positioned the Gambian diaspora as a strategic partner in building a more resilient, diversified, and prosperous future for the country.

STRUCTURED NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION



National Dialogue on Migration. Photo : IOM, 2025.

The Government of The Gambia in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) organized a National Dialogue on Migration 2025, held on 17–18 December 2025 at the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara Conference Center, marked a defining moment in reshaping migration into a force for national development. Convening 168 stakeholders, from government leaders and private sector

innovators to diaspora representatives, civil society, and international partners, the dialogue galvanized a shared vision: to move beyond managing migration as a challenge and instead unlock it as a strategic driver of inclusive growth. Participants called for bold action, expanding safe, regular, and gender-responsive migration pathways; fast-tracking a national digital ID system to simplify documentation and strengthen identity management; and translating policy priorities into funded, results-driven programs. Reaffirming The Gambia's leadership as a GCM Global Champion, the dialogue underscored a powerful message: when grounded in dignity, data, and opportunity, migration can fuel resilience, investment, and national progress.

Panel 5 on *Advancing Skills and Integration through Diaspora Engagement* brought this vision to life, spotlighting the diaspora as a dynamic engine of “brain circulation”, where knowledge, skills, and innovation flow back to strengthen the nation. Moving beyond remittances, panelists championed “skill remittances,” structured mentorship, and investment partnerships to connect Gambians abroad with local talent and emerging industries. Innovative initiatives such as *Turning Tides* showcased how linking skills training, especially through TVET, to real employment opportunities can empower youth and reduce irregular migration. Despite persistent barriers, including regulatory constraints, skills mismatches, and limited coordination, the session delivered a clear call to action: reform policies, unlock diaspora-friendly investment frameworks, and build agile platforms that match expertise with need in real time. With stronger partnerships and

decisive reforms, diaspora engagement can shift from untapped potential to a cornerstone of national development, ensuring migration becomes not a necessity, but a powerful choice rooted in opportunity and shared prosperity.

POLICY ANALYSIS, SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Despite the progress achieved in recent years, several challenges continue to influence the full effectiveness of The Gambia's diaspora engagement efforts. The operationalisation of diaspora voting remains under review and is progressing gradually. At the same time, historical experiences have shaped varying levels of confidence among some diaspora communities, underscoring the need for continued trust-building and sustained dialogue.

The country's limited diplomatic presence and the wide dispersion of Gambian communities across continents also present practical constraints for regular outreach and service delivery. These complexities intersect with broader migration challenges, including irregular migration, vulnerabilities faced by migrants, and ongoing efforts to clarify cases of missing persons, which place pressure on protection systems and highlight the need for strengthened coordination.

To enhance diaspora engagement, The Gambia may consider accelerating stronger collaboration with host countries and international partners to improve migrant

protection and reducing the drivers of irregular migration.

Above all, sustained communication, responsive institutions, and inclusive policy processes will be critical for fostering trust and deepening engagement. While challenges persist, The Gambia's evolving framework, supported by strategic partnerships, digital tools, leadership and political commitment to participatory governance, offers a solid foundation for harnessing the full potential of its diaspora for national development.

CELEBRATING THE GAMBIAN DIASPORA

As we observe Gambia Diaspora Month 2025/2026, we take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of our diaspora to national development. Across the globe, Gambians abroad have consistently supported our nation through economic investments, social initiatives, knowledge and skills transfer, advocacy, and the promotion of our rich cultural heritage. Their efforts have made a meaningful difference in the lives of countless Gambians and continue to advance the progress of our nation.

We are profoundly grateful for the dedication, commitment, and love that our diaspora communities have shown toward The Gambia. As we look ahead, we are confident that the strong ties between the diaspora and our homeland will continue to flourish, driving innovation, creating opportunities, and fostering sustainable development for all Gambians.

This year, the Government of The Gambia remains committed to strengthening diaspora engagement through new policies and initiatives that facilitate investment, participation, and collaboration from Gambians abroad. By deepening these connections, we can harness the collective talent, expertise, and resources of our diaspora to achieve even greater outcomes for our nation.

As part of this celebration, we also honor some of our most influential diaspora personalities whose achievements have left a lasting mark on national development and beyond. These individuals have excelled across diverse sectors, exemplifying Gambian talent, resilience, and determination on the global stage. Their success not only brings pride to our nation but also inspires future generations of Gambians to strive for excellence and make a positive impact in their communities.

Together, as we celebrate the accomplishments of our diaspora, we reaffirm our commitment to building a brighter, more prosperous future for The Gambia, one that fully embraces the potential of our people at home and abroad.

