UNFPA The Gambia

Revised Report

End of Project Evaluation:

Young Women and Men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates in the prevention of violence and hate Speech

April 2022

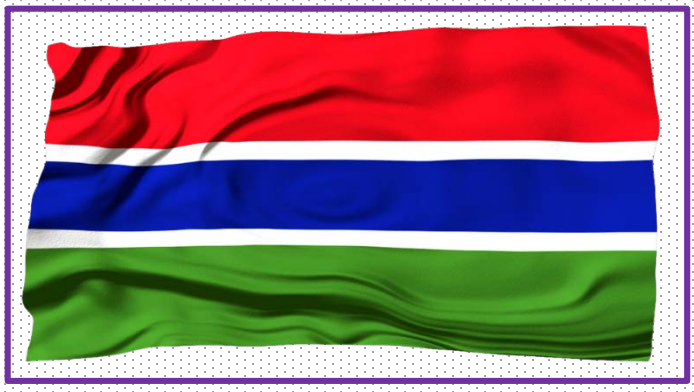
Creative commons via Bing: https://i0.wp.com/www.africametro.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Where-Are-Africas-Young-Leaders.jpg?resize=640%2C427

UNFPA

UNDP

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

UNESCO



Contents

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & LESSONS LEARNT 8
1.1 Introduction 8
1.2 Lessons Learnt & Recommendations 9
2. APPROACH TO THE EVALUATION 13
2.1 Background to the Project 13
2.2 Purpose and Objective 13
2.3 Evaluation Criteria 14
2.4 Specific Methodology 14
3. THE CONTEXT OF THE GAMBIA: POLITICAL ECONOMY AND SOCIETY 17
3.1 Where are we coming from? 17
3.2 Where are we now and where are we heading? 18
4. OVERVIEW OF THE EVALUATION NET PROMOTER SCORE (ENPS) RESULTS 19
4.1 Introduction 19
4.2 Demographic Profile of participants in Key Informant Interviews of Non-Un Implementing Partners 19
4.3 eNPS results for Key Informant Interviews of Non-UN implementing partners 20
4.4 Demographic Profile of participants in Focus Group Discussions 23
4.5 eNPS results for Focus Group Discussions with activity beneficiaries 24
4.6 Comparison of the eNPS results for KIIs and FGDs 26
5. THE PROJECT AND ITS RELEVANCE 28
5.1 The View after the Inception Phase 28
5.2 The Findings of the Field Research 30
5.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions 32
6. THE PROJECT AND ITS COHERENCE 34
6.1 The View after the Inception Phase 34
6.2 The Findings of the Field Research 36
6.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions 38
7. THE PROJECT AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS 39
7.1 The View after the Inception Phase 39
7.2 The Findings of the Field Research 40
7.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions 42
8. THE EFFICIENCY OF THE PROJECT 43
8.1 The View after the Inception Phase 43
8.1.1 Approved Budget 43
8.1.2 Rate of Project Implementation 44
8.2 The Findings of the Field Research 45

REVISION 1

8.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions 47
9. THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT 48
9.1 The View after the Inception Phase 48
9.2 The Findings of the Field Research 48
9.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions 50
10. THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE PROJECT 51
10.1 The View after the Inception Phase 51
10.2 The Findings of the Field Research 51
10.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions 53
11. THE CATALYTIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROJECT 54
11.1 The View after the Inception Phase 54
11.2 The Findings of the Field Research 54
11.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions 57
12. THE GENDER CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROJECT 58
12.1 The View after the Inception Phase 58
12.2 The Findings of the Field Research 58
12.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions 60
12.4 Case Study of Gender Contribution: a Resilient Female Politician 60
13. THE INNOVATION OFFERED BY THE PROJECT 63
13.1 The View after the Inception Phase 63
13.2 The Findings of the Field Research 63
13.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions 65
14. THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT 66
14.1 The View after the Inception Phase 66
14.2 The Findings of the Field Research 66
14.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions 69
14.4 Insights from a Beneficiary's Change Story 70
15. A COMPOSITE VIEW OF RESPONDENTS OF THE PROJECT 72
15.1 The View after the Inception Phase 72
14.2 The Findings of the Field Research 72
15.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions 74
APPENDIX 1: EVALUATION CRITERIA AND RESEARCH METHOD 75
APPENDIX 2: SITUATION ANALYSIS – THE RELEVANT POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE GAMBIA 86
APPENDIX 3: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK BASED ON THE NOV 2022 PROGRESS REPORT 95
APPENDIX 4: LIST OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED 103

REVISION I

Abbreviations

CRR-North	Central River Region - North
CRR-South	Central River Region - South
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
IP	Implementing Partner
KII	Key Informant Interview
MAJAC	Media Academy for Journalism and Communication
NBR	North Bank Region
NCCE	National Council for Civic Education
NYC	National Youth Council
PBF	Peace Building Fund
UN	United Nations
URR	Upper River Region
UTG	University of The Gambia
WCR	West Coast Region
YoBIPC	Youth branch of the Inter-Party Political Committee

REVISION

Figures, Tables and Case Study Boxes

Figure 1: Introduction to Evaluation Net Promoter Score - eNPS 15
Figure 2: The Gambia - Geography (source: Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc) 17
Figure 3: Gender of lead interviewee and Location Profile of KII Respondents of Non-Un Implementing Partners 19
Figure 4: Job Position and Age Profile of KII respondents 20
Figure 5: Gender and Location Profile of Focus Group Discussion participants 23
Figure 6: Implementing Partners responsible for the activities in which FGD respondents participated 24
Figure 7: Age and Ethnic Profiles of Focus Group Discussion participants 24
Figure 8: Relevance: eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries 30
Figure 9: Relevance: eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners 30
Figure 10: Coherence: eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries 36
Figure 11: Coherence: eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners 36
Figure 12: Effectiveness - eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries 40
Figure 13: Effectiveness - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners 41
Figure 14: Case Study on Effectiveness – Insights from the University of The Gambia (UTG) Research Survey – The conduciveness of the national context for freedom of expression 42
Figure 15: Rate of Project Implementation 44
Figure 16: Profile of Overheads to Direct Costs for the Project Budget. Source: Annual Progress Report Nov 2022 44
Figure 17: Efficiency - eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries 45
Figure 18: Efficiency - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners 45
Figure 19: Sustainability - eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries 48
Figure 20: Sustainability - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners 49
Figure 21: Case Study on Sustainability: Trends in Political Violence as discerned by the UTG Survey 50
Figure 22: Implementation Process - eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries 51
Figure 23: Implementation Process - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners 52
Figure 24: Catalyst- eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries 55
Figure 25: Catalyst A - eNPS responses from the KIIs of Non-UN Implementing Partners 56
Figure 26: Catalyst B - eNPS responses from the KIIs of Non-UN Implementing Partners 56
Figure 27: Gender - eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries 58
Figure 28: Gender - eNPS responses from the KIIs of Non-UN Implementing Partners 59
Figure 29: Innovation - eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries 63
Figure 30: Innovation - eNPS responses from the KIIs of Non-UN Implementing Partners 64
Figure 31: Impact - eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries 67
Figure 32: Impact A - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners 68
Figure 33: Impact B - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners 68
Figure 34: Impact C - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners 69

FINAL VERSION

Figure 35: Impact D - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners 69
Figure 36: Conclusion - eNPS responses from the FGDs 72
Figure 37: Conclusion - eNPS responses from the KIIs 73
Figure 38: Introduction to Evaluation Net Promoter Score - eNPS 81
Figure 39: The Gambia - Geography (source: Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc) 87
Figure 40: The Gambia: Migration & Related Facts. Source: (International Organization for Migration, 2022) 88
Figure 41: The Gambia: Human Development Index 1990-2020 (source: UNDP) 88
Figure 42: Profile of The Gambia's Global Competitiveness in 2019 89
Figure 43: The Gambia's Progress on SDGs as at 2019. Source (SDG Center for Africa and Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2019) 90
Figure 44: Where are we now? - Updated context (1of 4) on the Gambian Political Economy. Source: (International Monetary Fund, 2022) 91
Figure 45: Where are we now? - Updated context (2 of 4) on the Gambian Political Economy. Source: (International Monetary Fund, 2022) 92
Figure 46: Where are we now? - Updated context (3 of 4) on the Gambian Political Economy. Source: (British Broadcasting Corporation, 2022) 93
Figure 47: Where are we heading? - Updated context (4 of 4) on the Gambian Political Economy. Source: Dr Omodele Jones 94

Table 1: Gender and Location Profile of KII Respondents 19
Table 2: Job Position and Age Profile of lead KII respondents from non-UN Implementing Partners 20
Table 3: eNPS results for KIIs of non-UN implementing partners and their sub-contractors 21
Table 4: Gender and Location Profile of Focus Group Discussion participants 23
Table 5: Age and Ethnic Profiles of Focus Group Discussion participants 23
Table 6: Implementing Partners responsible for the activities in which FGD respondents participated 23
Table 7: eNPS results summary for the Focus Group Discussions 24
Table 8: Comparison of the eNPS results for the KII and FGDs 26
Table 12: Preliminary Status of the Assessment of Project Relevance at the Inception Phase 29
Table 13: Extract of eNPS results for the Relevance evaluation criterion 30
Table 11: Preliminary Status of the Assessment of Project Coherence 34
Table 15: Extract of eNPS results for the Coherence evaluation criterion 36
Table 13: Summary of the Project Theory of Change (adapted from the Project Plan) 39
Table 14: Project Effectiveness Roadmap (Source: Project Plan) 39
Table 18: Extract of eNPS results for the Effectiveness evaluation criterion 40
Table 19: Approved Budget of the Project. Source: Annual Progress Report Nov 2022 43
Table 20: Rate of Project Implementation 44
Table 21: Extract of eNPS results for the Efficiency evaluation criterion 45
Table 19: Extract of eNPS results for the Sustainability evaluation criterion 48
Table 20: Extract of eNPS results for the Implementation Process evaluation criterion 51
Table 21: Extract of eNPS results for the Catalyst evaluation criterion 54
Table 22: Extract of eNPS results for the Gender evaluation criterion 58
Table 23: Extract of eNPS results for the Innovation evaluation criterion 63

REVISED

Table 24: Extract of eNPS results for the Impact evaluation criterion 66
Table 25: Extract of eNPS results for the Conclusion evaluation criterion 72
Table 26: Standard Responses to NPS Style Closed Questions in Quantitative-Style Field Research 81
Table 27: Project Activities, their related Outcomes and Outputs and the Proposed Evaluation Matrix 82
Table 28: The Gambia - Global Competitiveness Index ranking 2015 – 2019 (source: World Economic Forum) 89

Box 1: Case study on Relevance - Reducing the Abuse of Information Power 32
Box 2: Case Study on Coherence: Establishment of Youth Internet Radio 37
Box 3: Case Study on Effectiveness – Insights from the University of The Gambia (UTG) Research Survey – The conduciveness of the national context for freedom of expression 42
Box 4: Case Study on Efficiency: Internship at the National Assembly 46
Box 5: Case Study on Sustainability: Trends in Political Violence as discerned by the UTG Survey 50
Box 6: Case Study on Implementation Process: the establishment of the Youth branch of the Inter-Party Political Committee (YoBIPC) 53
Box 7: Case Study on Catalytic Effect: the experience of MAJAC Gambia 57
Box 8: The Framework of Project Support for the subject of the Gender Contribution Case Study 60
Box 9: Case Study on Innovation: Dialogue between Security Forces and Youth 65
Box 10: Case Study on Impact: Regional and National Dialogue on Peace-building for the National Assembly Elections. Implemented by UNDP through NYC 70

REVISION I

1. Executive Summary & Lessons Learnt

1.1 Introduction

This Peace Building Fund (PBF) funded project, "*Young Women and Men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates in the prevention of violence and hate Speech*", was jointly implemented, between November 2020 and November 2022 by UNFPA, UNESCO, and UNDP with a budget of approximately US$2.2m (two million two hundred thousand United States Dollars). The project was designed to be youth-led. Its goals were:

- to address the institutional barriers (such as exclusion from decision making) for young people,
- to strengthen youth capacity for engagement and participation in governance and leadership, and
- to address hate speech and counter fake news and misinformation of young people through media and local community structures.

The results framework had two key **Outcomes**:

1) Young people increasingly participate in governance and decision-making processes at national, regional, community and political party levels.
2) Young people engage in community mediation efforts and serve as advocates against hate speech.

This independent external evaluation assessed the project's attainment of its intended objectives applying ten criteria: ,

i. **Relevance** – assessing to what extent the intervention respond to conflict drivers and factors for peace identified in the conflict analysis, and continue to do so if circumstances change
ii. **Coherence**- assessing the compatibility of the project with other projects in a country, sector, or institution
iii. **Effectiveness** - assessing the extent to which the intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives, and its results, including any differential results across groups
iv. **Efficiency** - assessing the extent to which the intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way
v. **Impact** - assessing the extent to which the project has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended, or unintended, higher-level effects
vi. **Sustainability** - assessing to what extent the net benefits of the intervention continue, or are likely to continue
vii. **Implementation process**- considerations of the integrated management of cost, quality and time factors
viii. **Catalytic** - direct and indirect contributions to other interventions
ix. **Gender** – equity in gender participation and impact
x. **Innovation** – extent of new or improved techniques for delivering better impact.

A total of 50 persons were interviewed using a mixed methods approach of quantitative and qualitative evidence to deliver a rich mix of analytical and experiential insights. The research was supported by a team of young people – two females and two males, in addition to the highly experienced lead evaluator. The young people were selected to provide a "youth lens" to the process and for their cultural diversity, reflecting the leading cultures of the country.

REVISION 1

1.2 Lessons Learnt & Recommendations

The Table below summarises the twenty-five (25) key lessons learnt from the evaluation and related recommendations. They are linked to the related project outcome (see above) and evaluation criteria (see related report sections 5 to 15). The table also indicates the type of risk posed by the lesson to the strategic objective/impact of the project. Twelve (12 - almost 50%) were identified as negative risks. Seven (7 - almost 30%) were positive risks. Six (6 - just under a quarter) were neutral risks that could become either positive or negative depending on how they are managed.

Overall, this was a very useful project, addressing an issue of great importance and relevance, targeted at the right point in time before crucial national elections, adding to the complementary efforts of others. But, delays in implementation, partly due to the COVID 19 pandemic, diluted its effectiveness. It also suffered from a mismatch of the timelines of the problem and the solution; using a short/medium-term solution to address a long-term problem. Further, its impact is diluted by a focus on the symptoms of the problem, without an activity to address the root-causes of the power&rent-seeking/violence/hate-speech/state-fragility vicious cycle.

#	Related Outcome	Primary Evaluation Criterion	Linked Evaluation Criterion	Type of Risk	Lesson Learnt & Related Recommendation
1.	1&2	Composite view (section 15)	Effectiveness	Negative	The experiences of training events and workshops were reportedly good. But, respondents called for an increased decentralisation of activities from the Kombos/urban centre to the rural regions. It was felt that rural based people came from far places and were given allowances which were inadequate and a disincentive to participation. It will be of great help if we consider decentralising it in the regions. The allowances should also be increased to cover the opportunity cost of participation.
2.	1	Effectiveness	Impact	Negative	A UTG survey on perceptions of the conduciveness of the national environment for freedom of expression unmasked major regional variations. Those who believed their environment is **not conducive** for freedom of expression was the highest in the main population centre of the West Coast Region (WCR) at **51%.** If this is valid, it may indicate significant cause for concern about the future. The WCR includes the main urban centres and usually has the most well informed populations. If that region reports over 50% cynicism, there is a case for further investigation of the causes of that cynicism and its implications for the effectiveness of this project and other similar interventions.
3.	1&2	Efficiency	Impact	Negative	There are potentially significant efficiencies to be gained from future projects if the material differences in overhead cost profiles between the UN partners could be explored and reduced.
4.	1&2	Efficiency	Impact	Negative	The first transfer for the project was made in November 2020. But the inception meeting for the Steering Committee was in March 2021. A prime reason for the project was to influence the conduct of the Presidential and Parliamentary elections, with the former scheduled for December 2021. So, this was a significant and high risk delay in implementation. It is noteworthy that these delays happened during the disruption caused by the COVID 19 pandemic.

#	Related Outcome	Primary Evaluation Criterion	Linked Evaluation Criterion	Type of Risk	Lesson Learnt & Related Recommendation
5.	1&2	Impact	Effectiveness	Negative	An important perception survey, by the UTG, which would provide statistically representative large scale research on the status of hate speech and disinformation was significantly delayed in execution. This materially diluted its value in the direction and control of the project.
6.	1&2	Impact	Effectiveness	Negative	The UTG perception survey should have preferably been executed at the start and end lines of the project, to provide an insight into any meaningful change that could be attributed to its intervention. A longer timespan for the intervention would allow for better use of this important tool for direction and control.
7.	1&2	Impact	Effectiveness	Negative	A number of respondents expressed concern about the continuing resistance of the "old guard" leadership of parties to allowing young people to have meaningful senior roles. There are indications that questions arise over the experience of the young. It could also be a sense of entitlement i.e. that the old guard feel that they have earned their privilege by "awaiting their turn". It could also be a reluctance to share the benefits of power and privilege.
8.	1&2	Impact	Efficiency	Negative	The results framework shows a project with "many moving parts". To secure real impact, it required high quality coordination of the many activities. The intervention could have benefited from a robust feasibility study given the large number of competitors already established in that space.
9.	1&2	Implementation Process	Effectiveness	Negative	There was no central repository of beneficiary details. This is needed for effective internal and external monitoring and evaluation.
10.	1&2	Relevance	Impact	Negative	Arguably, the over-centralisation of power, leading to "***Winner Takes All***" governance, may be the primary cause of the problems being addressed by this project. The outcomes targeted by this project may be dealing with the ***the* symptoms of state fragility and not its causes**. This would significantly dilute the impact of the intervention.
11.	1&2	Relevance	Impact	Negative	A number of respondents believe that The Gambia, even with its several ethnicities, is inherently peaceful but that the political system is creating politicians who have an interest in exploiting divisions. The intervention does not address the nature of the political system.
12.	1&2	Sustainability	Impact	Negative	When the perceived UTG study of the trend of political violence in communities is dis-aggregated by region, there are concerning variations. Two out of the five regions report more respondents predicting increasing violence than those predicting decreasing violence. This includes the influential West Coast Region, which reports 40% as believing the political violence is decreasing and 48% believing that the violence is increasing. Once again, troubling insights are found by the UTG survey in the very influential West Coast Region.

REPORT

#	Related Outcome	Primary Evaluation Criterion	Linked Evaluation Criterion	Type of Risk	Lesson Learnt & Related Recommendation
13.	1&2	Composite view	Implementation Process	Neutral	Some respondents found it difficult to distinguish this project's training from other similar ones. Workshops tend to highlight the implementing partner that is directly responsible, but not who is funding it or which project it belongs to. It would be better to "co-brand" more effectively so that participants have greater awareness of the contributions of funding partners and for them to respond appropriately to subsequent evaluation interviews..
14.	2	Composite view	Implementation Process	Neutral	The fact checking and anti-hate speech element of the project reportedly slowed down after the 2021/2022 elections. It was advised that it needs to continue between elections for optimum impact.
15.	1&2	Effectiveness	Impact	Neutral	The problem is national and beyond the scale of a small project, such as this PBF, to effectively deliver a meaningful solution. A UN staff, in a KII, suggested that this intervention would be better handled as part of a long-term UN country programme strategy, which can be coordinated with other major actors for meaningful impact.
16.	1&2	Effectiveness	Impact	Neutral	There may be value in undertaking meta-research of the independent evaluations of a range of projects (UN and non-UN) that have operated in this sphere. This should provide a picture of the overall effect of these combined interventions. That will be useful to all investment partners in planning future interventions
17.	1&2	Implementation Process	Impact	Neutral	The UTG Study investigated the participation of youths in politics in their respective communities. It suggests that a substantial proportion of youths do not participate in politics or take up leadership positions because they believe that it is affiliated (a) with conflict and hate speech and (b) that it is a waste of time or (c) that women are not provided the same opportunity as men to take up leadership positions in their respective communities. However, it also found that the trend of the participation of youths is increasing especially around the influential WCR - West Coast Region. More work needs to be done in the rural regions to improve confidence in the political process.
18.	1&2	Sustainability	Impact	Neutral	When presented with the statement: *"Politicians with power and those seeking power have been significantly influenced by the project to see their interests as being served by politics that is peaceful and inclusive of young men and women"*, there was a mixed response from research respondents. It varied from very cynical to lukewarm support. The objective evidence suggests that fact checking can deter some selfish behaviours of politicians, but a change of counterproductive political competition may require a root-cause based approach to intervention design.
19.	1&2	Catalytic Contribution	Impact	Positive	Beneficiaries interviewed in FGDs were *enthusiastic* about the motivational impact of the project. Some implementing partners also confirmed positive direct and indirect links between this project and other partner funding secured during and after its lifetime.

#	Related Outcome	Primary Evaluation Criterion	Linked Evaluation Criterion	Type of Risk	Lesson Learnt & Related Recommendation
20.	1&2	Coherence	Impact	Positive	The project was well grounded in the experiences and lessons of other interventions, by the UN system and others, in The Gambia and elsewhere. It sought to build on, and to complement, those initiatives. *The scale of intervention required is possibly too large for any single project to act on its own. Consequently, the resources deployed to this project were a rational and coherent contribution to a large and persistent problem.*
21.	1&2	Gender equity	Effectiveness	Positive	There is a process of change underway in Gambian society regarding the prospects for women leadership. The project appears to have made its own positive, if limited, contribution in that regard. It is noteworthy that, even under the Jammeh regime, the long term Vice-President was female. Also, under the post-Jammeh transitional administration, the Vice-President, for a while, was female. The following cautionary note quote from a respondent was echoed by others: "*it's not only men that discourage women but women themselves discourage each other". Further,* female representation in the National Assembly reportedly decreased from 10% in 2016 to 8.6% in 2022. However, the Gambian people have embraced, perhaps gradual, long term change and the project has supported their vision for inclusion.
22.	1&2	Implementation Process	Effectiveness	Positive	In general, the project monitoring and evaluation system was given an assessment of "satisfactory" on a three point scale of "poor", "satisfactory" and "excellent". Consequently, the conclusions of the project monitoring and evaluation reports were taken as a fair indication of the project's performance. The field research approach was thus to seek independent conclusions of lessons to be learnt through a combination of quantitative-style survey s and more in-depth qualitative explorations of the experience of implementers and beneficiaries.
23.	1&2	Implementation Process	Effectiveness	Positive	There was evidence of a reasonable rigour in financial and management oversight
24.	1&2	Innovation	Effectiveness	Positive	Some non-UN implementing partners asserted that the intervention called for new ways of engaging with their beneficiaries. They believe that the project allowed them the initiative and space to successfully explore such new processes. The project was receptive of innovations in processes and this reportedly worked to the benefit of its impact.
25.	1&2	Relevance	Impact	Positive	Objective evidence suggests a high level of state fragility that has evolved in nature after the 2016 election defeat of the authoritarian leader of 22 years, but which has remained significant in new forms. The project is thus of significant relevance to the political economy and history of The Gambia. Even where research respondents questioned the extent of state fragility, they agreed on the usefulness of the project to the country.

2. Approach to the Evaluation

2.1 Background to the Project

This Peace Building Fund (PBF) funded project was entitled "Young Women and Men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates in the prevention of violence and hate Speech". It was jointly implemented, between November 2020 and November 2022 by UNFPA, UNESCO, and UNDP with a budget of approximately US$2.2m (two million two hundred thousand United States Dollars).

The project was designed to be youth-led. Its goals were:

- to address the institutional barriers (such as exclusion from decision making) for young people,
- to strengthen youth capacity for engagement and participation in governance and leadership, and
- to address hate speech and counter fake news and misinformation of young people through media and local community structures.

The project was programmed to mobilise young men and women to participate in community dialogue initiatives at intra and intergenerational levels to enhance inclusion, social cohesion, and sustainable peace. The results framework had two key Outcomes:

3) Young people increasingly participate in governance and decision-making processes at national, regional, community and political party levels.
4) Young people engage in community mediation efforts and serve as advocates against hate speech.

2.2 Purpose and Objective

The purpose of this independent external evaluation is to assess the project's attainment of its intended objectives, to evaluate its outcomes and impacts and to formulate evidence-based recommendations to inform future programming. The related OECD DAC evaluation criteria include:

- Assess the effectiveness and potential measurable impact of the Project intervention on the target groups.
- Assess the implementation process (efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability).
- Analyse the accomplishments against the set outputs and outcomes.
- Assess the challenges faced during implementation.
- Assess the relevance of the project and tools developed
- Assess the progress made towards achieving the project's goal and objectives based on the result framework, design, and monitoring data.
- Assess whether the resources (financial, human, and materials) have been used efficiently and effectively for the desired impact on the target group/communities.
- Assess the project's impact and the sustainability of its realised results.

It is expected that the results of this evaluation will be used by:

- The project's management to derive lessons learned on its implementation approach and processes.

REVISION 1

- UNFPA, UNESCO, and UNDP to validate the relevance of the project's model and to use the evaluations' best practices and recommendations for future programming.
- The project's funder (PBF) to assess the project's relevance, coherence, and implementation approach.
- Any relevant partners interested in the thematic area to use the evaluation findings and recommendations in their programming and implementation.

2.3 Evaluation Criteria

As prescribed by the ToR, this terminal evaluation will strictly follow the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria in assessing the results of the youth project. The OECD-DAC criteria includes relevance; effectiveness; efficiency; impact; and sustainability. In addition, the evaluation assessed cross-cutting issues on catalytic effects, Gender Equality and Innovation as outlined below and detailed in Appendix 1.

xi. **Relevance** – assessing to what extent the intervention respond to conflict drivers and factors for peace identified in the conflict analysis, and continue to do so if circumstances change
xii. **Coherence**- assessing the compatibility of the project with other projects in a country, sector, or institution
xiii. **Effectiveness** - assessing the extent to which the intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives, and its results, including any differential results across groups
xiv. **Efficiency** - assessing the extent to which the intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way
xv. **Impact** - assessing the extent to which the project has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended, or unintended, higher-level effects
xvi. **Sustainability** - assessing to what extent the net benefits of the intervention continue, or are likely to continue
xvii. **Implementation process**- considerations of the integrated management of cost, quality and time factors
xviii. **Catalytic** - direct and indirect contributions to other interventions
xix. **Gender** – equity in gender participation and impact
xx. **Innovation** – extent of new or improved techniques for delivering better impact.

2.4 Specific Methodology

This section summarises the six-step approach to the evaluation, which is detailed in Appendix 1.

i. A **Situation Analysis** was undertaken of the macro-social, political and economic context of The Gambia. This is summarised in section 3 and detailed in Appendix 2. The purpose was to place the project intervention in context and to identify the prima facie appropriateness of the intervention given that information.
ii. **Inception Meetings** were held with representatives of the three implementing UN agencies and of the Peace Building Fund Secretariat in The Gambia. This provided insight into their perspectives into the lessons learnt from the project design and implementation.
iii. **Project-specific Desk Research** was undertaken to provide familiarity with the planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control processes deployed for the project. The list of documents reviewed, and those requested but not received, is in Appendix 1.

REVISION 1

iv. **Preliminary Evaluation** – the country situation analysis, inception interviews and the project desk research provided a basis for preliminary evaluation findings on the relevance, coherence and effectiveness of the intervention. These were communicated in the inception report and form an integral element of this report. These preliminary insights provided guidance to the design of the field research questions. *In general, the project monitoring and evaluation system was given an assessment of "satisfactory"* on a three point scale of "poor", "satisfactory" and "excellent". Consequently, the conclusions of the project monitoring and evaluation reports were taken as a fair indication of the project's performance. The field research approach was thus to seek independent conclusions of lessons to be learnt through a combination of quantitative-style surveys and more in-depth qualitative explorations of the experience of implementers and beneficiaries.

v. **Field Research** – three sources of information were sought.

a. Confidential **Key Informant Interview** (KII) was undertaken of a senior representative of **every implementing partner and sub-contractor**, providing 100% coverage.

b. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with project beneficiaries were planned for three activities that represented important elements of the targeted project outcomes. These were arranged with the support of related implementing partners. Two FGDs were executed and one could not be done as the implementing partner could not make the necessary arrangements on time.

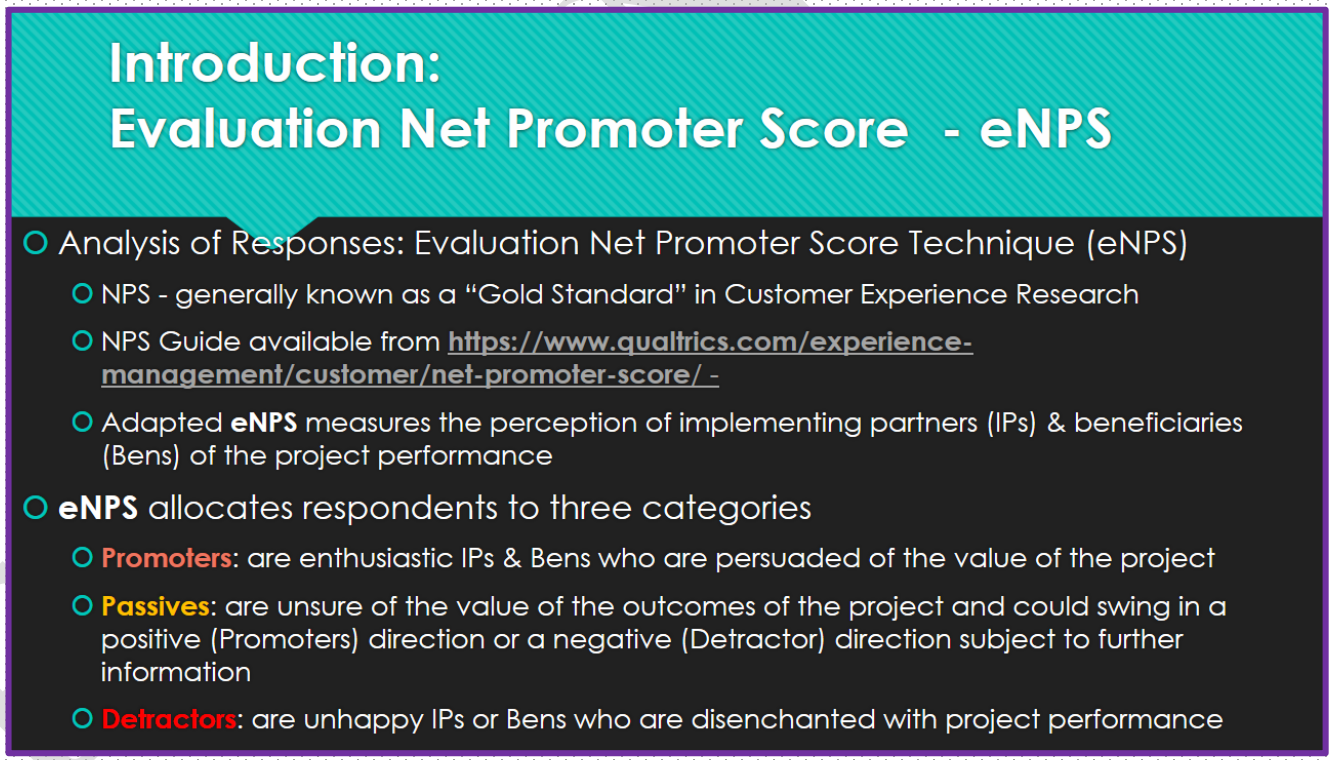


Figure 1: Introduction to Evaluation Net Promoter Score - eNPS

c. **Two Significant Change Stories** (SCS) of project beneficiaries were recorded to provide personal insights into related experiences and lessons learnt.

vi. **Final evaluation** – the full evaluation integrated insights from the five steps above to provide a holistic view of the performance of the project on the ten evaluation criteria. This professional judgement was supported by quantitative analysis from the eNPS data and by relevant implementing partner and beneficiary quotes from the KIIs, FGDs and SCSs. This mixed methods triangulation allowed for a high degree of confidence on the integrity of the evaluation findings and the related lessons learnt.

As the project sought to improve the life experiences of young men and women, the **evaluator was assisted with a team of four youths, comprising two men and two women in their late teens and early twenties.**

- They provided youth lens to the research process, lending their particular perspectives to that of the principal investigator (PI).
- This helped the PI, a senior citizen, to safeguard against any generational bias in his work.
- The participation of the young people also enriched the cultural understanding of the research team, as the young men and women were selected for their multi-cultural profile.
- Further, two of them had recent experience of working with the PI in conducting multi-cultural and multi-lingual research.
- They are fluent in Wollof, Madinka, Aku (Gambian national languages) and English. Research was conducted in the language of convenience for the interviewee.

The **key project activities** that were evaluated are summarised in Appendix 1**,** Table 30.

REVISION

3. The Context of The Gambia: Political Economy and Society

3.1 Where are we coming from?

The detailed situation analysis is at Appendix 2. The World Bank describes The Gambia as a small, fragile country in West Africa (The World Bank, 2021). Stretching 450 km along the River Gambia, the country [11,300 square kilometres in total area, including 1,180 sq. km of the River Gambia (World Atlas, 2021)] is surrounded by Senegal, except for a 60-km Atlantic Ocean front. The country has an estimated 2022 population of about 2.4 million (Gambia Bureau of Statistics, n.d.). The land is flat and is dominated by the river, which is navigable throughout the length of the country.

Figure 2: The Gambia - Geography (source: Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc)

The unique shape and size of the country – with the Gambia almost entirely surrounded by one single larger and more economically developed neighbour – has been an important factor in the country's political and economic history.

The Gambia gained independence from Great Britain in 1965. For the first few decades of independence, The Gambia enjoyed a history of free and fair elections. However, after 5 five-year terms in office, the long-term leader was deposed by a **military coup** in July 1994 which ushered in the 2nd Republic under Yahya Jammeh. The Second Republic was characterised by an erosion of human rights and civil liberties, and a severe deterioration in the overall quality of the country's **governance** environment in almost all sectors. After 22-years, Jammeh's regime came to an end when he was defeated at the polls by Adama Barrow in 2016. Barrow took over the reins of government pledging to restore good governance and human and civil rights. President Barrow won re-election, at the helm of a newly formed party, in December 2021 (British Broadcasting Corporation, 2021).

The Gambia has a **low per capita GDP** of about USD 780 in 2020 (The World Bank, n.d.). The Gambia, as a **small open economy** that is dependent on rain-fed agriculture, has always been vulnerable to a number of **exogenous shocks**. One of the Gambia's development challenges is its **very youthful population**. Over three-quarters – about 77% - of the population are 35 years old and under, with a majority (about 55%) of the population being 19 and under (Gambia Bureau of Statistics, 2017). Meanwhile, any hopes of The Gambia benefitting from a 'youth dividend' are undermined by the lack of employment opportunities. This has led to a high incidence of Gambian **youths migrating abroad** in search of 'greener pastures'. On the positive side, this phenomenon has in turn led to a steady growth in **in-bound remittances** (through formal and informal channels). It was estimated that overseas remittances of an estimated 118,000 Gambians living abroad account for over 20 per cent of the country's GDP. Over 35,000 Gambians arrived in Europe by irregular means between 2014 and 2018 (International Organization for Migration, 2022).

3.2 Where are we now and where are we heading?

An IMF report of 28 November 2022 identified an economy under social and economic stress from the Ukraine war effect on key prices, increasing consumer price inflation, a balance of payments crisis and exchange rate depreciation. A BBC report of 21 December 2022 described an alleged political coup plot by dissident soldiers. However, the Gambia has so far avoided the intense public protests and major economic crises that have been encountered in other developing countries such as Sri Lanka, Ghana and Sierra Leone. Notably, the country continues to rely on external military forces from the regional body ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) for its security. This situation remains unchanged since the 2016 election, which indicates a persistent political and security vulnerability.

REVISION

4. Overview of the Evaluation Net Promoter Score (eNPS) results

4.1 Introduction

The application of eNPS to this evaluation was outlined in section 2 and detailed in Appendix 1. eNPS analysis was performed for both KIIs of non-UN implementing partners and FGDs of ultimate project beneficiaries. In this section, the summary results will be presented with a brief analysis. Detailed analysis and commentary will be done in subsequent sections which refer to the information in this section.

4.2 Demographic Profile of participants in Key Informant Interviews of Non-Un Implementing Partners

Table 1: Gender and Location Profile of KII Respondents

Count of Which of these best describes your gender?	Gender of lead interviewee		
Location	**Female**	**Male**	**Grand Total**
Kanifing, Gambia	6	4	10
Western, Gambia		3	3
Abuja, Nigeria	1		1
Accra, Ghana		1	1
Banjul, Gambia		1	1
Lagos, Nigeria		1	1
Grand Total	**7**	**10**	**17**

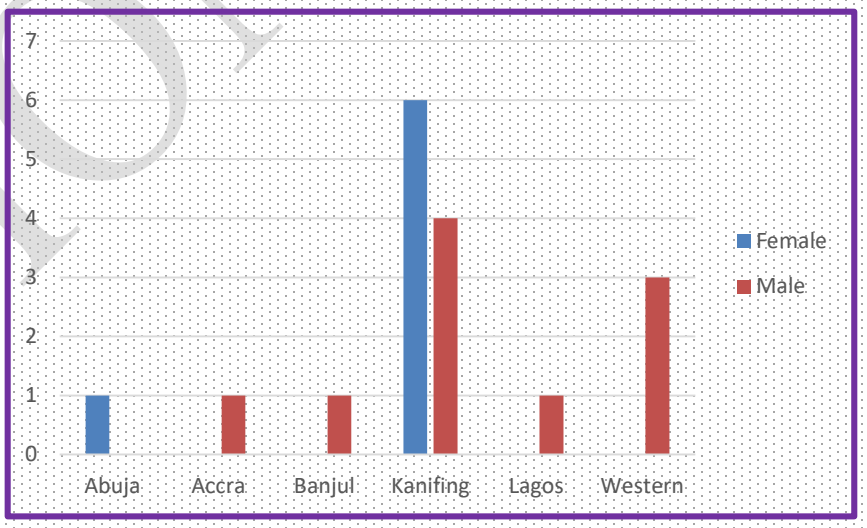


Figure 3: Gender of lead interviewee and Location Profile of KII Respondents of Non-Un Implementing Partners

Seventeen interviews of non-UN implementing partners were conducted during the main field research phase, covering **100% of non-UN implementing partners**. This was in addition to the four interviews of UN partners that were conducted during the inception phase, covering **100% of UN implementing partners and the Gambia office of the Peace Building Fund**. Where there were more than one participant in a non-UN implementing partner interview, the gender profile of the most senior was recorded for the purposes of this analysis. Forty-one percent (7 of 17) of the respondent teams included at least one female. The **full list of 51 persons interviewed** for this evaluation is in Appendix 4.

REVISION

Table 2: Job Position and Age Profile of lead KII respondents from non-UN Implementing Partners

Count of Which of these best describes your age group?	Age Group			
Role in their organisation	**40-49 years**	**50 years and above**	**Up to 39 years**	**Grand Total**
Board of Directors (or equivalent) or Senior Management	3	1	7	11
General Staff			2	2
Middle Management			4	4
Grand Total	**3**	**1**	**13**	**17**

Nearly two-thirds (65%) of non-UN Implementing Partner respondents were led by senior management or above. Young people aged less than 40 years made up over three-quarters of respondents (76%).

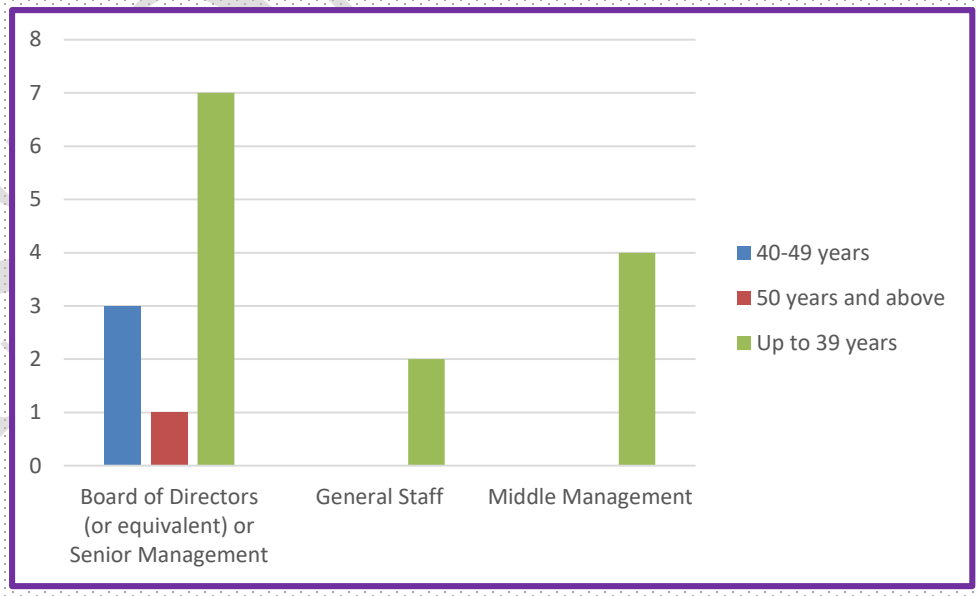


Figure 4: Job Position and Age Profile of KII respondents

4.3 eNPS results for Key Informant Interviews of Non-UN implementing partners

To secure these findings, the representatives of the evaluator would read the "statement" in Table 3 to the interviewee(s). S/he would then be reminded of the six response options detailed in Appendix 1, Table 26; and would be invited to select an appropriate choice. Seventeen (17) interviews were conducted, some with up to 5 representatives of the implementing partner or sub-contractor. The full list of interviewees is at Appendix 4.

Where there were more than one participant, they were invited to deliberate the matter and to make a collective choice that communicated the strength or weakness of their agreement with the statement. The results of the choices across the 17 interviews were collated to compute the eNPS as below. The meaning of the green, amber and red traffic light colours, is explained in Appendix 1, section A1.2.4. The "*statement overall eNPS*" is the composite score for each evaluation criterion. The three eNPS's to the right represent a "break-down" of that composite score into its component elements, when the elements are measured by the age group of the respondents. For example. Project coherence had an overall eNPS of 88, which included a lower score of 67 for respondents aged between 40 to 49 years.

Table 3: eNPS results for KIIs of non-UN implementing partners and their sub-contractors

Rank	Attribute	Statement	Implication of statement for the Project	Promoters	Passives	Detractors	Check Total	Statement Overall eNPS	eNPS 40-49 years	eNPS 50 years and above	eNPS Up to 39 years
1	Effectiveness	Overall, I am satisfied that the project has achieved its objective of significantly improving the contribution of "Young Women and Men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates in the prevention of violence	Positive	100%	0%	0%	100%	**100**	100	100	100
2	Coherence	Overall, I am satisfied that the project took into account the efforts of other similar projects and that it added new value to the life experience of young people and women	Positive	88%	12%	0%	100%	**88**	67	100	92
3	Impact A	The project has had a significant effect in supporting peaceful democratic processes during the recent elections	Positive	88%	12%	0%	100%	**88**	67	100	92
4	Impact B	The project has had a significant effect in the prevention or reduction of violence and hate speech	Positive	88%	12%	0%	100%	**88**	67	100	92
5	Efficiency	The roughly two million dollars of the project was money well spent, with good value for money.	Positive	76%	24%	0%	100%	**76**	67	100	77
6	Gender	Overall, the project has significantly improved the respect given to women as agents of peace-building	Positive	76%	18%	6%	100%	**71**	67	100	69
7	Implementation Process	Overall, the management of the project was well done with respect to time, cost and quality.	Positive	76%	12%	12%	100%	**65**	0	100	77
8	Sustainability	Politicians with power and those seeking power have been significantly influenced by the project to see their interests as being served by politics that is peaceful and inclusive of young men and women	Positive	65%	29%	6%	100%	**59**	33	100	62
9	Catalyst A	The project has had a significant direct catalytic effect through donors contributing to the same project or a follow up project	Positive	53%	41%	6%	100%	**47**	67	-100	54
10	Relevance	The Gambia is not really a fragile country. It has good economic, political and social stability.	Negative	71%	6%	24%	100%	**47**	100	100	31

REVISION

Rank	Attribute	Statement	Implication of statement for the Project	Promoters	Passives	Detractors	Check Total	Statement Overall eNPS	eNPS 40-49 years	eNPS 50 years and above	eNPS Up to 39 years
11	Catalyst B	The project has had a significant indirect catalytic effect through donors contributing to the same theme or approach AFTER the start of the PBF project	Positive	47%	47%	6%	100%	**41**	0	100	46
12	Impact C	The project has had a significant effect in the prevention or reduction of misinformation and fake news through its fact checking initiative	Positive	53%	29%	18%	100%	**35**	67	100	23
13	Impact D	The project has had a significant effect in improving the political participation of young men and women including an increase in the percentage of executive positions in parties held by them	Positive	41%	41%	18%	100%	**24**	33	0	23
14	Innovation	Overall, the project has used tried and tested project designs and implementation processes, nothing really new.	Negative	53%	12%	35%	100%	**18**	67	100	0
15	Conclusion	Overall, the project was perfect, there were no failures from which we need to learn lessons for the future	Positive	41%	6%	53%	100%	**-12**	0	-100	-8
	Overall average			**68%**	**20%**	**12%**		**56**			

a) Eight of the fifteen statements (53%) had green zone rated responses that communicated reasonable satisfaction of the respondents with the performance of the project.
b) Within the green zone spectrum, "project *effectiveness*" was the highest ranked, with a maximum 100 points for the overall eNPS; that was repeated across all age profiles of the respondents.
c) The lowest of the green zone statements was related to "*sustainability*" with 59 points. Note, however, that it included an amber zone rating of 33 from the three interviews led by persons in the 40-49 age group.
d) Only two of the four "*impact*" statements made the green zone. The other two are in the lower reaches of the amber zone.
e) Only one statement, which related to an overall "*conclusion*" on the project performance, had an overall red zone rating. This suggests that respondents had major concerns about lessons that must be communicated through this evaluation.

REVISION

4.4 Demographic Profile of participants in Focus Group Discussions

The full list of interviewees is at Appendix 4.

Table 4: Gender and Location Profile of Focus Group Discussion participants

Count of Which of these best describes your gender?	Gender		
Location	**Female**	**Male**	**Grand Total**
Kanifing	2		2
Western	3	2	5
Grand Total	**5**	**2**	**7**

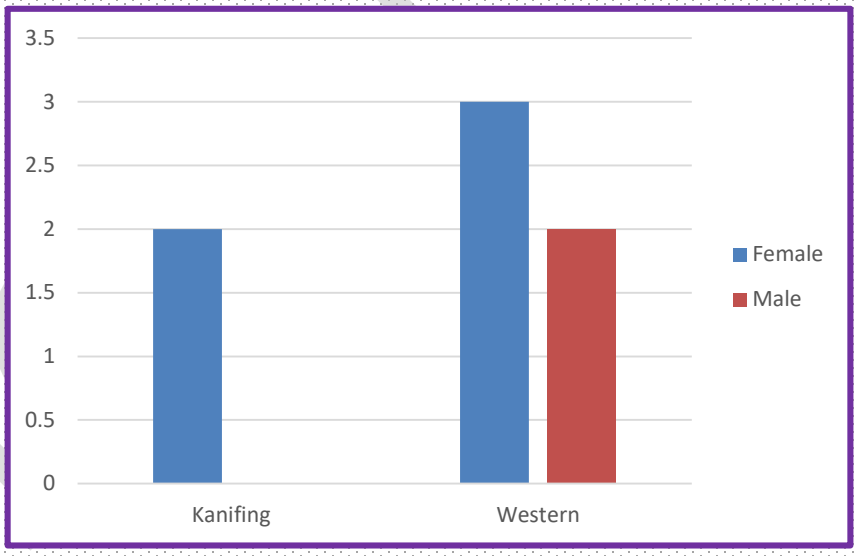


Figure 5: Gender and Location Profile of Focus Group Discussion participants

Table 5: Age and Ethnic Profiles of Focus Group Discussion participants

Count of Ethnicity	Ethnicity				
Age group	**Aku**	**Fula**	**Mandinka**	**Wollof**	**Grand Total**
40-49 years		1		2	3
Up to 39 years	1		1	2	4
Grand Total	**1**	**1**	**1**	**4**	**7**

Table 6: Implementing Partners responsible for the activities in which FGD respondents participated

Count of In which of these regions are you based for work?	Location of participant		
Implementing Partner	**Kanifing**	**Western**	**Grand Total**
MAJAC		2	2
Think Young Women	2	3	5
Grand Total	**2**	**5**	**7**

Two FGDs were facilitated.

i. Media Academy for Journalism and Communications (MAJAC) participated in activities 4 & 6 in Appendix 1, Table 27. The activities related to fact checking under Outcome 2 of the project. Six journalists were identified by MAJAC as beneficiaries of training under this initiative, comprising three males and three females. An FGD invite was sent by the evaluator to all of the journalists. Two arrived for the discussion. They were both male.

ii. Think Young Women (TYW) was a sub-contractor of NGBV and delivered activity 16 in Appendix 1, Table 27. This involved the training of women for political leadership as a contributor to Outcome 1. The TYW FGD attracted five women who are active in politics.

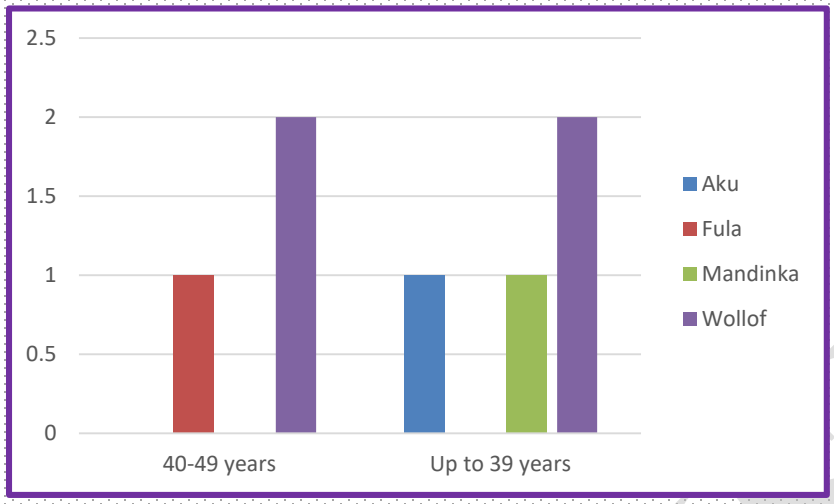


Figure 7: Age and Ethnic Profiles of Focus Group Discussion participants

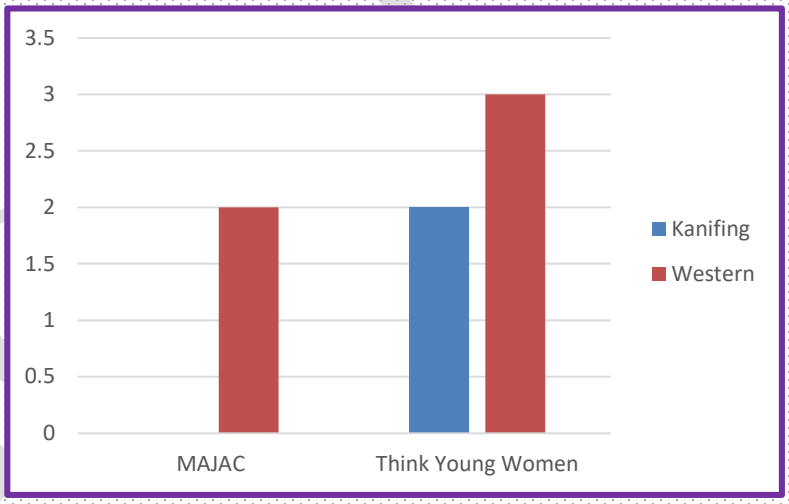


Figure 6: Implementing Partners responsible for the activities in which FGD respondents participated

4.5 eNPS results for Focus Group Discussions with activity beneficiaries

Table 7: eNPS results summary for the Focus Group Discussions

Rank	Attribute	Statement	Implication of statement for the Project	Promoters	Passives	Detractors	Check Total	eNPS
1	Catalyst	The project has made me more willing to help to improve peace in my community and my country	Positive	100%			100%	100
2	Coherence	Overall, I am satisfied that the project took into account the efforts of other similar projects and that it added new value to the life experience of young people and women	Positive	86%	14%		100%	86

Rank	Attribute	Statement	Implication of statement for the Project	Promoters	Passives	Detractors	Check Total	eNPS
3	Gender	Overall, the project has significantly improved the respect given to women as agents of peace-building	Positive	71%	29%	0%	100%	71
4	Effectiveness	Overall, I am satisfied that the project has achieved its objective of significantly improving the contribution of "Young Women and Men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates in the prevention of violence	Positive	71%	14%	14%	100%	57
5	Impact	I think that the project made a useful contribution to the peaceful results of the 2021 and 2022 elections. In doing so, it also helped to reduce divisive hate speech.	Positive	71%	14%	14%	100%	57
6	Implementation Process	Overall, the management of the project was well done with respect to time, cost and quality.	Positive	71%	14%	14%	100%	57
7	Relevance	The Gambia is not really a fragile country. It has good economic, political and social stability.	Negative	71%	0%	29%	100%	43
8	Efficiency	The roughly two million dollars of the project was money well spent, with good value for money.	Positive	43%	29%	29%	100%	14
9	Sustainability	Politicians with power and those seeking power have been significantly influenced by the project to see their interests as being served by politics that is peaceful and inclusive of young men and women	Positive	29%	14%	57%	100%	-29
10	Conclusion	Overall, the project was perfect, there were no failures from which we need to learn lessons for the future	Positive	29%	14%	57%	100%	-29
11	Innovation	Overall, the project has used tried and tested project designs and implementation processes, nothing really new.	Negative	0%	29%	71%	100%	-71
	Overall average			**58%**	**17%**	**32%**		27

a) Six of the eleven indicators (55%) were ranked in the green zone by the FGD participants. This is roughly the same proportion as the KII respondents at 53%.
b) Within the green zone spectrum, project as a "*catalyst*" was the highest ranked, with a maximum 100 points for the overall eNPS.