“Strategic partner in national development”
“Facilitating skills and knowledge transfer”

We Celebrate,

Professor Gibril Faal

Co-Founder GK Partners,
Development Expert and
Social Entrepreneur



Professor Gibril Faal – Co-Founder GK Partners, Development Expert and Social Entrepreneur Gibril Faal is a renowned development expert and social entrepreneur, known for his extensive work in promoting sustainable development and diaspora engagement. As a co-founder of GK Partners and a leading figure in global development circles, Gibril has played a pivotal role in shaping policies that harness the potential of the diaspora for national development. We celebrate Professor Faal's visionary leadership in founding the Diaspora Development Fund through the MSDG (Multidimensional Sustainable Development Goals) project. This initiative strategically harnesses communities the potential to drive of diaspora sustainable development in their countries of origin. By connecting resources, expertise, and networks, the fund supports impactful projects that promote economic empowerment, education, and cultural preservation. Professor Faal's work has laid the foundation for a new era of collaboration, enabling diaspora populations to play a pivotal role in shaping a more inclusive, prosperous future. His commitment to development and innovation continues to inspire positive change globally.

Fatou Bensouda

prominent Gambian lawyer
and former Chief Prosecutor
of the International Criminal
Court (ICC)



Fatou Bensouda - prominent Gambian lawyer and former Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) We celebrate the incredible achievements of Fatou Bensouda, a distinguished member of the Gambian diaspora, whose trailblazing career has left an indelible mark on the international legal landscape. As a prominent Gambian lawyer and the former Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda has exemplified excellence, resilience, and leadership on the global stage. Her unwavering commitment to justice and accountability has not only elevated The Gambia's global profile but also serves as an inspiration for aspiring leaders, legal minds, and change makers worldwide.

Alieu Conteh

Telecommunications Pioneer



Alieu Conteh – Telecommunications Pioneer Alieu Conteh is a pioneering entrepreneur who revolutionized the telecommunications industry in Africa. As the founder of Vodacom Congo, he was instrumental in bringing mobile communications to millions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Alieu's visionary leadership and business acumen have not only transformed lives through improved connectivity but also set a powerful example of how Gambians can lead in cutting-edge industries on the continent and beyond.

Gina Bass

Track and Field Athlete



Gina Bass - Track and Field Athlete Gina Bass is The Gambia's sprinting sensation and one of Africa's top athletes. Specializing in the 100m and 200m events, Gina has represented The Gambia on the world stage, earning medals in various international competitions, including the African Games. Her dedication, discipline, and success have made her a national icon and a source of immense pride for Gambians everywhere, inspiring young athletes to pursue their dreams with determination.

Cherno Gaye

Financial Expert and Philanthropist



Cherno Gaye – Financial Expert and Philanthropist, Cherno Gaye is a distinguished financial expert with decades of experience in the banking and finance sectors. He has held senior positions in international financial institutions and has been a strong advocate for financial inclusion and economic empowerment in Africa. Beyond his professional achievements, Cherno is known for his philanthropic work, supporting education and community development initiatives in The Gambia, thus contributing significantly to the socio-economic growth of his homeland.

Jaha Dukureh

Activist and UN Women
Goodwill Ambassador

**Jaha Dukureh**

– Activist and UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Jaha Dukureh is an internationally recognized activist and advocate for women's rights, particularly in the fight against female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage. A survivor of FGM herself, Jaha founded the organization Safe Hands for Girls and has worked tirelessly to end these harmful practices. Her efforts have led to significant policy changes and global awareness, earning her numerous accolades, including being named a UN Women Goodwill Ambassador.

Musa Barrow

Professional Footballer

**Musa Barrow**

– Professional Footballer Musa Barrow is a talented footballer who has made a name for himself in European football, playing for clubs like Atalanta and Bologna in Italy's Serie A. Known for his speed, agility, and goal-scoring ability, Musa has become one of The Gambia's most successful football exports. His achievements on the field have not only raised the profile of Gambian football but also inspired many young Gambians to pursue careers in sports.

Sona Jobarteh

Musician and Cultural
Ambassador

**Sona Jobarteh**

– Musician and Cultural Ambassador Sona Jobarteh is a pioneering musician and the first female kora virtuoso to come from a prominent West African Griot family. Her music, which blends traditional Gambian sounds with contemporary influences, has garnered international acclaim. Sona is also a passionate educator, having founded The Gambia Academy to promote cultural heritage and academic excellence among young Gambians. Through her work, she has become a powerful cultural ambassador for The Gambia, preserving and promoting the rich traditions of our nation.