REVISION 1

c) The lowest of the green zone statements was related to "*implementation process*" and "*impact*", with both at 57 points.
d) Three statements were in the major concern red zone;
    a. As with the KIIs, the overall "*conclusion*" on the project performance, had an overall red zone rating. This suggests that respondents had major concerns about lessons that must be communicated through this evaluation.
    b. In addition, FGDs included red zone outcomes for "*Innovation*" and "*Sustainability*". The innovation rating is not too different from the KII result, when had it as a borderline amber/red zone with 0 points. On the other hand, KII respondents rated sustainability in the lower reaches of the green zone.
e) Overall, the eNPS average of all statements was a lower reach amber zone of 27, compared to the KII average of a lower reach green zone of 57. FGDs respondents were broadly less positive about the project performance. Note however, that the sample sizes were relatively low and provide an indication of the population proportions and not a definitive conclusion.

4.6 Comparison of the eNPS results for KIIs and FGDs

An initial comparison has been commenced immediately above. This section completes that process.

Table 8: Comparison of the eNPS results for the KII and FGDs

Attribute	FGD eNPS	KII eNPS	Remarks
Catalyst	100	44	There were 2 catalyst indicators for the KII. This is the average of the two scores
Coherence	86	88	
Gender	71	71	
Effectiveness	57	100	
Impact	57	59	There were 4 catalyst indicators for the KII. This is the average of the four scores
Implementation Process	57	65	
Relevance	43	47	
Efficiency	14	76	
Sustainability	-29	59	
Conclusion	-29	-12	
Innovation	-71	18	
Overall average	**27**	**56**	

The two independent surveys share five green zone ratings, out of the total of eleven indicators. They also share one amber zone rating and one red zone rating i.e. they broadly agree on seven of the eleven indicators or 64% (almost two-thirds) of the time. This suggests that they may provide valuable insights into the perception of the project performance. Indeed, their independently derived ratings are very close for six of the eleven indicators, i.e.

i. Coherence

ii. Gender
iii. Impact
iv. Implementation process
v. Relevance and
vi. Conclusion.

Their views vary widely on two measures i.e. the project as a *catalyst* and the *sustainability* of the project impact.

REVISION 1

5. The Project and Its Relevance

5.1 The View after the Inception Phase

The following was the result of the initial evaluation at the inception phase as outlined in the methodology section 2.4 and detailed in Appendix 1 of this report. The field research subsequently sought to confirm or deny this preliminary evaluation. Those findings are detailed in section 5.2 below.

The project sought two outcomes. First, it sought to increase the participation of young people including young women in democratic governance. There was an **implicit change assumption** that, given the high proportion of the population that is comprised of youth, a project that facilitated an increased sense of inclusion in democratic governance would contribute to political stability. In addition, there is a **second-level change assumption** that the representatives of young men and women would be seen as serving the interests of their constituents, thereby reducing *societal cynicism and distrust*, which is a mortal threat to democratic governance.

This evaluation sought to assess the extent to which these two considerations have been mainstreamed and measured in the design and implementation processes.

The second outcome sought by the project was a youth-led increase in social cohesion. This was to be done by increasing awareness of the threat, to everyone, that is posed by divisive politics and hate speech. The intervention was timed to influence the period leading up to the Presidential and Parliamentary elections of late 2021 and early 2022.

Both outcomes seek to mitigate the effects of demography on accountable governance, social cohesion and peace. **Outcome one** seeks to mitigate the effect of age imbalances on the destabilising alienation of the majority youth. **Outcome two** seeks to reduce the polarisation that results from the competition for centralised power in an ethnically fragmented and culturally dissonant society. Left unmitigated, *centrifugal* forces (that exploit natural cultural divisions) may threaten to overwhelm *centripetal* forces (that promote *harmony* and cohesion) – resulting in state fragility and conflict. Over-centralisation of power in ethnically fragmented societies can *supercharge* agents of centrifugal division. This is because ethnic and allied support is a tried and tested effective platform for building the social capital that provides politicians with access to central power and its associated resources.

Arguably, the over-centralisation of power, leading to "***Winner Takes All***" governance, may be the driving cause of alienation of both the age type, the gender type and the ethnic variety. In this view, for which there is significant social research in support, the outcomes targeted by this project may be dealing with the ***symptoms*** of the problems, but not their primary ***causes***. Overall, ***taking into account the situation analysis outlined in section 3 and detailed in Appendix 2***, we drew a **preliminary conclusion** that the project was **timely** and **relevant** to the historic and the contemporary political economy of The Gambia, but **may be dealing with symptoms of state fragility and not its causes**.

REVISION 1

Table 9: Preliminary Status of the Assessment of Project Relevance at the Inception Phase

#	TOR criteria for assessing Project Relevance	Preliminary assessment	Traffic Light Status
1.	Was the project appropriate and strategic to the main peace-building goals and challenges in the country at the time of its design?	Consider section 3 and Appendix 2. The project was very timely and appropriate in the lead up to the 2021 and 2022 elections, given the legacy of decades of alienation, cultural dissonance and mal-governance in politics.	Good
2.	Did relevance continue throughout implementation?	Consider section 3 and Appendix 2. The political and economic vulnerabilities of the country have prevailed beyond the expected end-date of the project. Yes, the project remained relevant throughout and beyond the project period.	Good
3.	Do the project stakeholders and target groups find the project useful?	The usefulness to stakeholders was a subject of the *field research*. In principle, the related social science evidence suggests a very relevant intervention, probably limited by an over-emphasis on the symptoms of the problem and inadequately focused on the structural threat posed by over-centralised Winner Takes All governance.	Now done – see below
4.	Were they consulted during design and implementation of the project?	The extent of consultation of stakeholders was investigated by the *field research*. Desk review suggests a fair level of engagement of state and non-state actors.	Now done – see below
5.	Was the project relevant to the UN's peace-building mandate and the SDGs, in particular SDG 16?	In principle, the project is very consistent with the UN's peace-building mandate and with the SDGs, especially SDGs 5 and 16.	Good
6.	Are the project activities and outputs consistent with the intended outcomes and objective?	A review of the results framework and the theory of change suggests that the activities and outputs are quite consistent with the outcomes and objectives. *Note, however,* that the project may be addressing the **symptoms and not the causes of the state fragility**.	Good

REVISED

5.2 The Findings of the Field Research

Section 4 presented an outline of the eNPS survey results. The quasi-quantitative findings related to project relevance will be examined in detail here, together with the analysis of the results of qualitative investigations.

Table 10: Extract of eNPS results for the Relevance evaluation criterion

Attribute	FGD eNPS	KII eNPS
Relevance	43	47
Overall average	**27**	**56**

The following statement was posed to both the KIIs and the FGDs:

"The Gambia is not really a fragile country. It has good economic, political and social stability".

71% of KII respondents and the exact same proportion of FGD respondents disagreed with the statement. In doing so, they endorsed the relevance of the project objectives to The Gambia. However, 24% of KII respondents and 29% of FGD respondents agreed with the statement – suggesting that they do not perceive the project as being relevant i.e. about a quarter of respondents.

For the **minority** who did **not** affirm the relevance of the project, typical sentiments included the following:

Exhibit A – Non-UN Implementing Partner

"The Gambia is not really a fragile country. Looking at the recent (2021/22) political elections, one can say the country is politically stable for now. I accept that we are lacking in economic development. I also accept that our previous history of political events, elections etc (under the Jammeh regime) did shake the stability of the country".

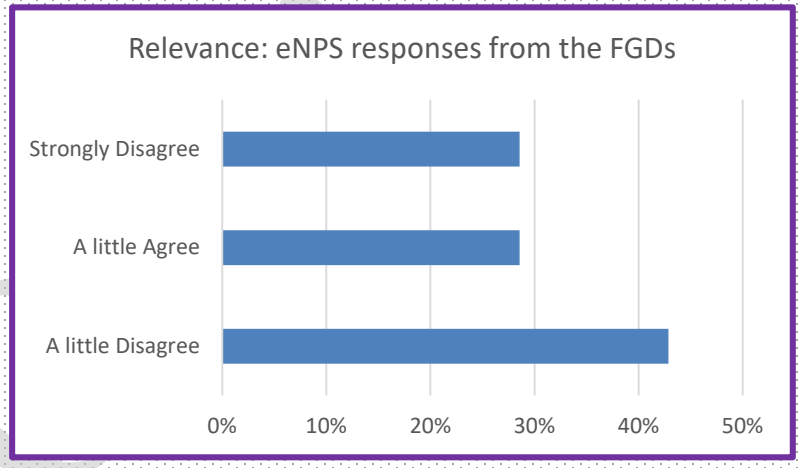


Figure 8: Relevance: eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries

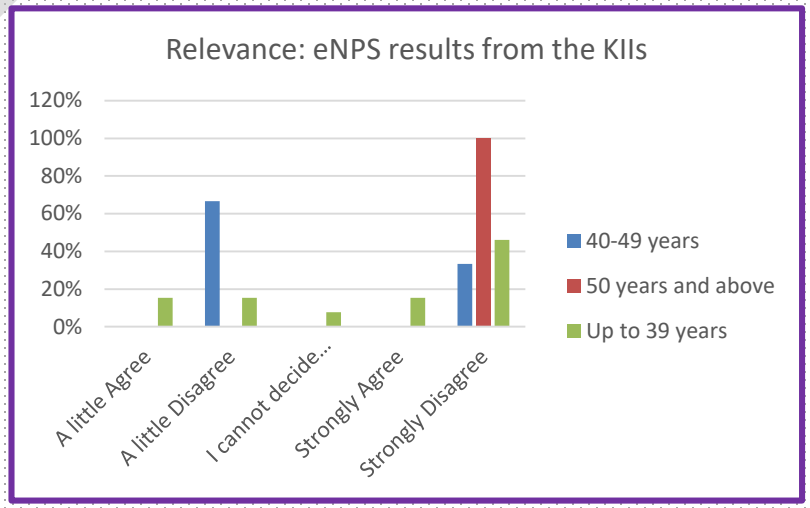


Figure 9: Relevance: eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners

Exhibit B – Non-UN Implementing Partner
"Our country is not a fragile country. There are a lot of resources, which we are not utilizing. That's why it is giving us problems. For example, If we invest in agriculture very well that alone can help to boost our economy".

Exhibit C – Beneficiary FGD
"Nowadays the political tension is not much compared to (under the Jammeh regime). We have about 18 political parties and the ruling party has coalition with about 8 parties. Mind you, some of the alliance members who just joined the coalition are not united as they're supposed to be. The relationship is not good and they do not agree with each other on many things. (On the other hand) many of those who are not in alliance with the ruling party are not aggressive, although a few parties are."

Exhibit D - Beneficiary FGD
"The statement talks about two things which is peace and division, to my understanding is that there is peace in the country but politicians and politics has divided us terribly. In term of peace, yes, I think the peace is maintained, because we don't face any serious violence. We the Gambians are peaceful but politics is dividing us and it has led to so much hate speeches".

For the **majority**, who endorsed the relevance of the project, responses included the following:

Exhibit E – Non-UN Implementing Partner
"There are some political parties who are tribalist in nature. We are a peaceful country but political party leaders tend to focus only on the interest of their own tribes instead of the country which is causing a lot of division in politics. That is really hampering the country".

Exhibit F – Non-UN Implementing Partner
"The Gambia was (until the last Presidential elections) in a Transitional Period (from the Jammeh regime). (During the transition) lots of problems arose, like violation of human rights, embezzlement of the country's funds and using politics to kill the will of the innocent citizens like the revelations of the TRRC meetings etc. The constitution has to be changed".

Exhibit G – Non-UN Implementing Partner
"If you look at the young people in this country, (about) 42% plus is unemployed. So this tells you that is a fragile country because anything can happen from these young people. They can organise demonstrations. They may be involved in violence because they are the active age category. They will be able to (create) problems in the country. If you look at the security sector, there are lots of young people working there and we believe that this is a sector that can overthrow a sitting government. So basically, if you have lots of them that are unemployed and few of them employed. (That is not good for the country's stability)."

Exhibit H – Non-UN Implementing Partner

REVISION

"Looking at the economic situation in the country there are so much suffering and hardship. (This is the) result of the governance processes and the decisions they make. High cost of living, high inflation, mismanagement of public resources and inefficiency of public officers: these are (factors) which have made the country very fragile".

Exhibit I – Non-UN Implementing Partner

"The project was relevant because if you look at before 2021 election, hate speeches were circulating a lot. Since after 2021 where many journalists are trained most of them (have put into practice) what was given to them in class rooms by written stories about how hate speeches and violence (can destabilise) a country. And not even only that but how important (it is) to maintain peace. When those stories were published, I believe lot of young people learnt from it. Some of the young people were also involved in spreading of misinformation".

5.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions

The field research (section 5.2) broadly supports the preliminary evaluation documented in section 5.1 i.e. the project appears to be of significant relevance to the context of The Gambia. Even where respondents questioned the extent of state fragility, they agreed on the usefulness of the project to the country. Individuals interviewed could not confirm their involvement in the design phase consultations. However, there is reasonable evidence from the desk review to support the assertion that a fair degree of consultations of national stakeholders occurred during the design phase.

Noteworthy matters arising include:

a) The over-centralisation of power, in a fragmented society, leading to "***Winner Takes All***" governance, is likely to be the primary cause of the counterproductive behaviours that drive political instability and poor economic governance. There is significant social science evidence in this regard. Consequently, the outcomes targeted by this project may be dealing with the ***symptoms*** of the problems, but not their primary ***causes***. Ultimately, sustainable solutions arise from dealing with root causes.
b) This view influenced the construction of the statement that evaluated the sustainability of the project outcomes and impact. The result of that element of the evaluation supports the concern expressed above.

Case Study on Relevance: Reducing the Abuse of Information Power. Source: UNESCO)

The project established the national fact-checking platform, FactCheck Gambia. By November 2022, it had issued more 100 fact-checked articles, debunking or verifying claims of national significance. Its operator, MAJAC, also established a memorandum of understanding with 10 radio stations, including 6 community radios, to broadcast articles from FactCheck Gambia. In its election observation report, the Commonwealth Observer Group noted that FactCheck Gambia did well in tackling fake news.

> "*FactCheck Gambia is to be highly commended for its important work. The [Commonwealth Observer] Group encourages other electoral stakeholders, including political parties and the IEC, to work alongside FactCheck Gambia to further improve the information environment during the campaign period and throughout the electoral cycle…*"

Box 1: Case study on Relevance - Reducing the Abuse of Information Power

REVISED

c) Feedback from the field research suggests that respondents perceive that the design of the political system creates political behaviours that are inimical to the interests of the country, worsening social cleavages that could be otherwise harmoniously managed.

REVISION 1

6. The Project and Its Coherence

6.1 The View after the Inception Phase

The Terms of Reference required the examination of the congruence of the project with other interventions in the country, sector or institution. It requested assessment of the extent and consequences of *duplication* of effort and the identification of the *complementarity* between this project and others. The desk research provided evidence of care being taken to minimise duplication and optimise synergy, at the project planning stage. The results of that review, which appears satisfactory, are summarised below. Note that the Traffic Light assessments are based on the consultants' interpretation of the assessments made in the project plan. They do not, necessarily, represent the opinion of the evaluator.

Table 11: Preliminary Status of the Assessment of Project Coherence

#	Project name & duration	Donor & budget	Project focus	Traffic light on duplication	Traffic light on complementarity	Evaluator's Remarks
1.	Gambia YouthConnekt 2018 – 2021	USD – 2 million UNDP core contribution – 400,000 **Gap – 1.6 Million**	Facilitate an enabling environment For youth empowerment, civic participation and employment creation for youth via an adaptation of the internationally successful YouthConnekt Model	Neutral risk	Good	Project aims to build on gains and lessons of YouthConnekt. Website for YouthConnekt Africa describes it as "…an African home-grown solution positioned to provide relevant solutions for the global South **(YouthConnekt Africa, 2023)**. There was a risk of the undue duplication of effort if mitigation through coordinated complementarity was not undertaken. This appears to have been considered in the planning process.
2.	Women & Youth participation in decision making and as agents of conflict prevention 2018-2020	USD – 1.3 million **PBF**	Facilitate the improved participation of women and young people in political decision-making processes.	Neutral risk	Good	This project targets similar beneficiaries and outcomes as the previous project. It seeks to build on the lessons learnt. There was a risk of the undue duplication of effort if mitigation through coordinated complementarity was not undertaken. This appears to have been considered in the planning process.
3.	Support strengthening inclusive citizen engagement for more accountable governance in The Gambia 2020-2021	USD – 1.65 million **PBF**	Improving civic engagement of youth and women. Advocating for accountability and trust between national leadership and the population	Neutral risk	Good	This project targets similar beneficiaries and impact as the previous project. It seeks to build on the lessons learnt. There was a risk of the undue duplication of effort if mitigation through coordinated complementarity was not undertaken. This appears to have been considered in the planning process.

REVISED

#	Project name & duration	Donor & budget	Project focus	Traffic light on duplication	Traffic light on complementarity	Evaluator's Remarks
4.	Strengthening sustainable and holistic reintegration of returnees in The Gambia 2018-2020	USD – 1.3 million PBF	Assist the reintegration of youth who have returned from irregular migration through community engagement	Low risk	Good	The previous project targeted a sub-set of the youth beneficiaries of the current project. This project sought to gain from the lessons learnt and to include returnees in its democratic governance and social cohesion objectives.
5.	UNFPA Gambia core and non-core resources 2019-2020	3.7M USD	Multiple	Low risk	Good	Core interventions of UNFPA include the facilitation of improved welfare, social and cultural capital of women and girls. This was seen as providing relevance experience for the successful management of this project
6.	UNESCO: Development of Media and Information Literacy 2019- 2022	130,000 USD (SIDA, Sweden)	Sustainability of Community media. Development of policies for Media an information literacy (MIL)	Neutral risk	Good	This project covers a similar time period as the project being evaluated. This evaluated project also has a MIL component. There was a risk of the undue duplication of effort if mitigation was not undertaken. However, the project plan suggests that a coordinated complementarity will provide win/win outcome for both projects.
7.	Using Drones & Early Warning Systems for Pre & Post-Floods Disaster Management 2019-2021	2M USD (India)	This had a component that facilitated the building of the capacity of local radio in the 5 regions of the country to broadcast early warning messages	Low risk	Good	The project plan indicated that the community media targeted by the Drone project would be key candidates for downstream dissemination of messages against hate speech – contributing to their capacity and sustainability.

Consider Table 11. About sixty percent (4 of 7) of the interventions were assessed as posing a neutral risk of undue duplication of effort. This was risk that could crystallise negatively if left unmanaged or which could be converted into an opportunity with sound initiatives. Three of the four interventions, positively, had a limited or no time overlap and offered the opportunity to build on lessons learnt from action in similar domains. Intervention #6 had a time-span that covered the entirety of this evaluated project and posed an elevated threat of undue duplication. However, the outcome overlap was limited, as MIL was only about 10% of the $2.1m budget of this evaluated project. Further, the proposed mitigation measures provided, in principle, reasonable risk reduction.

REVISED

6.2 The Findings of the Field Research

Section 4 presented an outline of the eNPS survey results. The quasi-quantitative findings related to project coherence will be examined in detail here, together with the analysis of the results of qualitative investigations.

Table 12: Extract of eNPS results for the Coherence evaluation criterion

Attribute	FGD eNPS	KII eNPS
Coherence	86	88
Overall average	**27**	**56**

The following statement was posed to both the KIIs and the FGDs:

"Overall, I am satisfied that the project took into account the efforts of other similar projects and that it added new value to the life experience of young people and women".

Once again, the results were very similar between the KIIs and the FGDs, except that they are much more positive for coherence than they were for relevance. Only 12% of KII respondents disputed the statement. None of the FGD respondents disputed it, although 14% were "fence-sitters".

Typical comments included the following:

Exhibit A - Non-UN Implementing Partner
"This program is built on existing programs simply there have been lots of peace building campaign, sensitisation, trainings and workshops that has happened in the past years. Having a project similar to that, definitely is something that is worth (the investment)".

Exhibit B - Non-UN Implementing Partner
"Before this project there were similar ones. This project came (in addition). The project served to bring youths into politics and for them to take up leadership roles. (It

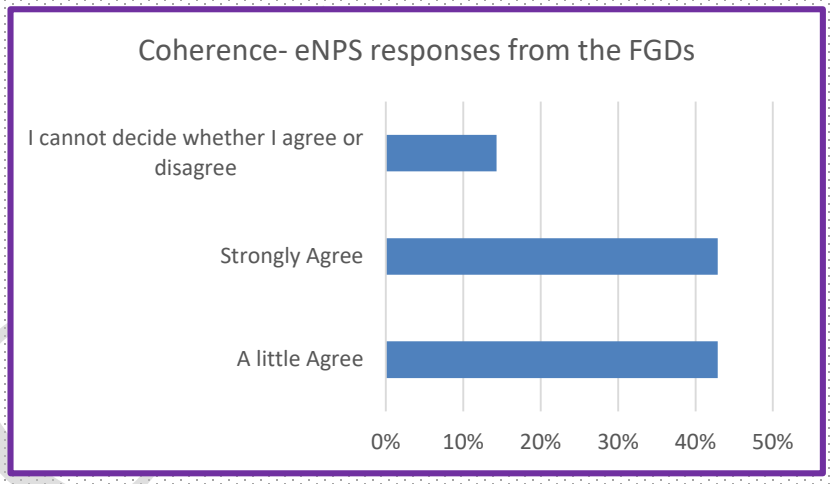


Figure 10: Coherence: eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries

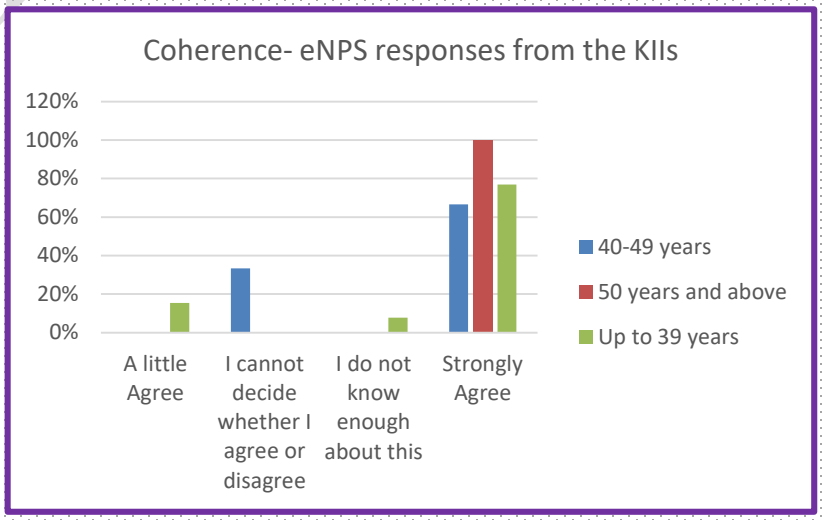


Figure 11: Coherence: eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners

REVISED

encouraged them) to stop violence and hate speech. We had several meetings, for example, one meeting we had which brought different leaders together and also youths so they (could) have a discussion or dialogue".

Exhibit C - Non-UN Implementing Partner
"The project added new value to the lives of young women to the extent that women went on to create a group of only women to come together and forget their differences, learn from each other and engage more in politics. (We even provided) recommendations to continue the project".

Exhibit D - Non-UN Implementing Partner
"Fact checking has been implemented by other projects before and this project is complementing the previous ones. We were successful in registering for all these projects so yes this project helped a lot of people. We even localised the report with local languages shared to all regions, private stations etc. So we could make sure that everyone knows the Truth".

Exhibit E - Non-UN Implementing Partner
"The project had a great impact in the life experience of many young people that we have sensitized. Before the project it was difficult to bring people together from different political parties, but at the end it created a platform or room for different political parties to come as one which helped to minimize the hate speech and violence amongst the young people most especially. For example there were two villages opposite each other but they were not in good terms this is because one village was supporting UDP (political party) whilst the other was supporting NPP (political party). One of the villages had a grinding machine (which) the other did not have. Later, the (first) village's machine got spoiled and the (second) village (got) a machine. But due to the intervention we were able to bring them together as one and make peace between them. We were able to make them understand that politics should not divide you because it comes and goes (whilst) you people stay. It was a great impact for us in this project".

Case Study on Coherence: Establishment of Youth Internet Radio.
Implementer: UNFPA/NYC
The project, through the National Youth Council (NYC), set up a youth-led national internet radio station, to amplify the voices of young people in maintaining peace and social cohesion. UNFPA supported the procurement of equipment and furniture. The online radio was to serve as an avenue to discuss youth involvement in the society, employment, migration and politics, including the 2021/22 elections.

The online radio equipment had to be imported, which caused a delay in the set-up. There was also some difficulty in finding a suitable service provider for good connectivity. Due to unstable electricity, a standby generator had to be installed. To generate income, advertisements were to run during breaks. Youth volunteers and interns were sought to assist in online radio operation in order to reduce operation cost and increase youth involvement in the online radio operation. The NYC board was to ensure the insulation of the radio from political interference, and was to engage in consistent evaluation of content, ensuring balance and vetting of pre and post-election programs.

In a confidential interview, a UN staff expressed concern about the effectiveness of the online radio. Doubts were expressed about its ability to reach its youth audience and thus, its value for money. In addition, online research also suggested that at least 20 radio stations with a Gambia footprint can now be accessed online, some of which are major national brands. Consequently, the ability of this new radio to take a significant market share is a challenge.

Box 2: Case Study on Coherence: Establishment of Youth Internet Radio

Exhibit E - Non-UN Implementing Partner
"It has really added new value because after the training some were given mini grants to conduct activities in their regions. They were also able to use the skills that they've learnt to train others. It was a very good impact".

Exhibit F - Non-UN Implementing Partner
"Pretty excited of what they have done in Gambia. The project was anchored on the prior Ghana experience".

6.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions

The field research (section 6.2), once again, broadly supports the preliminary evaluation documented in section 6.1 i.e. the project appears to be well grounded in the experiences and lessons of others in The Gambia and elsewhere. It sought to build on, and to complement, those initiatives.

The scale of intervention required is possibly too large for any single project to act on its own. Consequently, the resources deployed to this project were a rational and coherent contribution to a large and persistent problem.

REVISION 1

7. The Project and Its Effectiveness

7.1 The View after the Inception Phase

The Terms of Reference required the assessment of the success of the project in attaining its targeted outcomes of reinforcing democratic governance and supporting social cohesion through young men and women. However, the caveat in section 5 above is particularly relevant to the evaluation of effectiveness i.e. if the project is programmed to influence the symptoms rather than the causes of the governance and cohesion problems of The Gambia, then any effectiveness can only provide limited ***symptomatic relief.*** It is likely to have limited long-term impact. This concern is illustrated by the project theory of change which is summarised in Table 13.

Table 13: Summary of the Project Theory of Change (adapted from the Project Plan)

If vulnerable young women and men are empowered with the importance of positive social dialogue
If media are made aware of their responsibilities for social cohesion
If politically active young women and men are made aware of their duty to preserve social cohesion
And structural barriers to the inclusion of young women and men in the planning and decision-making process are reduced
Then young men and women will begin to make informed and responsible decisions that promote social cohesion; and they would strengthen the national governance system
Resulting in improved social cohesion and peace outcomes.

This theory of change does not address the structural destabilisation of a state resulting from a Winner Takes All (WTA) governance system operating within a culturally diverse and dissonant society. In such a context, WTA has built-in drivers of conflict and fragility. As designed, the project seeks to provide young people with access to the existing power structures without addressing the inherent fragility risks of that status quo. With this caveat in mind, the project objective and related outcomes and output matrix are shown in Table 14.

Table 14: Project Effectiveness Roadmap (Source: Project Plan)

Project objective/title: Young women and men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates for the prevention of violence and hate speech		
Outcomes	**Project Outcome 1:** Young people increasingly participate in governance and decision-making processes at national, regional, community and political party levels (“*Inclusion in democratic governance*”)	**Project Outcome 2**: Young people engage in community mediation efforts and serve as advocates against hate speech (“*Promotion of social cohesion*”)
Output 1	Youth leadership and participation increased in political decision-making processes at party executive and national level (“*Inclusion in party politics*”)	Young people as champions of positive messaging and community change makers (“*Individual catalysts of social harmony*”)
Output 2	Youth mobilized as key actors to engage in community dialogue initiatives to enhance inclusion and sustainable peace including prevention of electoral violence (“*Promotion of electoral peace*”)	Number of youth-led organizations, per region, whose capacities are enhanced to integrate MIL in their operations, with a focus on tackling hate speech at community level. (“*Organisational catalysts of social harmony*”)
Output 3	Improved intergenerational dialogue to maintain community peace and understanding (“*Generational empathy*”)	

Project objective/title: Young women and men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates for the prevention of violence and hate speech		
Outcomes	**Project Outcome 1:** Young people increasingly participate in governance and decision-making processes at national, regional, community and political party levels ("*Inclusion in democratic governance*")	**Project Outcome 2**: Young people engage in community mediation efforts and serve as advocates against hate speech ("*Promotion of social cohesion*")
Output 4	Increased student capacities through assistanceship/mentorship to generate data/evidence and policy briefs information for public discourse on youth participation and inclusion in decision- making activities ("*Work experience*")	

7.2 The Findings of the Field Research

Section 4 presented an outline of the eNPS survey results. The quasi-quantitative findings related to project effectiveness will be examined in detail here, together with the analysis of the results of qualitative investigations.

Table 15: Extract of eNPS results for the Effectiveness evaluation criterion

Attribute	FGD eNPS	KII eNPS
Effectiveness	57	100
Overall average	**27**	**56**

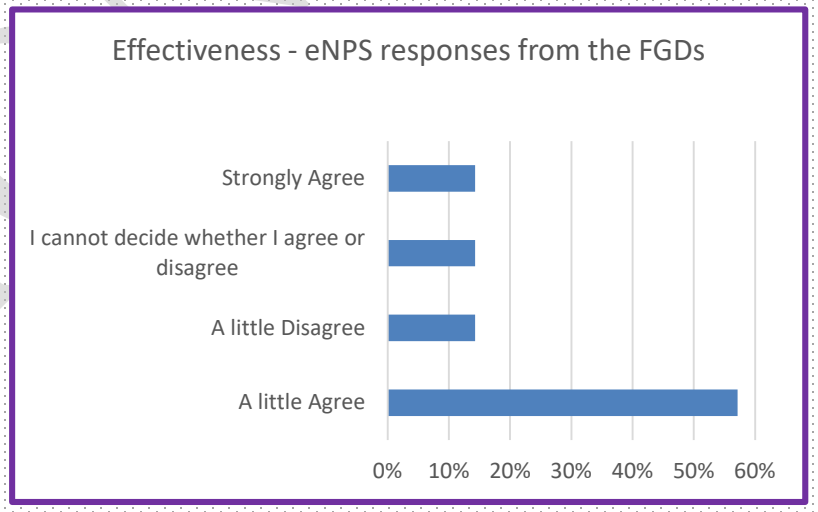


Figure 12: Effectiveness - eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries

The following statement was posed to both the KIIs and the FGDs:

"Overall, I am satisfied that the project has achieved its objective of significantly improving the contribution of "Young Women and Men as stakeholders in ensuring peaceful democratic processes and advocates in the prevention of violence".

Both the KIIs and the FGDs presented green zone rated responses. However, unlike the relevance and coherence criteria, the ratings for effectiveness were relatively far apart, with the FGDs being markedly less optimistic.

Typical comments included the following:

Exhibit A – Beneficiary FGD

"The training that we had in the provinces was very effective but we've also learnt that the hate speeches are within the Kombos (Greater Banjul Area). It is still happening although not compared to then (the Jammeh era); that is to say the undercurrent is still not good".

REVISION

Exhibit B - Beneficiary FGD

"Looking at the number of journalists that published stories on hate speech and things that causes violence or calling people to maintain peace, if you check the website there are lots of stories published by young men and women from various places especially in the rural areas. This tells us that those young men and women who attended the training definitely (put into practice) what they learnt and they applied that in their community through their stories. But, more (is needed) than just training, because training is not enough. (Downstream support is also required to drive change)".

Exhibit C - Non-UN Implementing Partner

"In the communities that we have sensitised, we saw young people mobilising themselves by forming WhatsApp groups to talk to their fellows and even their community leaders. For example, priests and imams were encourage(d) to use their platforms or sermons to advocate for peaceful conduct of elections which really helped to prevent hate speeches and violence. Young people were using their schools to preach for peace ahead of the election. None of the young people that we engaged in the communities were involved in any form of violence or conflict prior to the election, or during the election and even after the elections. Instead, they continue to serve as ambassadors to peace and tolerance in their communities thanks to the intervention of the project".

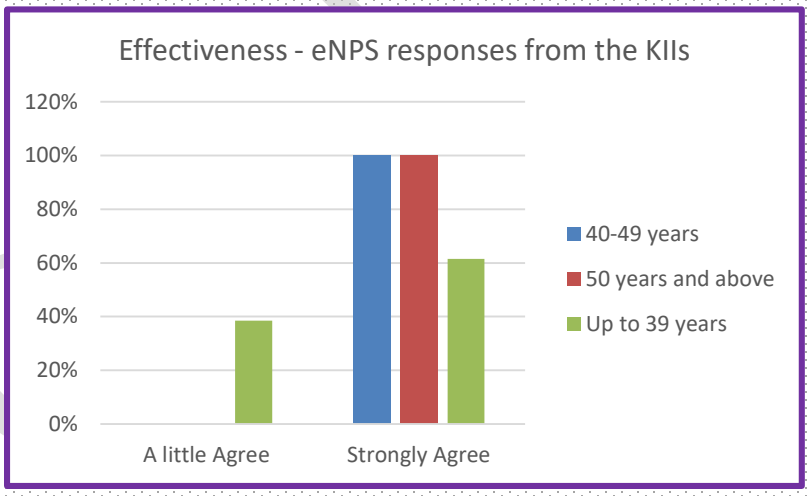


Figure 13: Effectiveness - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners

Exhibit D - Non-UN Implementing Partner

"Because the project came at a time shortly after the presidency election, a lot happened between the security Force and civilians so bringing them together for start some sort of understanding and a bit of collaboration giving them the opportunity to talk under a free atmosphere to better understand (each other). The civilians were able to ask questions and the security Force provided answers and explain their troubles with the way civilians (interact with them)".

Exhibit E - Non-UN Implementing Partner

"Knowing that the population of the Gambia is covered by young people and we are about 64% and the project is centered on young people we decided to involve more young people as we can. We took five people from each region but we realized that it was minimal, we still need to improve. That is, things need to be done because to take five people from each region is not enough to represent a whole region".

7.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions

The field research (section 7.2), broadly supports the preliminary evaluation documented in section 7.1 i.e. the project appears to be congruent with its stated objectives. The following is noteworthy:

a) The problem is national and beyond the scale of a small project, such as this PBF, to effectively transform the problem.
b) There may be value in undertaking meta-research of the independent evaluations of a range of projects that have operated in this sphere. This should provide a picture of the overall effect of these combined interventions. That will be useful to all investment partners in planning future interventions.

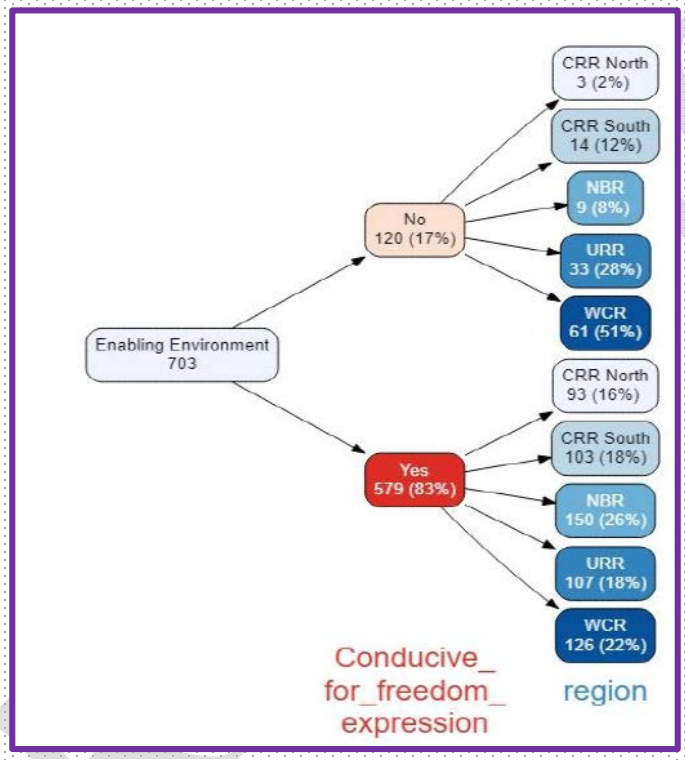


Figure 14: Case Study on Effectiveness – Insights from the University of The Gambia (UTG) Research Survey – The conduciveness of the national context for freedom of expression

Case Study on Effectiveness – Insights from the University of The Gambia (UTG) Research Survey – The conduciveness of the national context for freedom of expression

The effectiveness of the project in attaining its planned outcomes depended greatly on its ability to freely communicate with young people and other stakeholders. This would be in marked contrast to the authoritarian context that prevailed before the change of government in 2016. The UTG survey commissioned by the project enquired about the perception of respondents regarding the contemporary freedom of expression.

The study reported that, across the country, about 83% of the respondents expressed confidence in the national environment for expressing their views, with 17% (just under one-fifth) believing otherwise. This is probably a significant improvement from the days of the authoritarian regime. However, it is concerning that nearly 2 out of every ten respondents still felt apprehensive about expressing their views.

This overall proportion masked major regional variations. Those who believed their environment is **not conducive** for freedom of expression was the highest in the main population centre of the West Coast Region (WCR) at **51%.** This **cynicism** was lowest in the Central River Region North (CRR North), at 2%. Upper River Region reported 28% cynicism, CRR South reported 12% and North Bank Region reported 8%. If these findings are valid, they may indicate significant cause for concern about the future. The WCR includes the main urban centres and usually has the most well informed populations. If that region reports over 50% cynicism, there is a case for further investigation of the causes of that cynicism and its implications for the effectiveness of this project and other similar interventions.

Box 3: Case Study on Effectiveness – Insights from the University of The Gambia (UTG) Research Survey – The conduciveness of the national context for freedom of expression

8. The Efficiency of the Project

8.1 The View after the Inception Phase

8.1.1 Approved Budget

Table 16: Approved Budget of the Project. Source: Annual Progress Report Nov 2022

#	Expense Category/Recipient Organization	UNFPA US$000	UNFPA % total	UNDP US$000	UNDP % total	UNESCO US$000	UNESCO % total	Total US$000	Aggregate % total
1	Staff and other personnel	149	15%	192	24%	38	11%	**379**	18%
2	Supplies, Commodities, Materials	30	3%	75	9%	3	1%	**108**	5%
3	Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	38	4%	10	1%	-	0%	**48**	2%
4	General Operating and other Costs	80	8%	55	7%	3	1%	**138**	6%
5	7% Indirect Costs	65	7%	53	7%	23	7%	**141**	7%
6	***sub-total Overheads***	***362***	***36%***	***385***	***48%***	***67***	***19%***	***814***	***38%***
7	Contractual services	113	11%	185	23%	258	74%	**556**	26%
8	Travel	39	4%	25	3%	25	7%	**89**	4%
9	Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	486	49%	215	27%	-	0%	**701**	32%
10	***Sub-total Direct Costs***	***638***	***64%***	***425***	***52%***	***283***	***81%***	***1,346***	***62%***
11	**Grand Total**	**1,000**	**100%**	**810**	**100%**	**350**	**100%**	**2,160**	**100%**

The approved budget was for about US$2.2m split between UNFPA, UNDP and UNESCO in the ratios 46%, 37% and 17% respectively. UNESCO, prima facie, had the most efficient cost profile, with about 81% being allocated to direct costs. The variation in the ratios of overheads to direct costs is very wide. This could be the subject of efficiency planning for future projects.

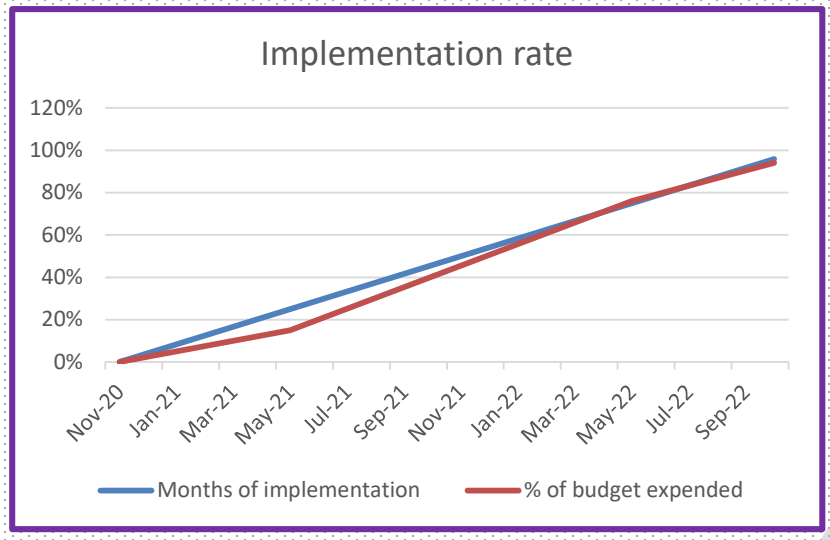


Figure 15: Rate of Project Implementation

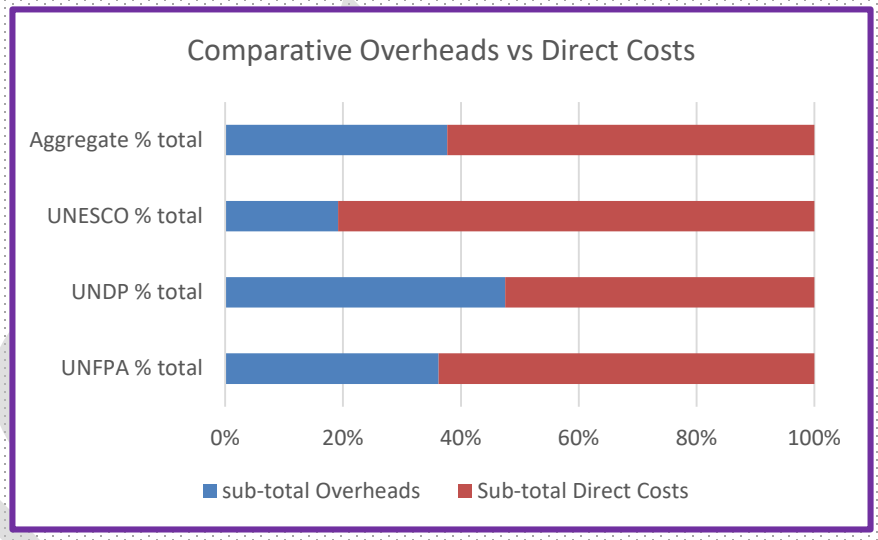


Figure 16: Profile of Overheads to Direct Costs for the Project Budget. Source: Annual Progress Report Nov 2022

8.1.2 Rate of Project Implementation

Table 17: Rate of Project Implementation

Category	Nov-20	May-21	May-22	Oct-22
Months of implementation	0%	25%	75%	96%
% of budget expended	0%	15%	76%	94%

The first transfer for the project was made in November 2020. However, the inception meeting for the Steering Committee did not occur until March 2021, four months after the transfer. Given that a prime reason for the project was to influence the conduct of the Presidential and Parliamentary elections, with the former scheduled for December 2021, this was a significant and high risk delay in implementation. It is noteworthy that these delays happened during the disruption caused by the COVID 19 pandemic.

REVISED

8.2 The Findings of the Field Research

Section 4 presented an outline of the eNPS survey results. The quasi-quantitative findings related to project efficiency will be examined in detail here, together with the analysis of the results of qualitative investigations.

Table 18: Extract of eNPS results for the Efficiency evaluation criterion

Attribute	FGD eNPS	KII eNPS
Efficiency	14	76
Overall average	**27**	**56**

The following statement was posed to both the KIIs and the FGDs:

"The roughly two million dollars of the project was money well spent, with good value for money".

There was a dramatic difference between the FGD and the KII responses. Perhaps understandably, as implementing partners, the KIIs were far more positive – in high green zone territory. This reflected their greater knowledge of project finances and their particular control over the element allocated to them. Arguably, this control could have resulted in positive bias. The FGDs, comprising of beneficiaries, were markedly less confident, in low amber zone territory.

Beneficiary FGD comments included the following:

Exhibit A

"Due to the project, we left our houses for days and at the end of the day we were given transport money which was very small. So, I was thinking before renting a hotel we could have used that money for ourselves. The money that was spent to rent a hotel should have been given to the participants to cover up for the days that they didn't make it to work or so".

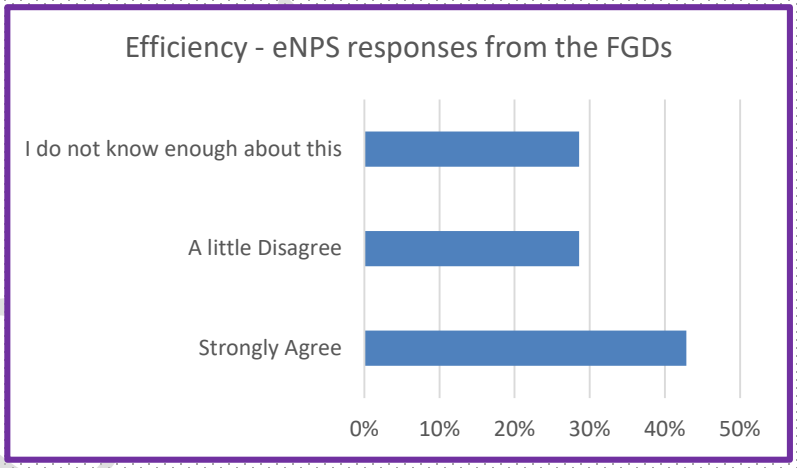


Figure 17: Efficiency - eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries

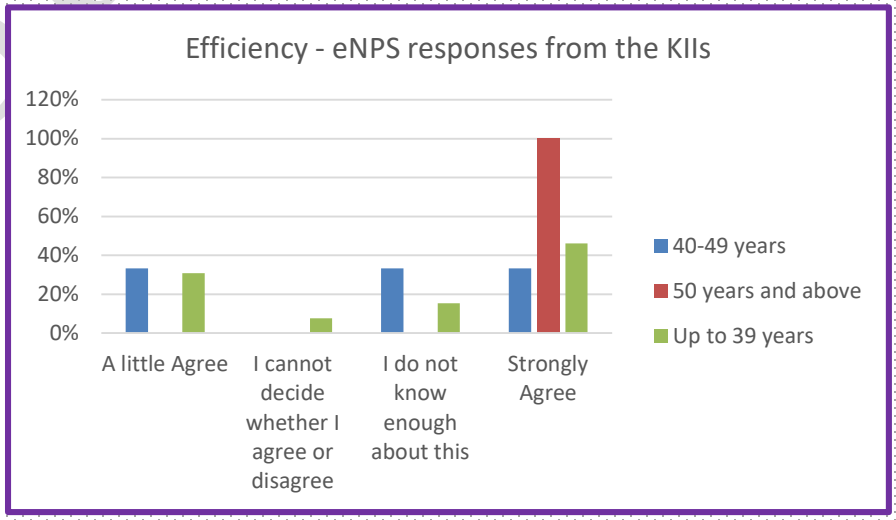


Figure 18: Efficiency - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners

Exhibit B

"The money was spent for the right purpose. They invited people from all the regions, and those coming from different regions needed to be accommodated. For convenience purpose the hotel was good. The people that were invited did a great job because it was educative and interactive".

Non-UN Implementing Partner comments included the following:

Exhibit C

"I only know of the money given to us which we use responsibly. We received $20,000 which was in 2021 and we were told to we would receive another $30,000 in 2022 which never came".

Exhibit D

"For our own portion of little fund we received, which was not enough, I will say the project was well managed and the work was properly done. But for the 2 million in general we can't say or talk on it the money came through NYC. We are (sub-contractor) under NYC .Timing was crucial with the (late arrival of) funds for the project because timing of the activities and event had a great role towards the target goal for the project".

Exhibit E

"For our own aspect, 50 journalists were trained from diverse backgrounds. Included young journalists and fair balance of gender. Training could have lasted for 5 days instead of 3 days. We could have usefully done field work and provided evaluation and (downstream) coaching (– to improve the chances of positive impact). But we did not have funds for those purposes".

Exhibit F

"I strongly agree with the statement because UN-PBF project were strict on how and where specifically the money will be spent. They did monitor where the money was going. Even after most of the activities were implemented they did an audit to see and if there was any fault you were be held accountable for it".

Case Study on Efficiency: Internship at the National Assembly (NA). Implementer - UNFPA.

UNFPA supported the University of The Gambia (UTG) to implement this project. The internship program included 60 male and 40 female UTG students. They were provided with preparatory training and orientation. Training included critical thinking, report/memo writing, composition, and the mandate of the National Assembly. The deployment of interns to their respective areas commenced in August 2022. Some interns were attached to a National Assembly Member (NAM) and others worked in the different committees and the secretariat depending on their area of study. Interns were required to report to work twice a week (2 hours each day).The internships provided first-hand experience in the real world, enabling students to understand the career trajectory for their desired jobs, build networks in the professional world and build their capacity to enhance their political ambition. One intern reported an intention to contest NA elections in the future.

A delay in the signing of the UTG agreement, partly arising from extended negotiations over the value of the internship stipend payable to students (UTG had expected a higher value), resulted in the compression of the program. Timely access to funding was also a reported problem throughout the implementation of the project. Students also reported limited access to the internet and transportation which reportedly affected their full participation in the training. It was reported that the UTG Career centre will continue including internship programs as part of their activity plans for students and will look for supportive funding from UN Agencies and other development partners.

Box 4: Case Study on Efficiency: Internship at the National Assembly

REVISED

Exhibit G

"No view on the larger picture, but funds allocated to us were well spent".

8.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions

The field research (section 8.2), once again broadly supports the preliminary evaluation documented in section 8.1 i.e. the time lost at the start of the project was unfortunate. There are potentially significant efficiencies to be gained from future projects if the differences in overhead cost profiles between the UN partners could be explored and reduced.

REVISION 1

9. The Sustainability of the Project

9.1 The View after the Inception Phase

An important concern was raised in section 5.1 about the likelihood that the project targets the symptoms and not the causes of the problems identified. This may weaken the prospects for sustainability.

9.2 The Findings of the Field Research

Section 4 presented an outline of the eNPS survey results. The quasi-quantitative findings related to project sustainability will be examined in detail here, together with the analysis of the results of qualitative investigations.

Table 19: Extract of eNPS results for the Sustainability evaluation criterion

Attribute	FGD eNPS	KII eNPS
Sustainability	-29	59
Overall average	**27**	**56**

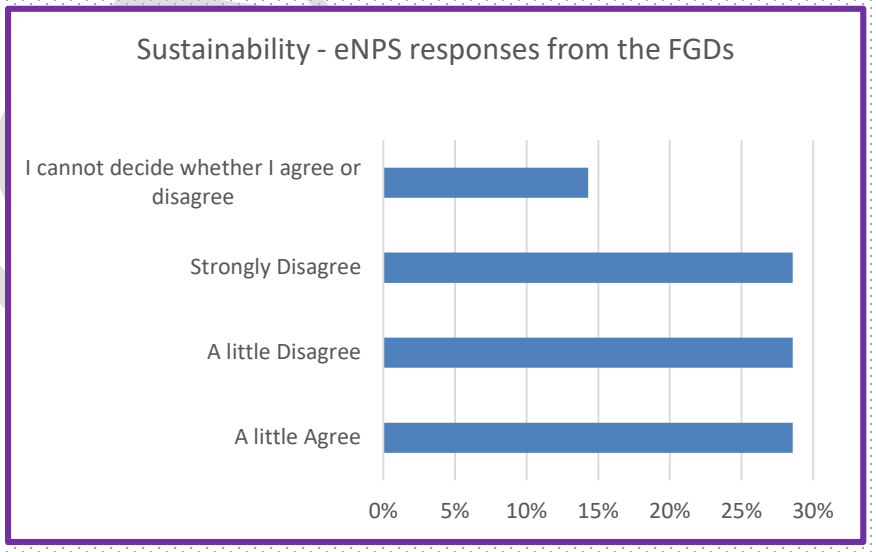


Figure 19: Sustainability - eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries

The following statement was posed to both the KIIs and the FGDs:

"Politicians with power and those seeking power have been significantly influenced by the project to see their interests as being served by politics that is peaceful and inclusive of young men and women".