**Prof. Dr. Francesco
Cristina of SANTANNERA**

Honorary Consul of The
Gambia in Milan



Dr. Prof. Francesco Cristina Santannera – As we celebrate the remarkable achievements of the Gambian diaspora, we proudly recognize Dr. Prof. Francesco Cristina **Santannera**, a long-serving Honorary Consul of The Gambia in Milan, Italy, and a distinguished member of the Gambian diaspora. Over the years, Dr. Prof. Francesco Cristina **Santannera** has demonstrated unwavering dedication to strengthening the bonds between Gambians in Italy and their homeland. His efforts have significantly contributed to promoting cultural exchange, supporting community initiatives, and advancing the interests and visibility of The Gambia abroad.

Dr. Prof. Francesco Cristina Santannera exemplary service underscores the vital role played by Honorary Consuls in bridging the diaspora and the homeland. His leadership, commitment, and collaborative approach continue to inspire both Gambians abroad and those at home, highlighting the power of diaspora engagement in fostering national development and celebrating Gambian identity worldwide. We extend our sincere appreciation for his many years of devoted service and look forward to continued partnership in promoting the welfare and interests of Gambians overseas.

**Mr. Juan Antonio
del Moral Vizcaino**

Honorary Consul of The
Gambia in Barcelona, Spain



Mr. Juan Antonio del Moral Vizcaino – As part of our continued recognition of the invaluable contributions of the Gambian diaspora, we proudly celebrate Mr. Juan Antonio del Moral Vizcaino, a long-serving Honorary Consul of The Gambia in Barcelona, Spain. Through his dedicated and exemplary service, Mr. Vizcaino has played a significant role in strengthening the bonds between the Gambian community in Spain and their homeland.

His steadfast commitment embodies the true spirit of diaspora service building bridges, empowering communities, and contributing meaningfully to national development. Mr. Vizcaino's efforts continue to inspire Gambians both at home and abroad to work collaboratively for the progress of The Gambia, demonstrating how diaspora leadership can drive positive change and create lasting impact.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Vizcaino for his unwavering dedication and look forward to continued collaboration as we advance our shared vision of a stronger, more united, and more connected Gambian diaspora.

Seinabo Sey

Gambian singer and songwriter



Seinabo Sey - Gambian singer and songwriter. Seinabo Sey is a Gambian singer and songwriter who is part of the Gambian diaspora. Known for her powerful voice and emotional performances, Sey has carved out a name for herself in music by blending traditional Gambian contemporary styles. As a member of the diaspora, Sey has used her platform to promote Gambian culture, addressing social issues relevant to her community and highlighting the beauty of her heritage. She is recognized for her talent and commitment to creating a positive image of Gambian artistry on the global stage, connecting the Gambian diaspora with their roots, and inspiring younger generations through her music.

Abubakar Jawara

A Gambian businessman and Member of The Gambian Diaspora



Abubakar Jawara - Gambian businessman and member of the Gambian diaspora. Abubakar Jawara is a Gambian businessman and member of the Gambian diaspora, known for his influence in multiple sectors including pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and mining. As the founder and CEO of GACH Global, Jawara has established a strong business presence both in The Gambia and internationally. Jawara's contributions extend beyond business, as he is actively engaged in philanthropic work, particularly in health and education, where he has supported community development projects, donated medical supplies, and funded educational initiatives contributing to its economic growth and social development.

Ebrima S. Camara

CEO of E&P Group



Ebrima S. Camara -CEO of E&P Group, reflects on a remarkable journey of resilience, vision, and transformation. After spending two decades in Europe, Camara returned to The Gambia in 2018, driven by a longing to contribute to his homeland. His decision was fueled by personal reflection and a desire to participate in national progress following the country's political reform in 2016. By 2021, E&P Group had established itself as a key player in The Gambia and beyond, partnering with multinational corporations and governments to drive sustainable development. Camara's story is a testament to the power of resilience, courage, and commitment, demonstrating that significant change is possible when one dares to believe in a brighter future and works tirelessly to achieve it.