There was a significant difference between the FGD and the KII responses, with the former in red zone territory.

Beneficiary FGD comments included the following:

Exhibit A

"Politicians are always good with theory. They can say that young people need to be supported or given chance, but at the end that chance will never come. In most of their campaign speeches are all theoretical. What they will say, most of them will not (implement). In this case, there is a sense of impunity. People

feel that they can do what they want but it doesn't change the attitude at all. I believe misinformation is on the rise now, it has even worsened. It is now the order of the day".

Exhibit B
"It will be a long-term goal. It will be very difficult to change the mindset of those in power. There was an alleged scandal not long ago in relation to the Global Fund, but later the ministry issued a press release trying to clarify what was published. (In the process, the ministry created) more misinformation".

Exhibit C
"(On the other hand, it was recently reported that) a former permanent secretary at the ministry of fisheries was exposed in corruption by journalists, which (subsequently) led to the (conviction) of the permanent secretary. So, there is a hope to hold people accountable if journalists do their job and expose them on time".

Non-UN Implementing Partner KII comments included the following:

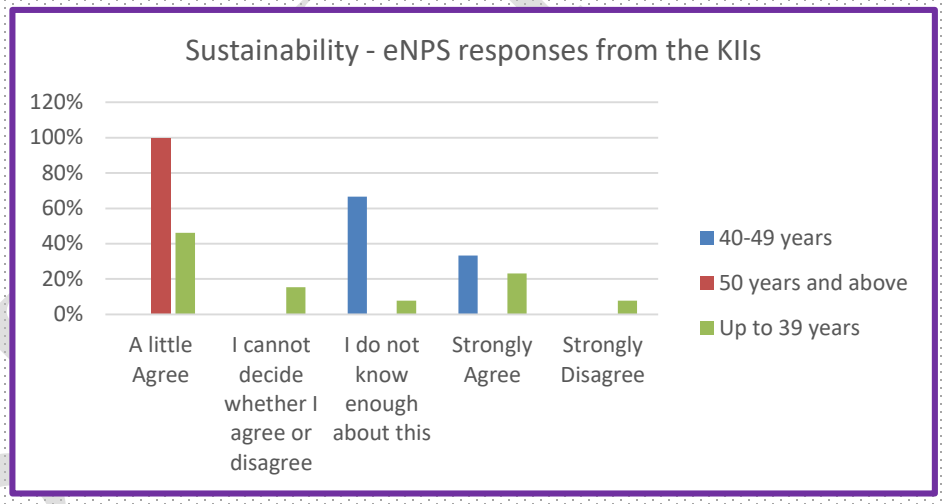


Figure 20: Sustainability - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners

Exhibit D
"We flagged comments of politicians and they became wary of their commentary and so believe that their behaviour was influenced".

Exhibit E
"Politicians were engaged during our interventions to make sure the elections were violence free. We have also seen politicians taking pledges to sensitize peace in their rallies to prevent violence. We have also seen how inclusive politicians were for the fact that they included young people in their congresses".

Exhibit F
"It's always difficult when you want to have a meeting with politicians. They only send their delegation so it's very difficult to have a dialogue with politicians with power and the once seeking power. Normally, politicians should be servant of the people. Their interest should (align with that of) the people. (But) there is almost no public interest as they are just thinking of their selfish interests"

REVISED

9.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions

Some matters arising were identified in section 10.1 above. The field research suggests that there is significant cynicism about the motivation of established politicians and thus whether they will be willing to share power or to avoid societally destructive campaign habits. However, some respondents are optimistic that the project has contributed towards accountability and that the increasing awareness of the people of their best interests will eventually lead to change in the practices of those who wield power.

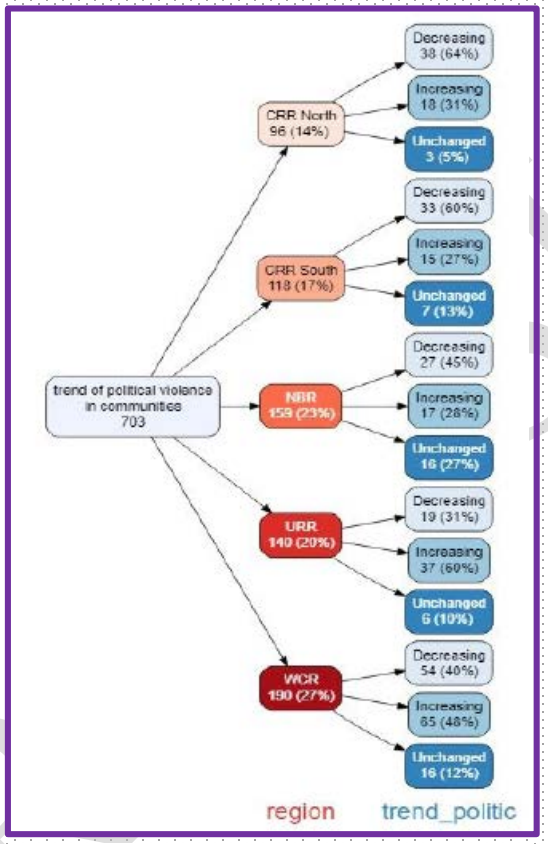


Figure 21: Case Study on Sustainability: Trends in Political Violence as discerned by the UTG Survey

Case Study on Sustainability: Trends in Political Violence as discerned by the UTG Survey

A key objective of this project was to increase the awareness among young people of the societal dangers of political violence, in order to reduce the incidence of such violence. Consequently, the UTG survey, commissioned by the project, sought to gain an insight into the perception among young men and women of the future trend of political violence in the country. Respondents were asked to assess the growth trend of political violence in their respective communities. Overall, 46% of the respondents believed that the trend of political violence is decreasing in their communities while 41% said it is increasing and 13% believes it will remain unchanged. This suggests that a significant proportion, roughly two out of every five youths see a growing problem i.e. the need for interventions like this project will become more pressing with time.

When the perceived trend of political violence in communities is dis-aggregated by region, there are concerning variations. Two out of the five regions in the sample report more respondents predicting increasing violence than those predicting decreasing violence. As with the Case study on Effectiveness, this includes the most populous urbanised and influential West Coast Region, which reports 40% as believing the political violence is decreasing and 48% believing that the violence is increasing. Further, about 60% of the respondents from URR believed that political violence is increasing while 31% said it is decreasing. On the other hand, in CRR South and CRR North, 60% and 64% respectively said that violence is decreasing.

Once again, troubling insights are found in the very influential West Coast Region.

Box 5: Case Study on Sustainability: Trends in Political Violence as discerned by the UTG Survey

10. The Implementation Process of the Project

10.1 The View after the Inception Phase

Appendix A1.2.2 makes a relevant observation:

> "There was no central repository of beneficiary details".

Further, Appendix A1.2.3 makes a relevant conclusion:

> *"In general, the project monitoring and evaluation system was given an assessment of "satisfactory"* on a three point scale of "poor", "satisfactory" and "excellent". Consequently, the conclusions of the project monitoring and evaluation reports were taken as a fair indication of the project's performance. The field research approach was thus to seek independent conclusions of lessons to be learnt through a combination of quantitative-style survey s and more in-depth qualitative explorations of the experience of implementers and beneficiaries".

But section 14.3 on project impact also concludes:

> "Important activities were late and thus had reduced effect on the targeted 2021/2022 elections. This was possibly due to the late start of the project operations and the time lost between November 2020 and March 2021".

10.2 The Findings of the Field Research

Section 4 presented an outline of the eNPS survey results. The quasi-quantitative findings related to project implementation process will be examined in detail here, together with the analysis of the results of qualitative investigations.

Table 20: Extract of eNPS results for the Implementation Process evaluation criterion

Attribute	FGD eNPS	KII eNPS
Implementation Process	57	65
Overall average	**27**	**56**

The following statement was posed to both the KIIs and the FGDs:

"Overall, the management of the project was well done with respect to time, cost and quality".

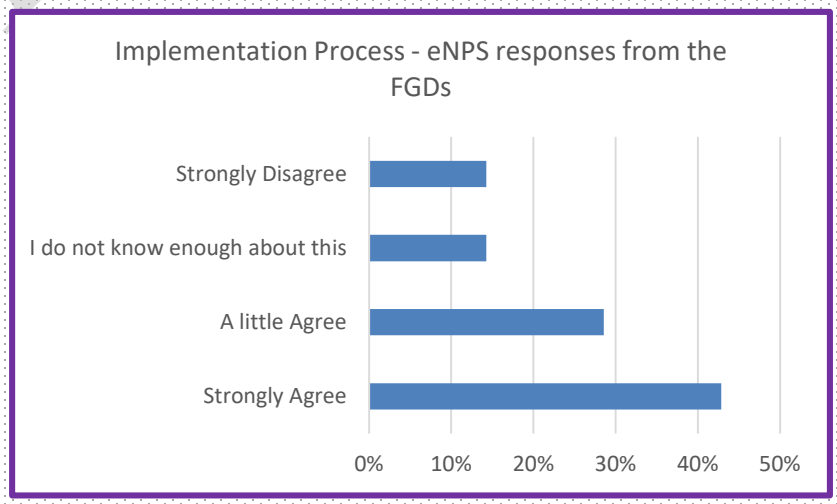


Figure 22: Implementation Process - eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries

REVISION 1

Both the FGD and the KII rated this statement in broadly the same low range green zone territory.

Comments included the following:

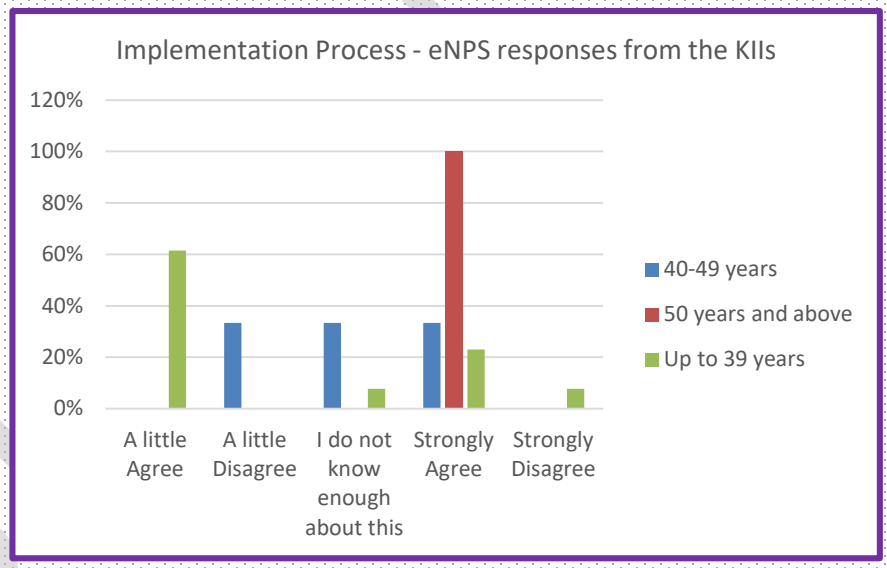


Figure 23: Implementation Process - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners

Exhibit A - Beneficiary FGD
"The timing of the project was very wrong which is so important".

Exhibit B – Beneficiary FGD
"The project was good because it came at the right time were Gambians needed it the most. Before the sensitizations people spread false information about people in any way that they can. For example, a lady expressed how bad she was treated which made most of us cry. The explanation that she gave made us to understand that it's very important to change our mindsets and not to spread fake information about an individual. The sensitization was interactive and we were also allowed to express ourselves and to talk about any experience we faced be it good or bad. It also motivated us women to be able to compete for elective positions in politics. Due to the false information that people give when women involve themselves in politics, a lot of women (are reluctant) when it comes to certain positions in politics. Some people go to the extent of disrespecting, insulting or discriminating them. But due to the project we now have the confidence to take certain positions in politics this is because some women came and talked about their past experiences which also motivated us to push harder".

Exhibit C – Non-UN Implementing Partner
"Good support from the UNESCO team. Timing could have been better but (there) was not enough time".

Exhibit D – Non-UN Implementing Partner
"Agree. Attention to value for money was evident. Good accounting and technical reporting system with effective oversight".

REVISED

10.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions

Some matters arising were identified in section 10.1 above. Overall, there is evidence of a reasonable rigour in financial and management oversight.

Case Study on Implementation Process: the establishment of the Youth branch of the Inter-Party Political Committee (YoBIPC)

The implementing partner Activista supported the establishment of the YoBIPC structures across all seven regions with the intent to enhance youth political participation and to create a platform for harmonious dialogue among youth, which would reduce the risk of political violence. The YoBIPC is made up of 72 members from all political parties in The Gambia. Following the establishment of the YoBIPC, Activista conducted capacity building training for its members. They were trained on peace-building, the importance of political participation of youths especially women, political tolerance, and becoming agents of peace within their respective communities.

The UTG Study investigated the participation of youths in politics in their respective communities. From its quasi-quantitative survey, It secured significant insights about the level of youths' participation in politics in five main regions of WCR, CRR-South, CRR-North, NBR and URR. It found that a substantial number of youths do not participate in politics or take up leadership positions because they believe that it is affiliated with conflict and hate speech and that it is a waste of time. The study concluded that significant numbers of youths do not participate in politics due to gender discrimination i.e. women are not provided the same opportunity as men to take up leadership positions in their respective communities. However, it also found that the trend of the participation of youths, according to the majority of the respondents, is increasing especially around the influential WCR - West Coast Region. It advised that more work needs to be done in the rural regions to improve confidence in the political process.

On the other hand, the UTG study also included KIIs of community leaders. These Elders believe that at least 70% of the Youths in all communities are actively involved in politics, although they note that it is a major increase from the pre-2016 authoritarian period. The leaders generally claimed that youths are given the opportunities to fully participate and take up leadership position because they are the future. Over 95% of the leaders interviewed stated that they believe in the importance of women being active in politics.

Clearly there is an inconsistency in the views expressed by leaders, who are generally optimistic and the perceptions secured from youth respondents, who are more cynical. This inconsistency is congruent with the perspectives gained from the KIIs and FGDs secured by this evaluation, where the message is that leaders are resistant to the meaningful participation of youths and women.

Box 6: Case Study on Implementation Process: the establishment of the Youth branch of the Inter-Party Political Committee (YoBIPC)

REF

11. The Catalytic Contribution of the Project

11.1 The View after the Inception Phase

This evaluation criterion was wholly assessed through the field research.

11.2 The Findings of the Field Research

Section 4 presented an outline of the eNPS survey results. The quasi-quantitative findings related to project catalyst effect will be examined in detail here, together with the analysis of the results of qualitative investigations.

Table 21: Extract of eNPS results for the Catalyst evaluation criterion

Attribute	Statement	FGD eNPS	KII eNPS
Catalyst A	***The project has had a significant direct catalytic effect through donors contributing to the same project or a follow up project***		47
Catalyst B	***The project has had a significant indirect catalytic effect through donors contributing to the same theme or approach AFTER the start of the PBF project***		41
Catalyst (FGD only)	***The project has made me more willing to help to improve peace in my community and my country***	100	
Overall average for Catalyst		100	44
Overall eNPS average		**27**	**56**

With a perfect green zone score, FGDs were significantly more positive than KII respondents, who average the higher reaches of the amber zone.

Beneficiary FGD comments included the following:

Exhibit A

"I individually benefited from the project serving as a secretary general for global youth parliament under west coast region. We organised so many programs relating to peace building as advocates against hate speech and violence".

REVISION 1

Non-UN Implementing Partner KII comments **regarding Catalyst A** included the following:

Exhibit B
"It was dealing with the society, Governance, education and economic growth too. It is a link between lives and livelihoods. UNDP&UNFPA, amounts I don't have access to it".

Exhibit C
"Based on the work we have done with the PBF project, we secured funds from Freedom House. Like the community sensitization, radio programs etc. Freedom House donated $15000".

Non-UN Implementing Partner KII comments **regarding Catalyst B** included the following:

Exhibit D
"National Democratic Institute gave approximately $46,000"

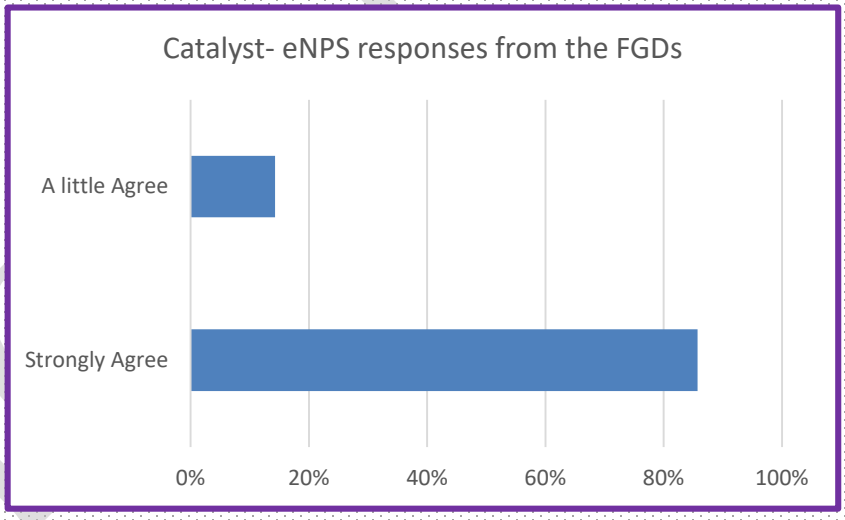


Figure 24: Catalyst- eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries

REVISED

Exhibit E
"Based on the activities we did on the PBF project, Action Aid donated $5000".

Exhibit F
"The IRI (international republican institution) and American embassy (British high commission) were part of the donors. They helped in the "violence free and democracy in the Gambia". I do not know the amount; they are not funded by UN".

Exhibit G
"Through this project we were able to partner with American Center for Human Rights and they did not give any funding but they supported the process indirectly and enable the young people to make decisions at the national level".

Exhibit H
"Do not know much about it. But training in Gambia improved profile and convinced donors to support including EU funded Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria, retained IPC as an partner and included conflict sensitive media training for elections. $0.5m support to IPC".

Exhibit I
"Fact checking is getting very important. Freedom House showed interest in supporting action in Gambia. Not yet concluded, budget uncertain. US embassy has directly supported another organisation in Gambia - Fact Check Centre? Amount uncertain. IRI - had conversations ahead of Gambia elections, but not conclusive. Heard that hey supported another organisation. Same with NDI".

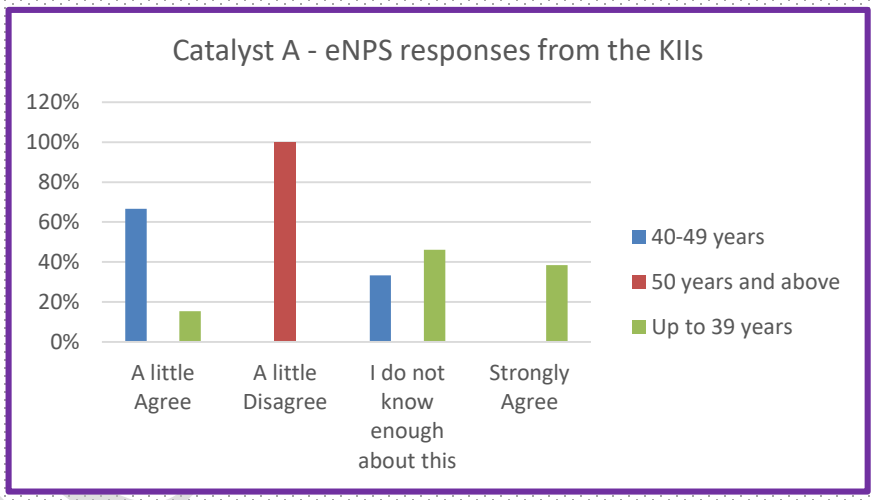


Figure 25: Catalyst A - eNPS responses from the KIIs of Non-UN Implementing Partners

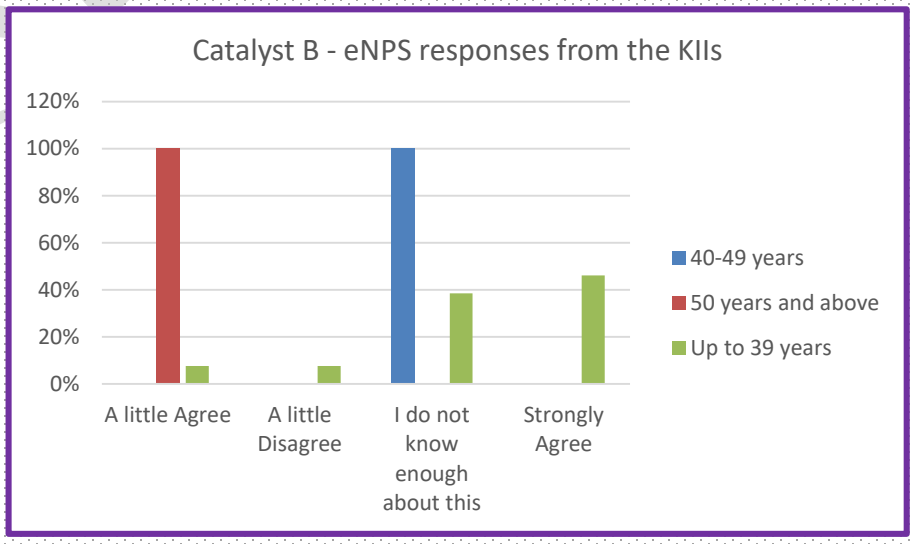


Figure 26: Catalyst B - eNPS responses from the KIIs of Non-UN Implementing Partners

REVIEW

11.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions

Beneficiaries interviewed in FGDs were enthusiastic about the motivational impact of the project. Implementing partners also suggested some positive links between the project and other funding during and after its lifetime.

Case Study on Catalytic Effect: the experience of MAJAC Gambia

MAJAC manages the fact-checking website, Fact Check Gambia (www.factcheckgambia.org) which was launched by UNESCO in October 2021. The platform seeks to curb the spread of fake news and misinformation by verifying and correcting false or misleading claims or statements. A team comprising MAJAC staff and selected journalists were trained by Jokkolabs on the management of the website. After the launching of the platform, in addition to the project funding, MAJAC received support of 34,000 Euros from the European Union through the Gambia Press Union and WANEP for content production for the Fact Check Gambia website. MAJAC also received project support to train an additional 16 journalists on fact-checking.

Box 7: Case Study on Catalytic Effect: the experience of MAJAC Gambia

REVISION

12. The Gender Contribution of the Project

12.1 The View after the Inception Phase

This evaluation criterion was mainly assessed through the field research, although the project progress reports had suggested good levels of female engagement.

12.2 The Findings of the Field Research

Section 4 presented an outline of the eNPS survey results. The quasi-quantitative findings related to project gender impact will be examined in detail here, together with the analysis of the results of qualitative investigations.

Table 22: Extract of eNPS results for the Gender evaluation criterion

Attribute	FGD eNPS	KII eNPS
Gender	71	71
Overall average	**27**	**56**

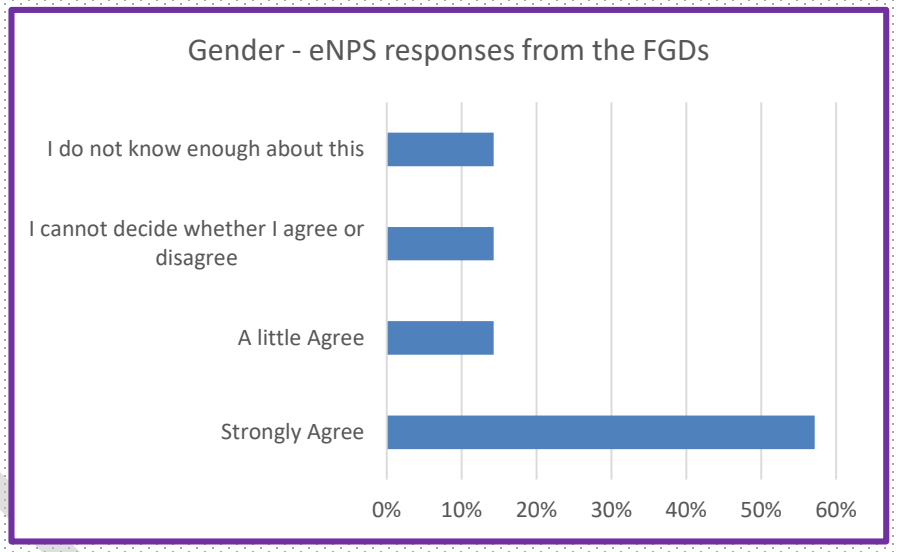


Figure 27: Gender - eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries

The following statement was posed to both the KIIs and the FGDs:

"Overall, the project has significantly improved the respect given to women as agents of peace-building".

Both sets of respondents evaluated this in strong green territory, remarkably emerging with the same eNPS score. There were slight differences in the composition of their scores, with the KII respondents having a small (6%) that disagreed with the statement. No FGD participant disagreed. Both sets included significant proportions (just under a third) of eNPS "passives") who were non-committal, but not persuaded.

Comments from **Beneficiary FGDs** included the following:

Exhibit A

"The respect of women is more coming from the community which I cannot definitely attest because we leave in a society where I advocate for it. When it even comes to school there are more women in classes; but when it comes to taking national decision you see that there are more men than women. The mentality for the Gambian men is that they should lead. For the women they use them as voters and mobilizers instead of (giving them) leadership positions".

REVISED

Exhibit B

"A lot needs to be done. Women are still not given that respect that they deserve. During the sensitization we have learnt a lot and have seen a lot of things that are affecting women leaders. Through that we were able to convince our fellow women that we should respect each other, we should also love one another and to accommodate one another in as much as we are from different political parties".

Comments from **KIIs of Non-UN Implementing Partners** included the following:

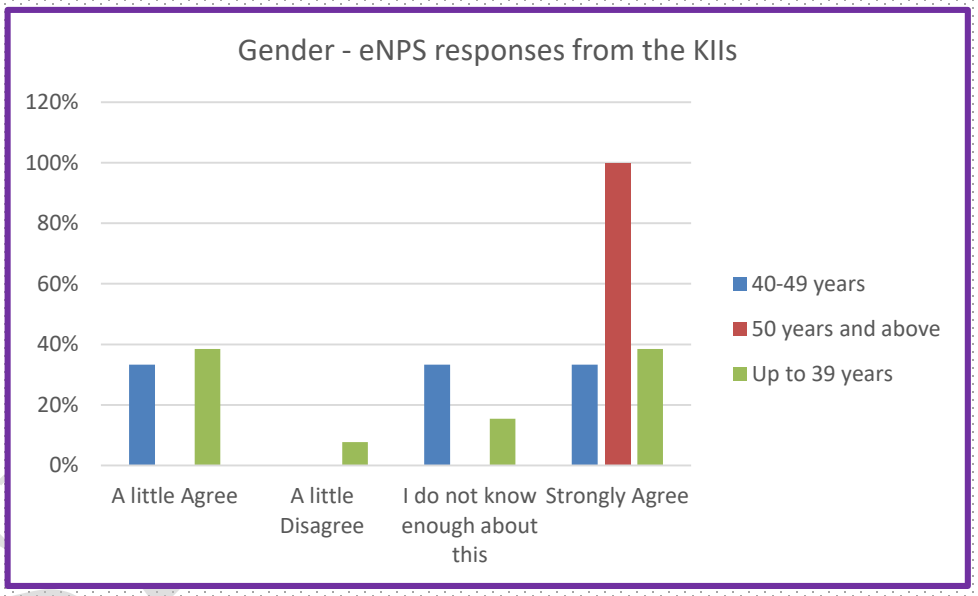


Figure 28: Gender - eNPS responses from the KIIs of Non-UN Implementing Partners

Exhibit C

"Well for us, yes. Almost all our projects are spearheaded by women, 80% of women in this office take part in every meeting and we hold key positions in this organisation. We can say now there are women that come together on their own to find alternative means to settle dispute amongst themselves after the projects started. Now women are ready to come together and rise up together. For example, mere women are now trying to take part in the elections. More women are ready to participate and take up positions of importance to be part of those implementing change in The Gambia. Women are becoming more aware of their capabilities".

Exhibit D

"There was a percentage in the implementation for women's participation in the Project and we are met that target. So basically, that inform us that women participated in the programme and they have served as agents of change".

Exhibit E

"The issue of women. Participation is a whole problem in politics especially (when we consider the influence of) culture and religion etc. It is not something that we can just get up and change. I think it's a gradual process, but I also believe that it has somehow improved the respect given to women. A lot needs to be done. This is because, it's not only men that discourage women but women themselves discourage each other. They really need to change their attitudes towards politics".

REVISED

Exhibit F

"I have seen involvement of a lot of young women "kafos" groups at the grassroots level in their communities about peace building and how to eradicate violence and hate speech before and during the elections. We have also seen other women who are taken the lead in the executive positions and it is really improving the respect given to women as they are agents of peace".

12.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions

It appears that there is a process of change underway in Gambian society regarding the prospects for women leadership. The project appears to have made its own positive contribution in that regard. It is noteworthy that, even under the Jammeh regime, the long term Vice-President was female. Also, under the post-Jammeh transitional administration, the Vice-President, for a while, was female. The Gambian people have embraced, perhaps gradual, change and the project has supported their vision for inclusion. The Outcome 1 Significant Change Story, in section 16 below, further illustrates this change.

12.4 Case Study of Gender Contribution: a Resilient Female Politician

This change story has been anonymised to protect the identity of the interviewee.

I (have been) into politics since 1994, (a time when) I was very young. My mother was part of the women mobilisers for APRC (the party of the former President Jammeh) so I used to follow them when they are going on campaigns. In 1996, my grandfather was (elected to be) a member of the National Assembly for the ruling party (APRC). I later stopped (politics) for some time (in order) to concentrate on my education.

The 2006 elections, that's the time I started again. I can say politics is a heritage for me. My grandfather's involvement in politics helped me to get in to politics. I was (initially) attracted by the ambiance of politics but when I grew up seeing how things are (not to my satisfaction), I saw that I needed to involve myself in politics. Women have (traditionally been) seen as supporters and not as active (political leaders). Women are left behind, so all this resulted to me pushing harder to change the narratives.

The Framework of Project Support for the subject of the Gender Contribution Case Study

Think Young Women, with UNFPA funding trained 50 women leaders from different political parties. The training sought to build women's capacity in pursuing political leadership. The content included leadership skills, public speaking, and increasing their understanding of the importance of women's political participation. The training also sought to identify constraints faced by women in their ambition to occupy key political positions; and the role that men can play in promoting women's political leadership.

Participants reported that the training create a harmonious relationship, which enabled them to view politics beyond party lines. They now recognise the need to support each other in pursuing political leadership. They see value in working collectively to engage the government, the legislature, and other key stakeholders in passing a quota-system Bill which will encourage and promote women representation.

They concluded that women's representation has not improved in the post 2016 political regime. Female representation, in the National Assembly, it was noted, decreased from 10% in 2016 to 8.6% in 2022. Only 4 out of 21 Cabinet Ministers were women. Two participants expressed interest in contesting the Local Government Elections in April 2023. The participants set up a task-force group to support women willing to participate in the upcoming local elections.

Box 8: The Framework of Project Support for the subject of the Gender Contribution Case Study

REVISED

When my grandfather was involved in to politics we were (living in) Upper Fulladu, West Bansang. I moved in the Kombos (Greater Banjul Area) as a qualified teacher and I was teaching in one of the schools in Old Yundum. In that area they were battling with road issues, especially in the rainy season. For example, there was an incident that happened whilst I lived there. A woman was about to give birth. We looked for a vehicle so that we can take her to the hospital for delivery, but unfortunately the taxi man said he would not be able to use that road. We tried all means to help the woman to get to the hospital but to no avail. So, we later called some men to help us take the woman to the hospital but unfortunately the child died after birth.

So, I said to myself, why can we not do something about this? I also said I'm a woman and what happened to her can happen to me as well and anyone of us here. If we want to wait for the government, we will never have it and we should also understand that the government cannot do all. So, what should we do? It was then I went to talk to some of the men within my area and they supported me to go to each compound to ask them to contribute about D800. We also went from one office to another to look for donations. We also went to (a local construction contractor), he said he would need to survey the place which he did that same day and as well started the work with his people. The road (is still not perfect) but we thank God that vehicles are now able to pass through it back and forth.

The people in the community saw what I did; so some of them said "this lady came not long ago and she's tried very hard for this community" what can we do for her? So, when the local government election came, they called me and said they wanted me to contest for the position of a councillor for their community. Although I did not agree at first, they insisted telling me that you've taken the risk to help the community without being given any position, so you being a councillor will help us a lot. I was later elected as a councillor.

I can say I have been stigmatised. I (continued in) APRC (after) the former president Yaya Jammeh was not in power. People said I'm an APRC member, she's a woman and she's not a native of the community, she's from Bansang and when you look deep in to this thing they were coming from my fellow women. What they failed to understand was I am from Bansang and what I was able to do within a short period of time they themselves who were there will take them years to be able to do it.

To raise funds for my political campaign, I gave my friend T-shirts and ashobi to help me sell them so that I can get money to feed the people that will come to the campaign. My party was not in power, so I was not also financially strong including my party. I decided to include my friend to help me sell the T-shirt and ashobi not knowing that she will betray me at the end. I went to Gambia Teachers' union (GTU) and took a loan to help in my campaign (and invest in the T shirts and Ashobi). My friend said to my face that she ate the money and I should go and buy breakfast for my people after I asked for the money whereas the election was supposed to be the next day, I seriously cried like a baby and she added on to it that she doesn't have my time that I should never ask her for the money again.

I was so confused because I trusted her and I was not able to ask help from anybody (because it happened at the last minute). But a friend of mine came and saw me crying and asked me why I was crying. So I explained everything that my friend did to me and that the next day was supposed to be the election and I don't have anything to give to my people when they come to support me. I told her I know I'll not be able to pay them but I think breakfast and lunch will

REVISION

be ok for them but my plans are shattered now and I don't know what to do. (Amazingly), this friend of mine then helped by providing all the things that we needed for the campaign which later went fine!

A lot of challenges come from us, the women. Men really supported me during those hard times to make sure I got the position and the women that were so close to me betrayed me at the end although not all. What my fellow women will always say is who are you to come and take this position like that. I know women voted for me during the elections but men supported me the most.

If another project is to be designed, I think women should be considered and supported in as much as possible. **We should stop denying women of positions by involving their personal issues in politics. The position has nothing to do with her personal life. All these things should be explained to the people in the grassroots level so that they can understand** because we've seemed that most of us the women are carried by the notion of men that we are weak and cannot take certain positions in politics. A lot of issues are affecting women is because we don't actually have enough representatives in the decision-making process. That's why those issues cannot be easily solved. It is very important to reach out to the women in the grassroots level to enlighten them about the importance of women in politics. Sometimes **the people that we send to represent the regions, how many of them will filter the information to their people and how many of them will benefit from it? So, community outreach is very key**.

REVISED

13. The Innovation offered by the Project

13.1 The View after the Inception Phase

The project plan noted that the PBF portfolio responds to post transition priorities of transitional justice, security sector reform; emerging issues of migration, land conflicts as well as youth and women's participation in community and national decision making. It noted that no previous PBF Gambia project particularly addressed the intergenerational divide within and between the party political space in the country. Further, the prior portfolio of the PBF did not specifically respond to the rising tide of ethnic, political and religious intolerance and hate speech. This project sought to fill that gap and by facilitating the power of young people and the media to enhance resilience and advocate against hate speech at both national and community level.

13.2 The Findings of the Field Research

Section 4 presented an outline of the eNPS survey results. The quasi-quantitative findings related to project innovation will be examined in detail here, together with the analysis of the results of qualitative investigations.

Table 23: Extract of eNPS results for the Innovation evaluation criterion

Attribute	FGD eNPS	KII eNPS
Innovation	-71	18
Overall average	**27**	**56**

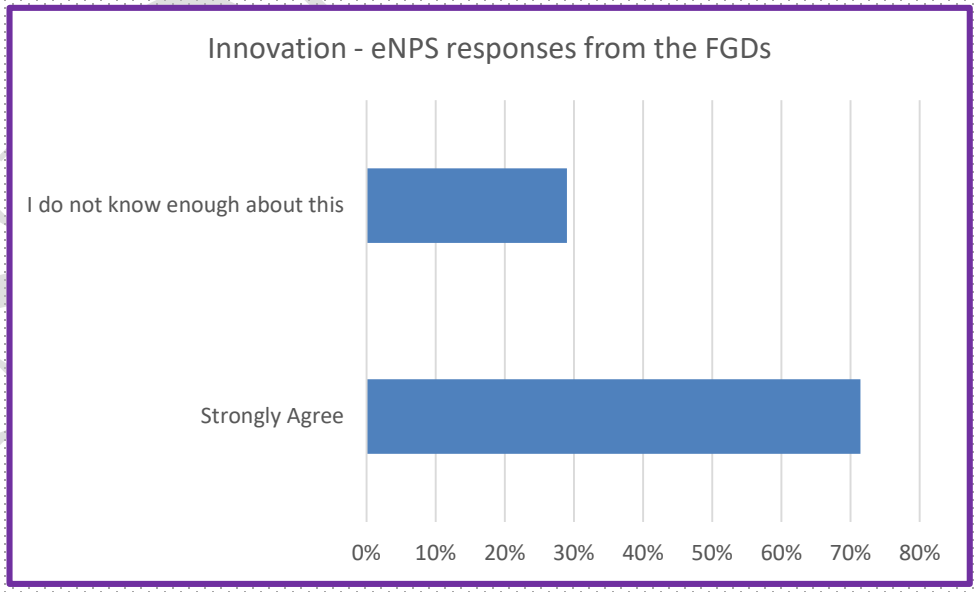


Figure 29: Innovation - eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries

The following statement was posed to both the KIIs and the FGDs:

> ***"Overall, the project has used tried and tested project designs and implementation processes, nothing really new".***

Three quarters of FGD respondents, representing beneficiaries, agreed with this assertion, with none disagreeing. However, just over a half of KII participants, representing implementation partners, disagreed; with just over a third of them agreeing. The sense, for those who agreed with the statement, was that the project was useful, adding to other similar initiatives, without being significantly innovative in its design or approach.

Comments of **non-UN Implementing Partners** included:

Exhibit A

"UN have their own policies for the project and how to manage it but we also have ours. What we did was merge both ways, means and methods to do the project. Yes, new processes were implemented".

Exhibit B

"This is the first time our organization is dealing with something that has to do with hate speech and we designed it in such a way that it responded to the objective of the project. We were doing more of participatory learning. If I'm not mistaken, The Gambia has no law on hate speech and it does not have any policy on hate speech, so who am I to define hate speech for the people of URR or CRR? So, our innovation was to use a participant-centred learning approach. This had a great impact as we were able to understand the angles from which each participant was talking from about hate speech and violence and with that we were able to engage the people and most especially the young people".

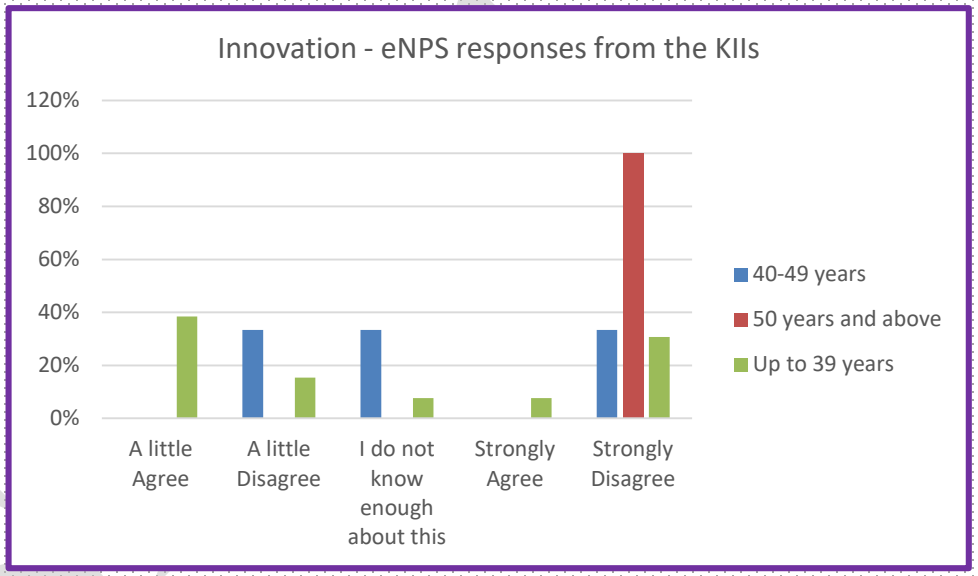


Figure 30: Innovation - eNPS responses from the KIIs of Non-UN Implementing Partners

Exhibit C

"I strongly agree because we have used the same methods, the project was done the same way we did other projects related to this. So if there is need to do something new we will but for now nothing really new".

Exhibit D

"It brought about new things. In the past we have been implementing activities focusing only on the training that is, the same people and the same place. But with the PBF project we had to introduce the issues of mini grant that is, their own people were given funds to implement some activities in their own regions and we (provided oversight of) the running of the activities".

Exhibit E

"Disagree. Training was not just usual training. (We deployed) innovative group-work with assignments and solutions to problems. (We also) used sample stories with hate speech and asked to detect etc".

REVISED

Exhibit F

"Even though we had tried and tested blueprints, Gambia is different. Our blueprint was a guide and required adaptation to context. For example, we translated fact checks into four local languages to ensure majority of public was reached".

Exhibit G

"(In the past), we used to go to the same people to sensitize them but due to the intervention, we have found out new ways or means to get in touch with villages that are hard to reach out or villages that find it difficult to get information. (In the past), we would come and talk and go but during the intervention we made sure to engage the people that is, to give them chance to tell us what they understand about the project. With that we were able to know the angles from which they were talking from and we also learnt a lot form them".

13.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions

As noted in section 13.1, the project identified a space in the PBF Gambia intervention profile and sought to fill it this project. In the opinion of some respondents, that space was already being filled by others, but this was a welcome addition. Still others believed that the intervention called for new ways of engaging with their beneficiaries. They believe that the project allowed them the initiative and space to successfully explore such innovative processes. We can conclude that the project was receptive of innovations in processes and this worked to the benefit of its impact.

Case Study on Innovation: Dialogue between Security Forces and Youth

NCCE, a non-UN implementing partner, facilitated a peace-building dialogue between the security forces, and youth. 45 young people (30 males, 15 females) were included. The dialogue reflected on peace building, conflict management, civic rights and duties, community policing, and the role of security forces, youth, and politicians in maintaining peace before, during and after elections.

Participants asserted that the dialogue made a significant contribution to fostering peace during the 2022 parliamentary elections. Prior to the dialogue, there was allegedly inadequate tolerance between security forces and young people. The dialogue delivered an appreciation of the societal benefits of political tolerance, respect for the rule of law, and understanding of people's civic rights. Some participants reported that they conducted step-down engagements with other youths and community members to pass down the information.

Box 9: Case Study on Innovation: Dialogue between Security Forces and Youth

REVISED

14. The Impact of the Project

14.1 The View after the Inception Phase

The updated project results framework is shown at Appendix 3. The following are noteworthy:

a) An important perception survey, which would provide statistically representative large scale research on the status of hate speech and disinformation was significantly delayed in execution. However, the results –which were not available for the draft evaluation - have now been incorporated into this revised report.
b) In addition, such a survey should have preferably been executed at the start and end lines of the project, to provide an insight into any meaningful change that could be attributed to its intervention.
c) An online radio station for youths was established but was questioned by some respondents to the field research for the impact of its reach.
d) The results framework shows a project with "many moving parts". To secure real impact, it required high quality coordination of the many activities that is done with the over-arching twin outcomes in mind, to improve the likelihood that the interventions –collectively – deliver the desired effect. The evaluator requested minutes of the coordination meetings of the UN partners, but such was not forthcoming.

Impact is probably the most important evaluation criterion, as it should integrate the effect of all other criteria towards the question: *what difference has the intervention made to the lives of beneficiaries and how does that relate to its strategic intent?* Note, however, that **the ability to secure the strategic intent/impact depends on the relevance of the design of the intervention to that intent**. As suggested in section 5, the relevance of this project may have serious flaws if it targets the symptoms and not the causes of the problems that it seeks to solve.

14.2 The Findings of the Field Research

Section 4 presented an outline of the eNPS survey results. The quasi-quantitative findings related to project impact will be examined in detail here, together with the analysis of the results of qualitative investigations.

Table 24: Extract of eNPS results for the Impact evaluation criterion

Attribute	Statement	FGD eNPS	KII eNPS
Impact A	***The project has had a significant effect in supporting peaceful democratic processes during the recent elections***		88
Impact B	***The project has had a significant effect in the prevention or reduction of violence and hate speech***		88
Impact C	***The project has had a significant effect in the prevention or reduction of misinformation and fake news through its fact checking initiative***		35

REVISION 1

Attribute	Statement	FGD eNPS	KII eNPS
Impact D	***The project has had a significant effect in improving the political participation of young men and women including an increase in the percentage of executive positions in parties held by them***		24
Impact (average)	***I think that the project made a useful contribution to the peaceful results f the 2021 and 2022 elections. In doing so, it also helped to reduce divisive hate speech (FGD only)***	57	59
Overall average eNPS		**27**	**56**

The Impact criterion was assessed through 4 separate statements for the KIIs and just one statement for the FGDs. Interestingly, there are wide variations between the high green zone results for the KII Impact measures A&B and the mid-range amber zone responses for the KII Impact measures C&D. However, the average of the four KII measures and the result of the single FGD measure are in the same low range green zone.

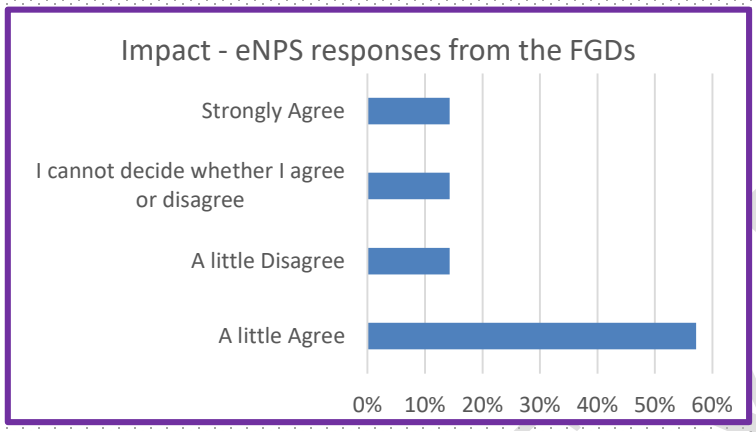


Figure 31: Impact - eNPS responses from the FGDs of Beneficiaries

Beneficiary FGD comments included the following:

Exhibit A
"The project helped to change the mindsets of the people, most especially the young people, although more needs to be done. In the previous (2021/2022) elections it helped to reduce hate speeches and violence".

Exhibit B
"There should be a lot of sensitizations. We should not stop at the trainings that we had. We also filtered the information from the trainings that we had in our communities, we were able to sensitize the people to do away with violence and hate speech. It is still there although not compared to then. We need to (influence more) people to help change the system".

Exhibit C
"Creating of platforms like WhatsApp groups (of training participants) also helped a lot in terms of spreading useful information to help reduce the tension before the election".

Exhibit D

DRAFT REPORT

"The project was a bit late for the (2021/2022) elections, but the fact checking training was useful as it empowered journalists for the future such as the 2023 local elections".

Non-UN Implementing Partner KII comments included the following:

Exhibit E

"These trainings were organised when Gambia was coming to its (Presidential and Parliamentary) elections and having training (targeting) peace building and sustainable peace helped in the process."

Exhibit F

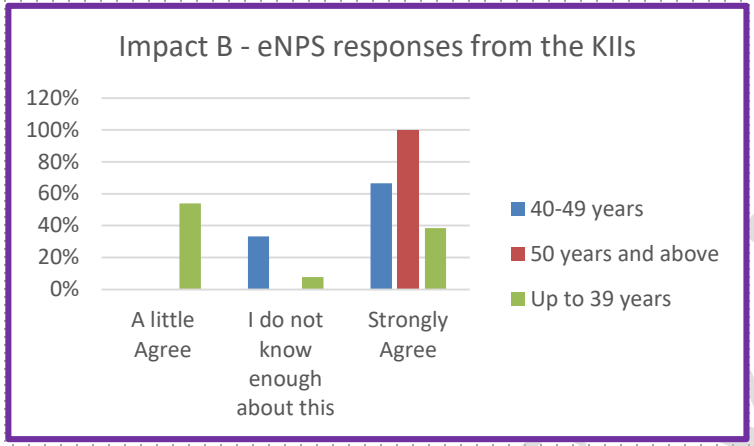


Figure 33: Impact B - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners

"The project came after the presidential elections and two weeks before the National Assembly elections because the funding was late to arrive. We were late to do the tasks/activities to achieve our goals. It was such a rush".

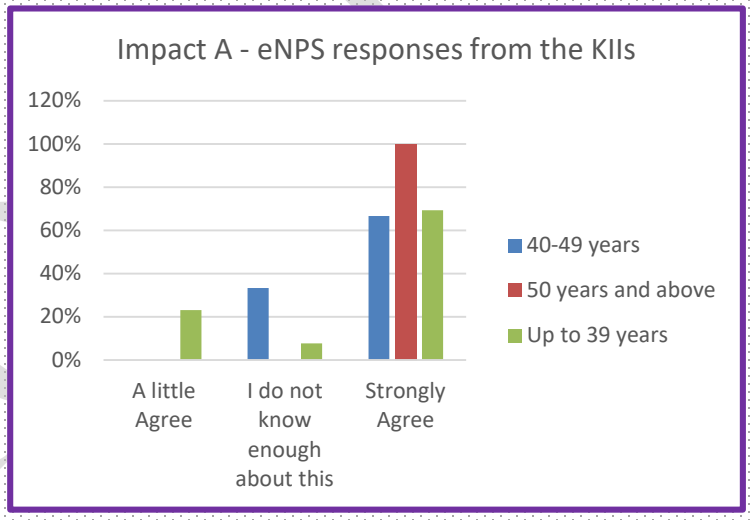


Figure 32: Impact A - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners

Exhibit G

"Looking at the Presidential elections, people were spreading hate speeches everywhere but the parliamentary election was different due to the sensitizations we had with the different regions. Before the elections we brought political leaders together and give them platforms to talk about the prevention of violence and hate speech which really helped".

Exhibit H

"There was no monitoring component of the project to track actions of trained journalists. But there was no evidence of the media stoking tensions. We did not have a mandate to track long term evidence regarding misinformation".

Exhibit I

"The project didn't really do well in countering fake news as expected. Fact check could've done better in my opinion".

Exhibit J

"The training didn't have that much of an effect to me because the trained women haven't had any positions in their parties. Not that they don't want to, but the system doesn't give them a chance".

Exhibit K

"It has raised awareness but when it comes to (young people taking) executive levels or positions (in political parties) it has not. This is because our old people still fight for positions which they are not fit or strong to take. Instead they'll say "you have not reached that level yet" for example. (However), during the parliamentary elections many young people took part and that is telling us that they are now coming out to demand a chance to take up responsibilities".

14.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions

Some matters arising were identified in section 14.1 above. In addition, other issues arising from the field research include:

a) The continuing resistance of the "old guard" leadership of parties to allowing young people to have meaningful senior roles. There are indications that questions arise over the experience of the young. It could also be a sense of entitlement i.e. that the old guard feel that they have earned their privilege by "awaiting their turn". It could also be a reluctance to share the benefits of power and privilege.

b) Important activities were late and thus had reduced effect on the targeted 2021/2022 elections. This was possibly due to the late start of the project operations and the time lost between November 2020 and March 2021.