Musa Darboe

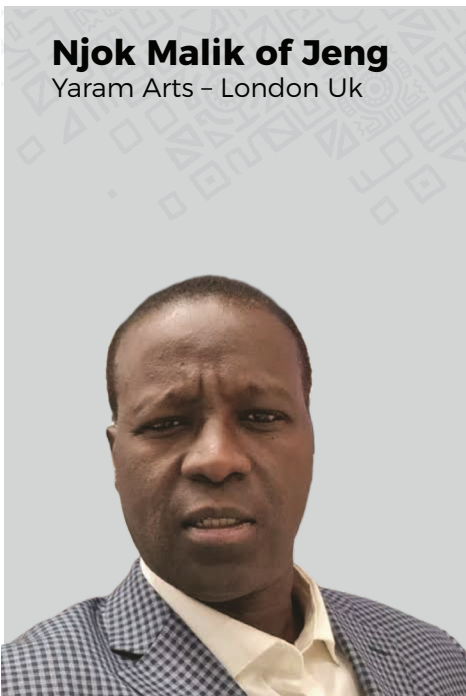
CEO of Maruo Farms



Musa Darboe - CEO of Maruo Farms Musa Darboe is a shining example of how the Gambian diaspora is driving national development. As the CEO of Maruo Farms, Musa has brought innovative agricultural practices to The Gambia, creating sustainable solutions to enhance food security and empower local farmers. Musa's vision reflects a deep commitment to the country's progress, showcasing how returning diaspora members can be powerful agents of transformation. We celebrate Musa Darboe's unwavering dedication and commend him for setting an inspiring example of giving back to one's homeland. His efforts resonate with the true spirit of patriotism, proving that together, we can build a brighter future for The Gambia.

Njok Malik of Jeng

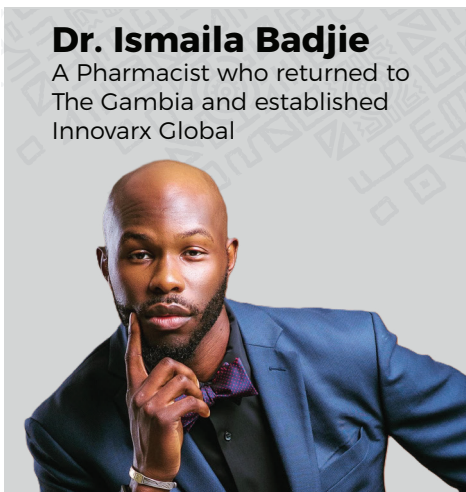
Yaram Arts – London Uk



Njok Malik of Jeng Yaram Arts – London Uk Njok Malik Jeng stands out as a vibrant ambassador of the Gambian diaspora, passionately promoting The Gambia on the global stage. He highlights the nation's rich culture, heritage, and untapped potential through his initiatives. A dedicated advocate for progress, Njok leverages his platform to attract investment, foster tourism, support entrepreneurship, and connect Gambians and African Diaspora with their roots. His efforts bridge continents, emphasizing the importance of unity and collaboration in national development. By showcasing The Gambia's beauty, talent, and promise, Njok inspires pride among Gambians and garners champion of his homeland. Dr. Ismail Badjie is the founder of Innovarx Global Health Dr. Ismail Badjie, a Gambian diaspora health entrepreneur, is a prime example of how diaspora talent can impact critical sectors in home countries. As the founder of Innovarx Global Health (IGH),

Dr. Ismaila Badjie

A Pharmacist who returned to The Gambia and established Innovarx Global



Dr. Ismaila Badjie - is revolutionizing healthcare in The Gambia by integrating technology with personalized care. IGH addresses gaps in infrastructure, accessibility, and service quality. Notable achievements include online consultations, prescription delivery, and chronic disease management. His work not only improves 30 health outcomes but also creates jobs and empowers local communities. Dr. Badjie's success is an inspiring model for diaspora investment in sustainable development and nation-building.

Ebrima Drammeh Aka Ebrima Migrant

A notable figure among
Gambian diaspora and a
dedicated migrants' activist.



Musa Darboe Migrant - a notable figure among Gambian diaspora and a dedicated migrants' activist. His work focuses on advocating for the rights, dignity, and wellbeing of migrants, particularly those from Africa. He is celebrated for raising awareness about migration issues, supporting displaced individuals, and creating platforms that amplify the voices of migrants throughout their migratory journey and in the diaspora.

WAY FORWARD

As we conclude this edition of the 2025 Gambian Diaspora Newsletter, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all members of the diaspora whose contributions through remittances, skills transfer, advocacy, and community engagement have advanced national development. At the same time, we solemnly remember Gambians who tragically lost their lives during migratory journeys in search of better opportunities.

Their sacrifices remind us of the urgent need for safe, legal, and dignified migration pathways. Looking ahead, the Government of The Gambia remains committed to strengthening partnerships with our diaspora, creating avenues for investment, innovation, and collaboration, and ensuring the protection and well-being of all Gambian migrants. Together, we honour the past, embrace the present, and work toward a safer, stronger, and more prosperous Gambia for all.

ESSENTIAL CONTACTS AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR GAMBIANS ABROAD

Gambians living outside the country rely on a network of embassies, consulates, and designated focal points to access timely assistance and engage effectively with national institutions. These contacts serve as the primary gateway for consular services, emergency support, legal guidance, and participation in diaspora programmes. Ensuring clear and reliable communication channels enhances the wellbeing and inclusion of our global Gambian community.

For the list of Gambian Diaspora Associations and their contact details, check out <https://mofa.gov.gm/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Gambian-Diaspora-Newsletter-2025-List-of-Diaspora-Association.pdf>

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