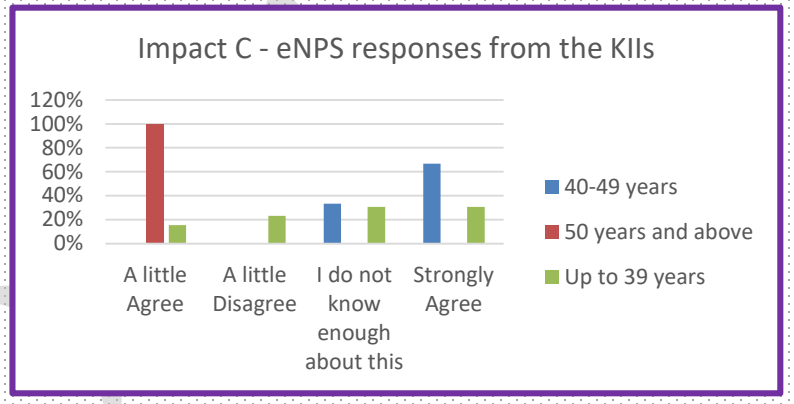


Figure 34: Impact C - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners

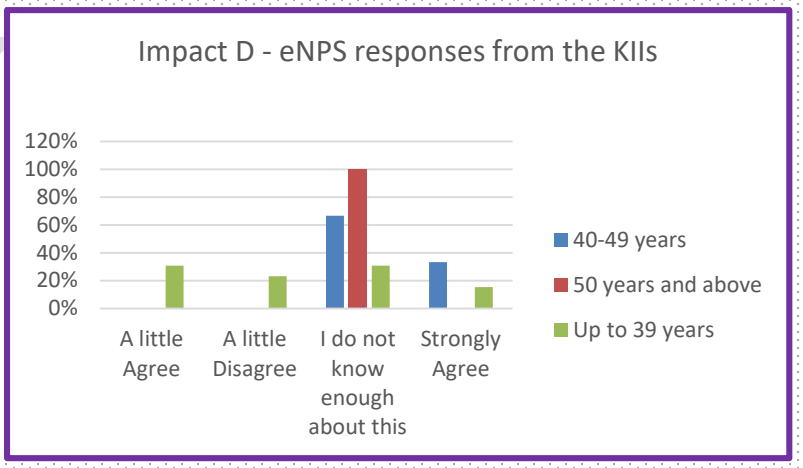


Figure 35: Impact D - eNPS responses from the KIIs of non-UN Implementing Partners

REVISED

14.4 Insights from a Beneficiary's Change Story

This change story has also been anonymised to protect the identity of the interviewee, a young male journalist who was trained to undertake fact-checking by a UNESCO sponsored activity. It is presented as it offers an insight into the relationship between the urban West Coast Region, to which many youths are being pulled by its economic prominence, and the rural regions. This is important as research from the UTG, highlighted in earlier sections, suggests that there are some troubling trends in the West Coast Region on issues of importance to this project. Such trends may replicate to the rural regions as rural to urban migration intensifies. Further, the over-centralisation of power in the body politic was identified in section 5 as a potentially major long term destabilising factor, which has not been addressed in this project. It is noteworthy that this respondent highlights this as a significant concern.

> "I am working for (a post-secondary educational institution) and (also at a prominent TV company) as a part-time member. (Previously,) I was working with (the TV company) for about six months as an intern. I worked for the TV company as their correspondent for the North Bank region in 2021. It was after the internship that I started to work for the college. I also did some fact checks and published them through MAJAC. Due to the interventions that arose from TV interviews that I did, I was able to help two villages to get water and a school to get furniture.
>
> I was sent to North Bank because **that's where I come from** and I also did my schooling in Farafenni from grade one to twelve. I came (to the Greater Banjul Area) because I wanted to go to the university. I think if there was a university in Farafenni, I would have stayed there. In North Bank, Farafenni is the busiest and the most populated area although our area council is in Kerewan. When it comes to politics, you don't compare North Bank to the Kombos. About five to ten years ago politics was not strong in Farafenni. (By that I mean) that many people were not into politics although during elections we went and cast our votes but we did not follow politicians in their rallies or campaigns. Gambia is not decentralized most of the important activities are done in the Urban centres that is **Gambia is over centralised**.

Case Study on Impact: Regional and National Dialogue on Peace-building for the National Assembly Elections. Implemented by UNDP through NYC

A national intergenerational dialogue on a peaceful approach to the National Assembly Elections brought together political party representatives, youth, and other stakeholders to discuss the need for peaceful co-existence. The dialogue was attended by 60 participants. It was reported that, prior to the dialogue, political disputes were common. But the intervention helped to reduce the incidence among participants and their communities. According to the report of the joint project monitoring team, this led one participant to declare: "*We all embrace all political parties that come to the community, even those we do not support*."

Claims were also asserted that women in the participating communities are more politically active after the dialogue. In previous elections, it was stated, women hardly voted because they believed that voting was a waste of time so they would rather continue with their domestic chores. But in the recently concluded parliamentary elections, they all reportedly went out to vote.

Participants observed that the results of the earlier presidential elections led to heightened community tensions. However, when the results were announced during the parliamentary elections, everyone accepted the results with no dispute, the winners celebrated and those that lost took it in good faith and celebrated with the winners. This was attributed to a greater level of political tolerance arising from the dialogue.

Box 10: Case Study on Impact: Regional and National Dialogue on Peace-building for the National Assembly Elections. Implemented by UNDP through NYC

REVISED

When you visit North Bank, you'll realize that most of the youths are now in the urban centres. For example, most of our ministers when you ask them where they are originally from most of them will tell you in the urban areas this is because, almost everything that we need is found in the urban areas. This is the reason why the rural areas are not recognised when it comes to politics. It is very difficult to hear violence and hate speeches in the North Bank region. **We have learnt that most of the hate speeches are from the Kombos** but we are seeing changes compared to (the past). We (are now seeing) a lot of mobilisation and rallies when it comes to political activities in rural areas. We have also seen politicians targeting remote areas not only in North Bank this is, because those people are getting more aware of what is going on in the political system.

They know that most of the politicians who will not obviously do anything in their constituency when you vote them in to office. Most of the people in Farafenni are now in the Kombos so we learn here and take it our people and filter it to them so that they will know what is going on. When it comes to hate speeches, it is less in the North Bank area than the Kombos. The people in the North Bank have (historically) been more into business than politics. **Most of the violence that happens in The Gambia are caused by politics**. *So when your (residential) area is not into politics that much you realise that you have less hate speeches and violence in your area.* Although when elections are approaching, we do talk about it but immediately after elections we get back to business".

REVISION

15. A Composite View of Respondents of the Project

15.1 The View after the Inception Phase

The inception report included a research statement that was designed to deliver an overall assessment of the performance of the project.

14.2 The Findings of the Field Research

Section 4 presented an outline of the eNPS survey results. The quasi-quantitative findings related to respondents' overall conclusion will be examined in detail here, together with the analysis of the results of qualitative investigations.

Table 25: Extract of eNPS results for the Conclusion evaluation criterion

Attribute	FGD eNPS	KII eNPS
Conclusion	-29	-12
Overall average	**27**	**56**

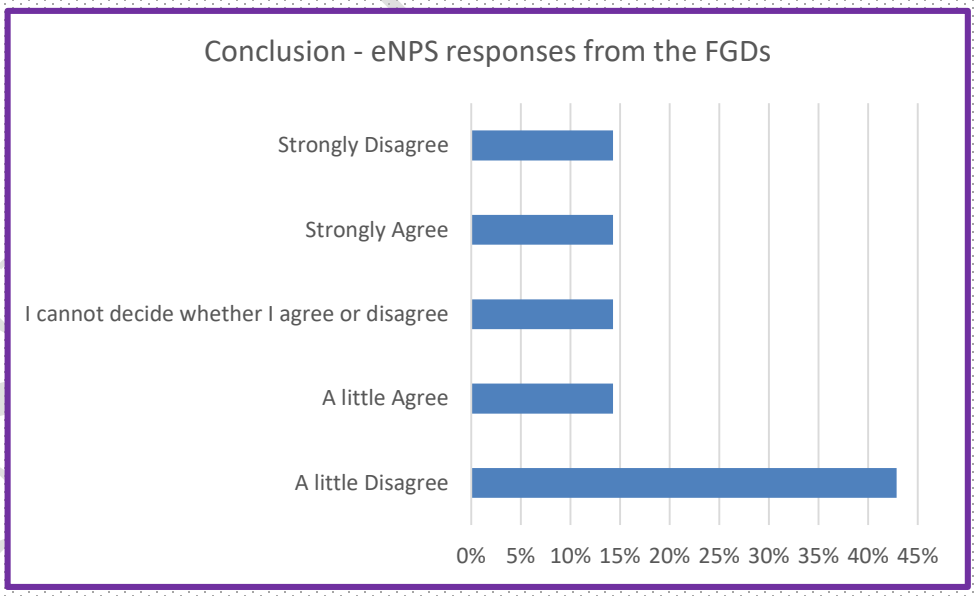


Figure 36: Conclusion - eNPS responses from the FGDs

The following statement was posed to both the KIIs and the FGDs:

"Overall, the project was perfect, there were no failures from which we need to learn lessons for the future".

About 30% of FGD and 40% of KII respondents agreed with this statement, with a small majority disagreeing. The proportions in agreement are quite significant, and suggests that they have a high degree of satisfaction in the performance of the project. The majority is disagreement have a strong element of satisfaction but believe that there are important lessons to be learnt for the improvement of future projects.

Comments included:

Exhibit A – Beneficiary FGD

"The training was good but there is room for improvement. We should try and decentralise it next time so that people will not come from far places and be given money which would not be enough. It will be of great help if we consider decentralising it in the regions. We have seen a lot been done in the Kombos

(Greater Banjul Area) and people come from far places to attend the meetings. The (allowances) should also be increased to cover the (opportunity cost) of participation".

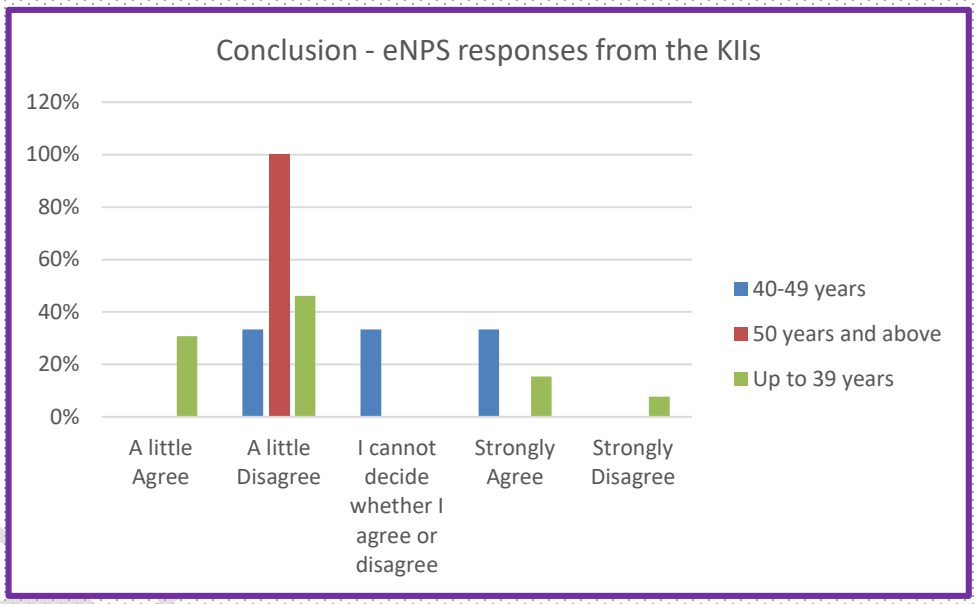


Figure 37: Conclusion - eNPS responses from the KIIs

Exhibit B – Beneficiary FGD
"It is difficult for me to distinguish this training from the other similar ones that I attended. We tend to know the implementing partner that is directly responsible, but not who is funding it or which project it belongs to. It would be better to "co-brand" more effectively so that participants can know the difference".

Exhibit C – KII of Non-UN Implementing Partner
"Late funds. Need more involvement of organisations with different backgrounds. Transportation fee is an issue too (too small)".

Exhibit D – KII of Non-UN Implementing Partner
"The project went well and every activity that was to be done was well done. We had challenges. For example, when you ask a particular region or community to bring five participants, they end up bringing about two or one without telling you prior to the meeting that they'll not be able to bring five people. So, we would be looking for people to cover up for the people that couldn't make it which meant sometimes we end up take random people. It was a big challenge that we face during our interventions".

Exhibit E – KII of Non-UN Implementing Partner
"Time was an issue. Late funds. Clashing of activities and campaign meetings".

Exhibit F – KII of Non-UN Implementing Partner
"Shockingly, we learnt that women also fight the progress of other women participating in politics, not just the men who we women term as the big bad wolves. Their women under them also play a role in women not having a seat at the big table. We need to find a solution for that".

Exhibit G – KII of Non-UN Implementing Partner
"There are lot of lessons to learn from it. First the exchange rate was something else, this is because when we went for the fund by then the rate was down and it really affected us. Transport cost was also another problem, people complain of coming from far places and being given about three hundred dalasis which was not enough and some have to take motor bike back and forth".

Exhibit H – KII of Non-UN Implementing Partner
"It was successfully done. But we had some challenges that is, the targeted number was small. Looking at the population of the country and taking about five people from each region was very small".

Exhibit I – KII of Non-UN Implementing Partner
"No perfect project. Lesson 1 - start in time to ensure optimal opportunity for impact eg before Presidential elections. Lesson 2 - additional time for field work. Lesson 3 - additional time for monitoring and downstream coaching. Training was a good foundation that now needs to be built upon. Also need to provide training on democratic accountability and solution-driven journalism".

Exhibit J – KII of Non-UN Implementing Partner
"The project effectively slowed down after the (2021/2022) elections, but it needs to continue between elections".

15.3 Matters Arising and Conclusions

This was a useful project, addressing an issue of great importance and relevance, targeted at the right point in time, adding to the complementary efforts of others. But, delays in implementation, partly due to the COVID 19 pandemic, diluted its effectiveness.

End of Document. Appendices follow.

REVISION 1

Appendix 1: Evaluation Criteria and Research Method

REVISION 1

A1.1 Evaluation Criteria

As prescribed by the ToR, this terminal evaluation will strictly follow the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria in assessing the results of the youth project. The OECD-DAC criteria includes relevance; effectiveness; efficiency; impact; and sustainability. In addition, the evaluation will assess as well cross-cutting issues on catalytic effects and Gender Equality. The evaluation was be guided by the following questions based on the ten OECD DAC evaluation criteria:

(a) Relevance – assessing to what extent the intervention respond to conflict drivers and factors for peace identified in the conflict analysis, and continue to do so if circumstances change

- Was the project appropriate and strategic to the main peace-building goals and challenges in the country at the time of its design? Did relevance continue throughout implementation?
- Do the project stakeholders and target groups find the project useful? Were they consulted during design and implementation of the project?
- Was the project relevant to the UN's peace-building mandate and the SDGs, in particular SDG 16?
- Are the project activities and outputs consistent with the intended outcomes and objective?

(b) Coherence- assessing the compatibility of the project with other projects in a country, sector, or institution

- Did Programme activities overlap or duplicate with similar interventions implemented by UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP, or Government.
- Is there synergy or complementarity between the project interventions and other PBF interventions or that of other development partners?

(c) Effectiveness - assessing the extent to which the intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives, and its results, including any differential results across groups

- To what extent has the project's targeted results been achieved?
- Has the UNFPA, UNESCO, and UNDP partnership strategy been effective? What are the factors that contributed to its effectiveness or ineffectiveness?
- Where planned geographic areas and target groups successfully reached?
- In which areas did the project perform best? Why and What are the facilitating factors? How can the project build and/or develop these results?
- In which areas did the project perform less? What were the limiting factors and why? How could they be overcome?
- Was the project monitoring system adequately capturing data on peace-building results at an appropriate outcome level?
- To what extent has the project contributed to gender equality, women's empowerment, gender responsive peace-building and the realisation of human rights?

(d) Efficiency - assessing the extent to which the intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way

- How cost-effective is the project? Were the financial resources used appropriate/proportionate to the quality of the results achieved?

REVISION

- How efficient is the overall management of the project (e.g., project team composition, coordination modalities between partners, implementation processes)?
- To what extent do the M&E systems used by UNFPA, UNESCO, and UNDP ensure efficient and effective project management? What challenges have been experienced in ongoing monitoring of the project implementation and what improvements could be made?
- Were there delays to project implementation? Did these delays create missed opportunities to address time-sensitive peace-building opportunities?

(e) Impact - assessing the extent to which the project has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended, or unintended, higher-level effects

- To what extent does the project contribute to strengthening the foundations in ensuring peaceful democratic processes in the prevention of violence and hate speech?

(f) Sustainability - assessing to what extent the net benefits of the intervention continue, or are likely to continue

- To what extent are the project results likely to be sustained in the long- term?
- How can sustainability aspects of the project be improved/ How should the project's hypotheses and assumptions be revised to improve sustainability prospects of the initiative?
- Are stakeholders ready to continue supporting or carrying out specific project activities; replicate the activities in other regions or sectors of the country; adapt project results in other contexts?
- Did project design include strategies to ensure sustainability and exit strategy (including promoting national/local ownership, use of national capacity etc.) to support positive changes in peace-building after the end of the project?
- How has the project enhanced and contributed to the development of national capacity in order to ensure suitability of efforts and benefits?

(g) Implementation process

- Were roles and responsibilities amongst stakeholders clearly identified?
- What kinds of implementation problems emerged and how are they being addressed?
- Was the project responsible for any unintended negative impacts?
- Why are some implementing partners not implementing activities as well as others?
- How technical assistance was provided and what was the quality? What are the project's strengths and weaknesses?

(h) Catalytic:

- Was the project financially and/or programmatic catalytic?
- Has PBF funding been used to scale-up other peace-building work and/or has it helped to create broader platforms for peace-building?

(i) Gender:

- Has the project effectively contributed to the creation of favourable conditions for gender equality?

REVISION

- What has been the impact of the project outcomes on wider policies, processes and programmes which enhance gender equality?
- Were there attempts to address gender concerns or mainstream gender into project activities?
- How important were the gender-related interventions to achieve the project's objectives?
- To what extent has the project contributed to a sustainable change of gender roles and relations

(j) Innovation:

- Was innovation mainstreamed at the project design stage?
- Were there any innovative activities implemented as part of the project?

This evaluation report includes an analysis of lessons learnt and related recommendations.

A1.2 Specific Methodology

This section details the six-step approach to the evaluation, which is summarised in the main body of the report.

A1.2.1 Situation Analysis of The Gambia

At the inception phase, the evaluator conducted research on the macro-social, political and economic context of The Gambia taking into account internal relations and its external positioning. This is documented in section 3 and detailed in Appendix 2. The purpose was to place the project intervention in context and to identify the appropriateness of the intervention given that information. The situation analysis sought to answer three broad questions:

1. *Where is The Gambia coming from* - what historic factors have shaped the evolution and the prospects of the country?
2. *Where is The Gambia now* – what is the current status of social, political, economic and national competitiveness relations of the country?
3. *Where is The Gambia heading* – if it continues on the prevailing path, where will the country end up in the long term?

A1.2.2 Inception Meetings and Project Specific Desk Research

Two online inception meetings were held. One for representatives of the Peace-Building Secretariat (PBS), UNFPA and UNDP. The second with a representative of UNESCO. Physical meetings were also held with representatives of the PBS, UNFPA and UNDP.

The following documents were received and reviewed:

1. University of The Gambia research report: Participation of Young People in Politics, Decision-Making Processes, and the Impact of Hate Speech Before and After the Elections
2. PBS guidelines – 2018 update

REVISION 1

3. Final PBF Evaluation Report 2021 – Increased Women and Youth Participation in Decision Making Processes and as agents of community conflict prevention (implemented by UNFPA and UNICEF)
4. Project Annual Progress Report 2022
5. Project Annual Progress Report 2021
6. Minutes of the First PSC Meeting 2021
7. Minutes of the Second PSC Meeting 2021
8. Project Progress Report June 2022
9. Project Launch Report March 2021
10. Project Progress Report June 2021
11. PBF Project Planning Document
12. Implementing Partner List
13. Draft UNESCO success stories
14. Draft Joint Monitoring Report August 2022
15. Joint Monitoring Report September 2021
16. Consolidated Financial Report November 2022

The following were requested but not received:
1. Minutes of all RUNO coordination meetings (and a list of the meetings)
2. Copies of all implementing organisation reports to their supervising RUNO
3. Copies of other consultancy reports contracted under this project

Finally, a list of all individual and organisational beneficiaries of activities under this project was secured by a request sent from the evaluator to the non-UN implementing partners. **There was no central repository of beneficiary details.**

A1.2.3 Preliminary Evaluation

The country situation analysis, inception interviews and the project desk research provided a basis for preliminary evaluation findings on the relevance, coherence and effectiveness. These were communicated in the inception report and form an integral element of this report. The preliminary insights provided guidance to the design of the field research questions.

In general, the project monitoring and evaluation system was given an assessment of "satisfactory" on a three point scale of "poor", "satisfactory" and "excellent". Consequently, the conclusions of the project monitoring and evaluation reports were taken as a fair indication of the project's performance. The field research approach was thus to seek independent conclusions of lessons to be learnt through a combination of quantitative-style surveys and more in-depth qualitative explorations of the experience of implementers and beneficiaries.

REVISION 1

A1.2.4 Approach to the Field Research

n the inception report, the primary activities of the project were identified and summarised as in **Table 27** below. The Table also shows the sample and types of field research that were undertaken.

- A **confidential Key Informant Interview (KII)** was undertaken of a senior representative of **every implementing partner and sub-contractor**.
  - This deployed a semi-structured questionnaire, with open questions, to assess the perspectives of the respondents on the evaluation criteria that form the foundation of this evaluation terms of reference.
  - It simultaneously asked closed, quantitative-style, questions to allow for ready comparison of perceptions across all implementing partner respondents on matters related to the evaluation criteria.
  - For the quantitative-style research, respondents were asked to select one of six standard responses as shown in Table 1 below. Those six responses used a variation of the **Net Promoter Score (NPS)** method, which has been successfully deployed in recent multi-cultural business research by the evaluator.
  - The Evaluation NPS – **eNPS** - allows for the quantitative assessment of the balance of stakeholder forces in favour or against the project objectives and outcomes. An outline of eNPS is shown in Figure 1 below.
  - eNPS results are scored on a scale from +100 to -100.
  - The evaluator's method assigns **top ranking** to eNPS scores between +50 and +100 inclusive.
    - They are given a **green** traffic light in relation to project performance.
  - eNPS scores between 0 and 49 inclusive are less satisfactory and are considered to suggest respondents' limited concern with project performance.
    - They are allocated an **amber** traffic light in our report.
  - eNPS results between -1 and -100 are unsatisfactory and indicates major concern of respondents' with regard to project performance.
    - They are assigned a **red** traffic light in the report.
  - Seventeen (17) KIIs were conducted.
- **Two anonymised beneficiary focus group discussions (FGD)** were facilitated (one from outcome 1 and one from outcome 2).
  - They also examined the perspectives of the ultimate project beneficiaries on the evaluation criteria as applied to their project activities which were managed by implementing partners.
  - The FGDs deployed open and closed (**eNPS**) research tools as explained above.
  - There were seven (7) participants, in total, in the two FGDs: five in one and two in a second FGD.
- **Two anonymised in-depth Beneficiary Significant Change Stories** were obtained (one each from outcomes 1 and 2). Both positive and negative experiences were sought as lessons can be usefully learnt from both types.

REVISION 1

Table 26: Standard Responses to NPS Style Closed Questions in Quantitative-Style Field Research

Ref	Description
1	Strongly Disagree
2	A little Disagree
3	I cannot decide whether I agree or disagree
4	A little Agree
5	Strongly Agree
6	I do not know enough about this

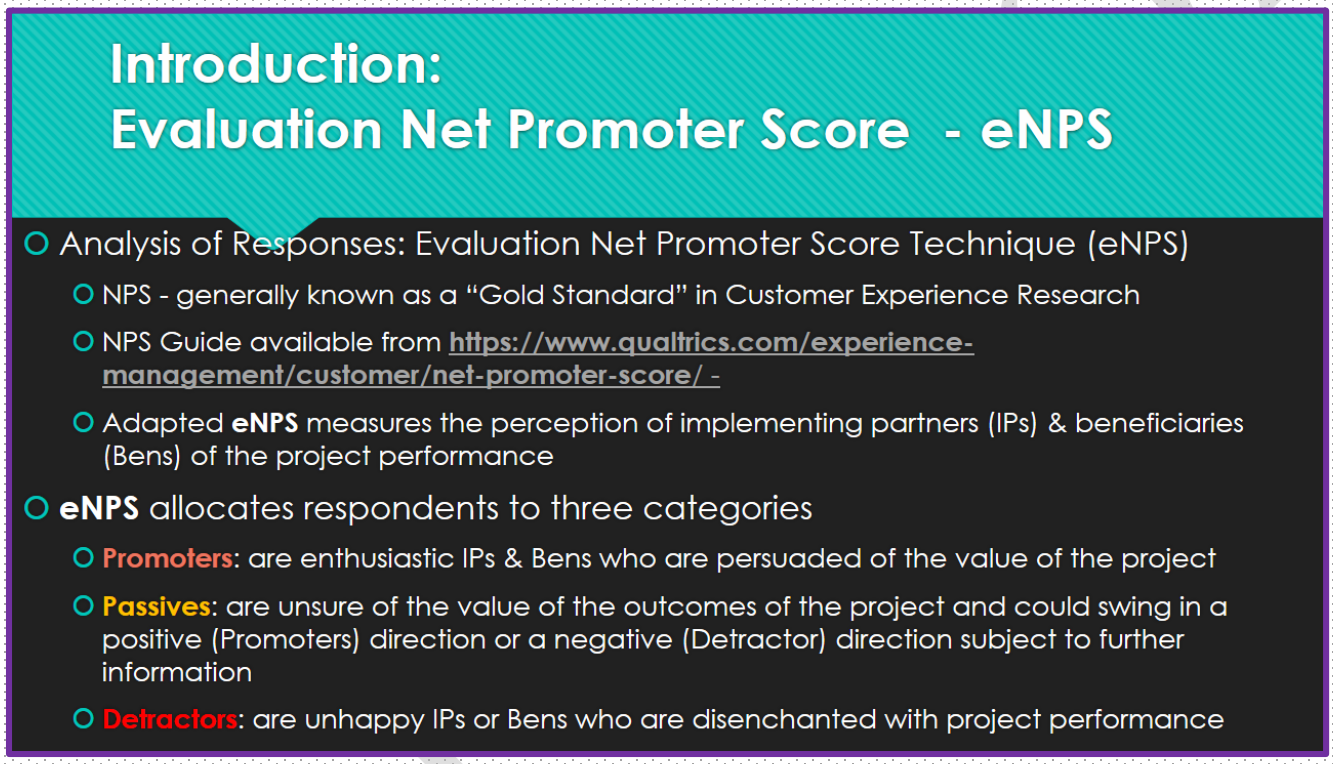


Figure 38: Introduction to Evaluation Net Promoter Score - eNPS

Throughout the field research, steps were taken to protect the identity of respondents, in order to provide them with the confidence to engage in a candid manner. This improved the quality of information received. The decision not to participate was respected, when encountered. These processes are also consistent with best practices in research ethics.

As the project sought to improve the life experiences of young men and women, the **evaluator was assisted with a team of four youths, comprising two men and two women in their late teens and early twenties.**

- They provided youth lens to the research process, lending their particular perspectives to that of the principal investigator (PI).
- This helped the PI, a senior citizen, to safeguard against any generational bias in his work.
- The participation of the young people also enriched the cultural understanding of the research team, as the young men and women were selected for their multi-cultural profile.
- Further, two of them had recent experience of working with the PI in conducting multi-cultural and multi-lingual research.
- They are fluent in Wollof, Madinka, Aku (Gambian national languages) and English. Research was conducted in the language of convenience for the interviewee.

The project outcomes and outputs mentioned in the table below are described in Table 14.

Table 27: Project Activities, their related Outcomes and Outputs and the Proposed Evaluation Matrix

#	Implementing Partner & Funding	Sub-contractor	Outcome/ output	Activities	Key Informant Interview?	Significant Change Story?	Focus Group Discussion?
1)	Fact Space West Africa/$35k	FSWA	2.2	1. Trained 30 journalists on fact checking. 2. Worked with youth leaders in the production of crowd-source and promote youth-created local content (audio and video) on various MIL topics. Over 40 products were developed.	Yes		

REVISED

#	Implementing Partner & Funding	Sub-contractor	Outcome/ output	Activities	Key Informant Interview?	Significant Change Story?	Focus Group Discussion?
2)	Global Youth Innovation Network Gambia Chapter (GYIN Gambia)/$87k	GYIN	2.2	1. Conducted a training needs assessment of 100 youths from youth organizations across the country. 2. A comprehensive Training Manual on Conflict Transformation and Peace-building for youth organizations was developed. 3. A capacity building workshop was organized for 50 youth leaders using the manual 4. Trained community media journalists on media and information literacy (MIL) and countering hate speech. 5. Organised the validation of the Community Media Policy developed by UNESCO. 6. Trained and coached 20 youth associations selected from across the country to mainstream MIL into their policies and strategies.	Yes		
3)	International Press Centre (IPC)/$18k	IPC	2.2	Trained 50 journalists on conflict sensitive reporting, including countering hate speech and disinformation.	Yes		
4)	Jokkolabs Banjul/$18k/1%	Jokkolabs	2.2	1. Built the national fact checking platform: www.factcheckgambia.org. Provided technical support for the first year of operation of the website. 2. Trained Media Academy for Journalism and Communications (MAJAC) to operate the platform.	Yes		
5)	Mansafing Law Practice/$31k/1.5%	MLP	2.2	MLP undertook a competency gap assessment of young people on MIL.	Yes		
6)	Media Academy for Journalism and Communications (MAJAC) /$4k/0.2%	MAJAC	2.2	Jokkolabs handed over the fact checking website to MAJAC. MAJAC is independent and accessible to all Gambian journalists. They were given small grants as a start to stimulate and spur journalists in fact checking.	Yes	Yes	Yes
7)	National Youth Council/$373k/ 18%	Activista	1.1	Facilitated the establishment of the Youth Branch of the Inter-party Committee (YoBIPC) structures across all seven regions. Activista also conducted capacity building training in democratic governance and social cohesion for YoBIPC members.	Yes		

#	Implementing Partner & Funding	Sub-contractor	Outcome/ output	Activities	Key Informant Interview?	Significant Change Story?	Focus Group Discussion?
8)	National Youth Council/$373k/ 18%	National Assembly	1.1	25 young National Assembly Members and the Clerk, 1 member of the National Youth Parliament and one 1 staff of the Commission on Political Debates were trained on parliamentary procedures and processes, parliamentary tools and systems and practices, effective listening skills for good governance, youth and Peace-building, Youth Bill and Youth policy and resource mobilization etc.	Yes		
9)	National Youth Council/$373k/ 18%	National Council for Civic Education (NCCE)	1.3	Facilitated a series of inter-generational and inter-sectoral dialogues between youth, political parties, security forces, and traditional leaders on peace-building.	Yes		
10)	National Youth Council/$373k/ 18%	National Youth Council	1.4	40 interns were placed with NYC and its registered youth organisation for on-the-job work experience of six months.			
11)	National Youth Council/$373k/ 18%	Government	1.4	The Youthconnekt Summit brought together 300 national delegates from the various regions of the country. Youth innovators and business entrepreneurs showcased their ideas in a pitching contest. Topics included creation of an enabling environment for youth economic empowerment, creation of a platform to share information amongst young people and initiatives for building youth networks.	Yes		
12)	National Youth Council/$373k/ 18%	Civil Society (Peace Hub The Gambia (PHTG))	2.1	Facilitated community engagements in community meetings, radio talk shows, a documentary, and women-specific training on electoral violence	Yes		
13)	National Youth Council/$373k/ 18%	Government	2.1	Community dialogues on post-election violence and countering hate speech during the parliamentary elections. People from different political parties were brought together for the very first time.	Yes		
14)	National Youth Council/$373k/ 18%	NYC	Not clear	Capacity building training for Adolescent's Sexual and Reproductive Health service providers at youth centres. The service providers deliver reliable information and support on sexual and reproductive health to youth and serve as a safe space that also supplies contraceptives	Yes		

REVIEW

#	Implementing Partner & Funding	Sub-contractor	Outcome/ output	Activities	Key Informant Interview?	Significant Change Story?	Focus Group Discussion?
15)	National Youth Council/$373k/ 18%	Ministry of Youth & Sports	Outcome 1 (cross-cutting outputs)	The project funded a review of youth statutory legal instruments such as the National Youth Council Act, National Youth Service Scheme, National Enterprise Development Initiative, and the National Sports Council Act. The objective was to mainstream young people's representation and participation in governance. The related amendments of legislation in in progress.	Yes		
16)	Network of Gender Based Violence (NGBV)/$41k/2%	Think Young Women	1.1	NGBV through **Think Young women** trained 150 women leaders from different political parties to empower them to pursue political leadership.	Yes	Yes	Yes
17)	Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism/$39k	PTCIJ	2.1	Trained 80 youth leaders across the country on using MIL to foster their participation in peaceful and democratic public discourse.	Yes		
18)	University of The Gambia/$133k/7%	UTG	1.4	UTG implemented three activities: 1. Internship at the National Assembly- 100 students (60 males and 40 females) 2. Mentorship in schools - 30 mentors have been selected and trained to mentor 200 students from six Senior Secondary Schools 3. Research on youth participation in politics.	Yes		
19)	WANEP The Gambia/$21k/1%	WANEP	2.1	1. Facilitated community dialogue sessions/forums with young people on identifying grievances and implementing community mediation initiatives. 2. Conducted consultations for the review of the Women's Bill through the CSO Gender Platform.	Yes		

REPORT

Appendix 2: Situation Analysis – The Relevant Political Economy of The Gambia

REVISION 1

A2.1 Where are we coming from?

The World Bank describes The Gambia as a small, fragile country in West Africa (The World Bank, 2021). Stretching 450 km along the River Gambia, the country [11,300 square kilometres in total area, including 1,180 sq. km of the River Gambia (World Atlas, 2021)] is surrounded by Senegal, except for a 60-km Atlantic Ocean front. The country has an estimated 2022 population of about 2.4 million (Gambia Bureau of Statistics, n.d.). The land is flat and is dominated by the river, which is navigable throughout the length of the country.

Figure 39: The Gambia - Geography (source: Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc)

The country has an estimated land area density of 238 people per sq. km. It is one of Africa's most **densely populated** countries (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2020). A few towns are located upriver, but most of the population (about 60%) is concentrated around **urban** and peri-urban centres. Those Gambians who live in rural villages rely on **rain-fed agriculture** for their livelihood. While some of the rural farming is devoted to subsistence food production, the Gambian economy as a whole is heavily dependent on **groundnut** production and export.

The unique shape and size of the country – with the Gambia almost entirely surrounded by one single larger and more economically developed neighbour – has been an important factor in the country's political and economic history. Although the two countries have, by and large, enjoyed a history of friendly relations, this close geographical relationship has had several implications for the country's economic and geopolitical development.

The Gambia gained independence from Great Britain in 1965 and five years later in 1970 became a Republic. Established as a multiparty parliamentary **democracy**, for the first few decades of independent statehood, The Gambia enjoyed a history of free and fair elections. Under the leadership of Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara (the country's first president) it developed an international reputation for its **commitment to human rights** and freedom of speech. However, after 5 five-year terms in office he was deposed by a **military coup** in July 1994 which ushered in the 2nd Republic under Yahya Jammeh.

The Second Republic under Yahya Jammeh was characterised by an erosion of human rights and civil liberties, and a severe deterioration in the overall quality of the country's **governance** environment in almost all sectors. As a result, The Gambia's public sector lost a critical mass of its most seasoned public servants, and the **Civil Service** as an institution was severely weakened. After 22-years, Jammeh's regime came to an end when he was defeated at the polls by Adama Barrow in 2016. Barrow took over the reins of government pledging to restore good governance and human and civil rights. President Barrow won re-election, at the helm of a newly formed party, in December 2021 (British Broadcasting Corporation, 2021).

The Gambia has one of the smallest economies in Africa with a **low per capita GDP** of about USD 780 in 2020 (The World Bank, n.d.). During the first republic, the country's socio-economic development was driven largely by Government's 5-year development plans. Execution of these and other subsequent

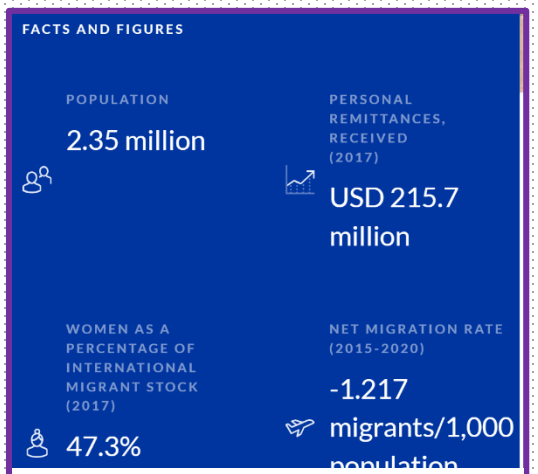


Figure 40: The Gambia: Migration & Related Facts. Source: (International Organization for Migration, 2022)

blueprints (including its Poverty Reduction Strategy [PRSP], the Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment [PAGE] and now the National Development Plan [NDP] have had varying degrees of success, partly due to perennial budget constraints and partly because The Gambia, as a **small open economy** that is dependent on rain-fed agriculture, has always been vulnerable to a number of **exogenous shocks**. In addition, the **institutional weaknesses** in government and the public sector have also been an important factor in weakening the public sector's capacity to efficiently execute government's programmes and policies.

One of the Gambia's development challenges is its **very youthful population**. Over three-quarters – about 77% - of the population are 35 years old and under, with a majority (about 55%) of the population being 19 and under (Gambia Bureau of Statistics, 2017). Meanwhile, any hopes of The Gambia benefitting from a 'youth dividend' are undermined by the lack of employment opportunities. This has led to a high incidence of Gambian **youths migrating abroad** in search of 'greener pastures'. On the positive side, this phenomenon has in turn led to a steady growth in **in-bound remittances** (through formal and informal channels). It was estimated that overseas remittances of an estimated 118,000 Gambians living abroad account for over 20 per cent of the country's GDP. Over 35,000 Gambians arrived in Europe by irregular means between 2014 and 2018 (International Organization for Migration, 2022).

The World Bank reported that real GDP growth exceeded 6% for two years in a row before COVID-19 struck. This was seen to be driven by rebounding confidence, investment, low interest rates, and growing tourism (The World Bank, 2021). While **Tourism arrivals** had started well at the beginning of 2020, they reportedly collapsed by about 50% in March 2020, as Covid-19 containment measures were rapidly put in place. GDP growth is reported to have stagnated in 2020, however, the economy was expected to gradually recover in 2021 as the pandemic recedes, conditional on **political stability** and normal **weather conditions**.

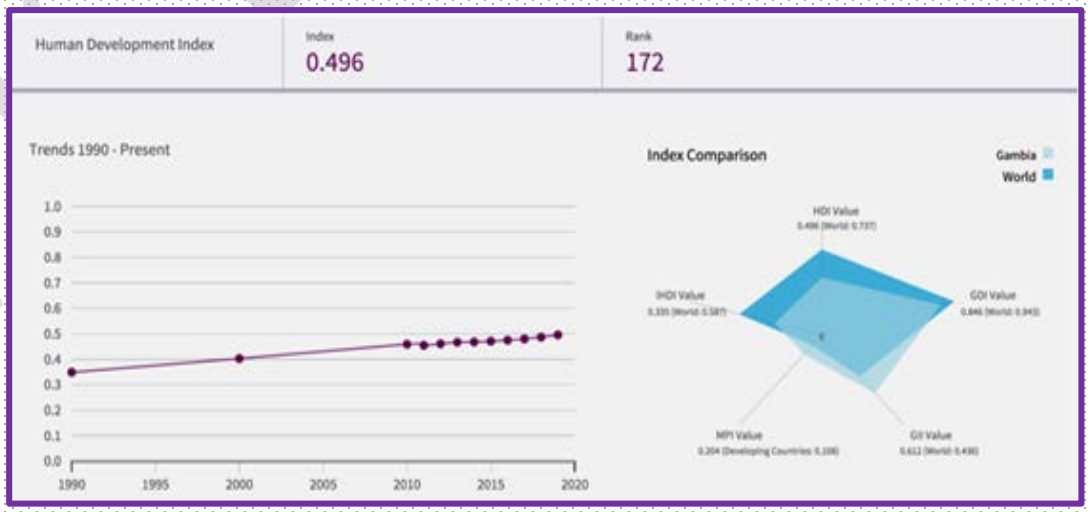


Figure 41: The Gambia: Human Development Index 1990-2020 (source: UNDP)

The impact of the pandemic has also hindered **poverty reduction** and reversed some of the progress made in poverty reduction of 2020 with most households reporting declining income from agriculture and fishing, non-farm businesses, and salaried employment. Moreover, the closure of schools, during the lockdown, is expected to

have resulted in learning losses, which could affect **human development** outcomes in the medium to long term, while **limited digital infrastructure** hampered online learning.

The HDR for 2020, **at the start of this project**, ranked The Gambia 172 out of 189 countries with an HDI of 0.496. 41% of the population deemed to be in a state of **multi-dimensional poverty**. While the various metrics for The Gambia have generally trended upwards over the past 5 years, the country's ranking still places it in the bottom quartile, well below its own aspirations.

Table 28: The Gambia - Global Competitiveness Index ranking 2015 – 2019 (source: World Economic Forum)

YEAR	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
GCI Rank	123	123	117	119	124

In the World Economic Forum's 2019 Global **Competitiveness** Index, The Gambia was ranked 124th out of 141 countries surveyed. Among the metrics surveyed, The Gambia was ranked 122nd in **Health**, 125th in **macroeconomic stability**, 122nd in ICT adoption, 117th in **infrastructure** and 96th in **institutions**, inter alia. Given that these indices are an indication of a country's ability to compete in the future in an increasingly globalised market, the current trajectory would suggest that there are still significant challenges ahead for the country.

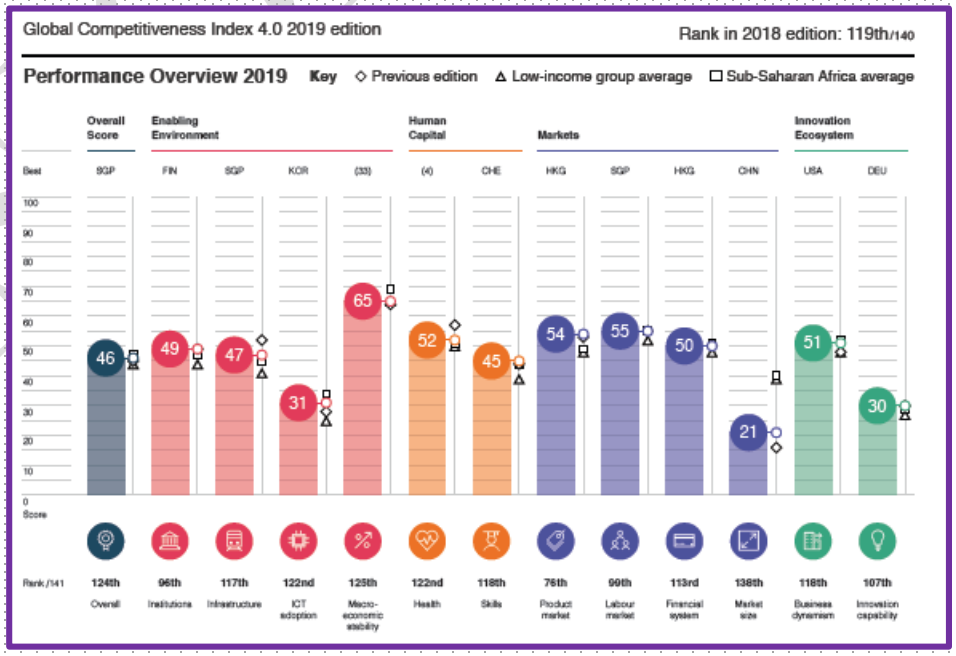


Figure 42: Profile of The Gambia's Global Competitiveness in 2019

In September 2018, an appraisal was undertaken of the level of maturity of the then existing **risk management** system of the GoTG. It was classified as "fragmented" on a five-stage maturity model. In doing so, it was concluded, inter alia, that "Risk management, roles and responsibilities [were] not clearly understood throughout Government and that Risk management skills [were] not adequate across Government. (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2018).

When measured against the achievement of the UN's **Sustainable Development** Goals, the message is similar. In 2019, The Gambia was ranked 26h among a total of 52 African countries with an overall index score of about 52 (SDG Center for Africa and Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2019). The index attempts to measure how far along the country is to achieving the SDGs by 2030. Of relevance to this Investment Case, it was seen to be "stagnating" on one of the two SDGs of particular relevance to this

project: SDG 5 (Gender equality). Further, progress on SDG 16 (peace and institutions) could not be quantified. As noted in the quotation below, a weakness in "human welfare" SDGs appears to be a problem common to many African countries.

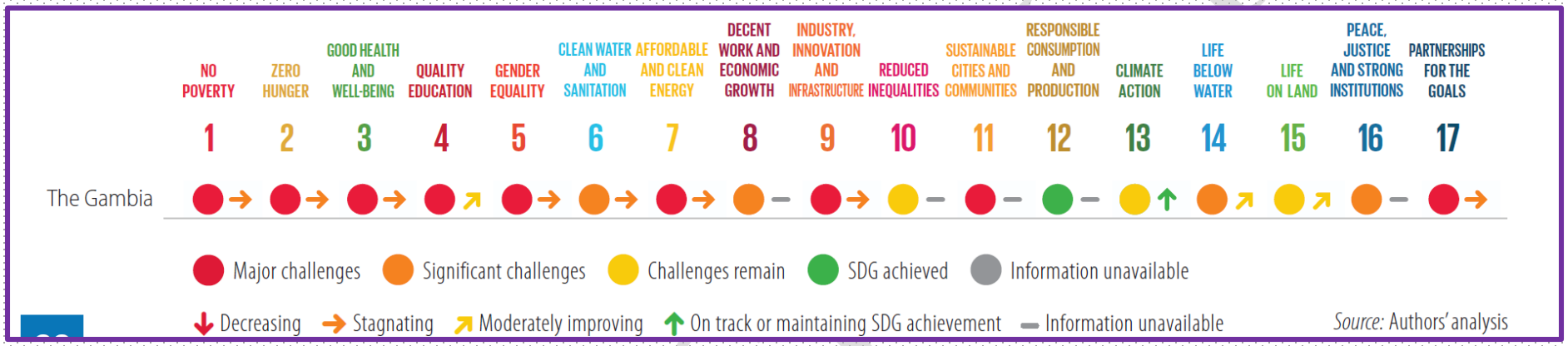


Figure 43: The Gambia's Progress on SDGs as at 2019. Source (SDG Center for Africa and Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2019)

"Overall, North Africa is the best-performing region on average, while Central Africa is the worst-performing. Mauritius has replaced Morocco as the top-ranking country, while Morocco is now ranked in 4th place, behind Tunisia and Algeria. Across the board, African countries perform comparatively well in terms of sustainable production and consumption as well as in climate action (SDGs 12 and 13) but perform poorly in goals related to human welfare (SDGs 1 to 7 and 11)".

2019 Africa SDG Index and Dashboards Report

A2.2 Where are we now and where are we heading?

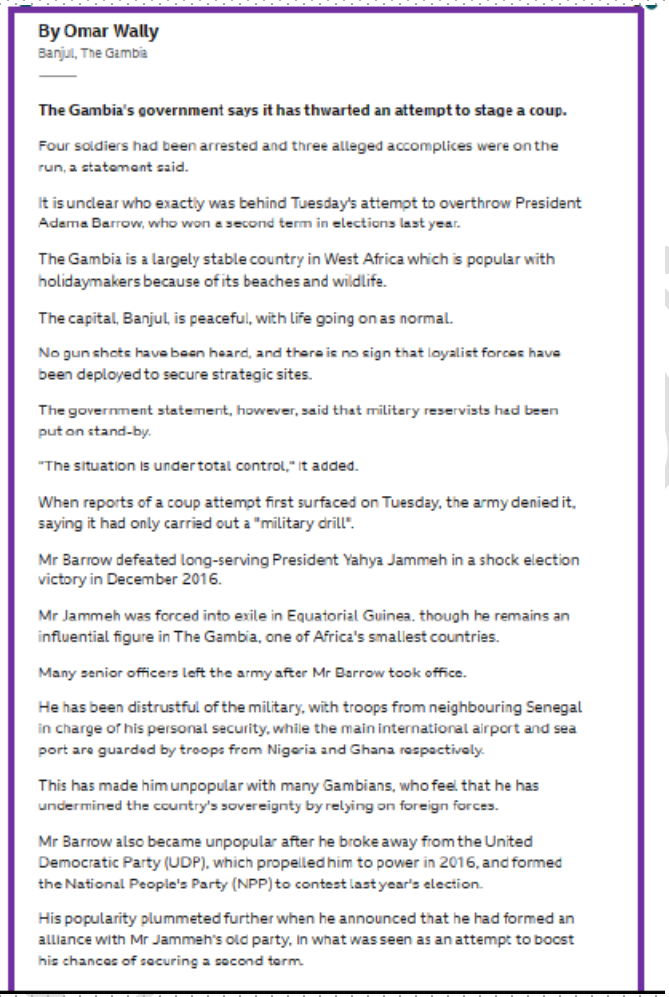
- **IMF Report on The Gambia of 28 November 2022**
- **Context**
  - War in Ukraine threatening economic and social stability in world including Gambia
  - New COVID-19 cases have declined to almost nil while vaccination rate remains low at around 22 percent of population
  - The Gambia suffering more frequent climatic shocks, including a recent major flooding
  - Gambia continues to advance social and justice reforms
- **Macroeconomic developments and outlook.**
  - Economic recovery weaker than anticipated owing primarily to war in Ukraine
  - Inflation reached a several decades record high of 13.3 percent (y-o-y) at end-September 2022
  - Balance of payments is facing multiple shocks, including disruptions of timber and cashew exports, weaker-than-expected tourist arrivals, lower remittance inflows, high food and fuel import bills, and elevated freight costs
  - Shocks generating forex shortages and weighing on forex reserves
  - Budget execution adversely impacted by fuel revenue losses, delays in the collection of non-tax revenue, and a 30-percent increase in civil servants' basic salaries.
  - Outlook clouded by significant downside risks

Figure 44: Where are we now? - Updated context (1of 4) on the Gambian Political Economy. Source: (International Monetary Fund, 2022)

- **IMF Report on The Gambia of 28 November 2022**
- **Program performance**
  - Performance under the ECF-supported program broadly satisfactory
  - At end-June 2022, all quantitative performance criteria (QPCs), three out of four indicative targets (ITs) and all three structural benchmarks (SBs) were met
  - However, the continuous QPC on external arrears was temporarily breached
  - At end-September 2022, six out of nine indicative quantitative targets and three out of five SBs were met
  - The prior action on the submission to the National Assembly of the second phase audit report on Covid-19-related spending has been completed
- **Program objectives**
  - The program addresses immediate pressures from multiple exogenous shocks while improving macroeconomic sustainability:
  - Foreign exchange shortages: CBG will allow smooth functioning of the forex market and ensure that the exchange rate reflects market forces
  - Inflationary pressures: CBG to tighten monetary policy stance, including through additional policy rate hikes and absorption of excess liquidity
  - Fiscal pressures: authorities taking revenue and spending measures while targets will be slightly loosened relative to previous plans to mitigate the impact of the shocks on the population
  - Fiscal framework will broadly keep public debt on the previously programmed downward path
  - Structural reforms centered on revenue administration, public financial management, and governance, including digitalization, public procurement, prioritization of public investment, state-owned enterprises, and the fight against corruption.

Figure 45: Where are we now? - Updated context (2 of 4) on the Gambian Political Economy. Source: (International Monetary Fund, 2022)

BBC news report of 21 December 2022 on an alleged attempted coup in The Gambia



By Omar Wally
Banjul, The Gambia

The Gambia's government says it has thwarted an attempt to stage a coup.

Four soldiers had been arrested and three alleged accomplices were on the run, a statement said.

It is unclear who exactly was behind Tuesday's attempt to overthrow President Adama Barrow, who won a second term in elections last year.

The Gambia is a largely stable country in West Africa which is popular with holidaymakers because of its beaches and wildlife.

The capital, Banjul, is peaceful, with life going on as normal.

No gun shots have been heard, and there is no sign that loyalist forces have been deployed to secure strategic sites.

The government statement, however, said that military reservists had been put on stand-by.

"The situation is under total control," it added.

When reports of a coup attempt first surfaced on Tuesday, the army denied it, saying it had only carried out a "military drill".

Mr Barrow defeated long-serving President Yahya Jammeh in a shock election victory in December 2016.

Mr Jammeh was forced into exile in Equatorial Guinea, though he remains an influential figure in The Gambia, one of Africa's smallest countries.

Many senior officers left the army after Mr Barrow took office.

He has been distrustful of the military, with troops from neighbouring Senegal in charge of his personal security, while the main international airport and sea port are guarded by troops from Nigeria and Ghana respectively.

This has made him unpopular with many Gambians, who feel that he has undermined the country's sovereignty by relying on foreign forces.

Mr Barrow also became unpopular after he broke away from the United Democratic Party (UDP), which propelled him to power in 2016, and formed the National People's Party (NPP) to contest last year's election.

His popularity plummeted further when he announced that he had formed an alliance with Mr Jammeh's old party, in what was seen as an attempt to boost his chances of securing a second term.

Figure 46: Where are we now? - Updated context (3 of 4) on the Gambian Political Economy. Source: (British Broadcasting Corporation, 2022)

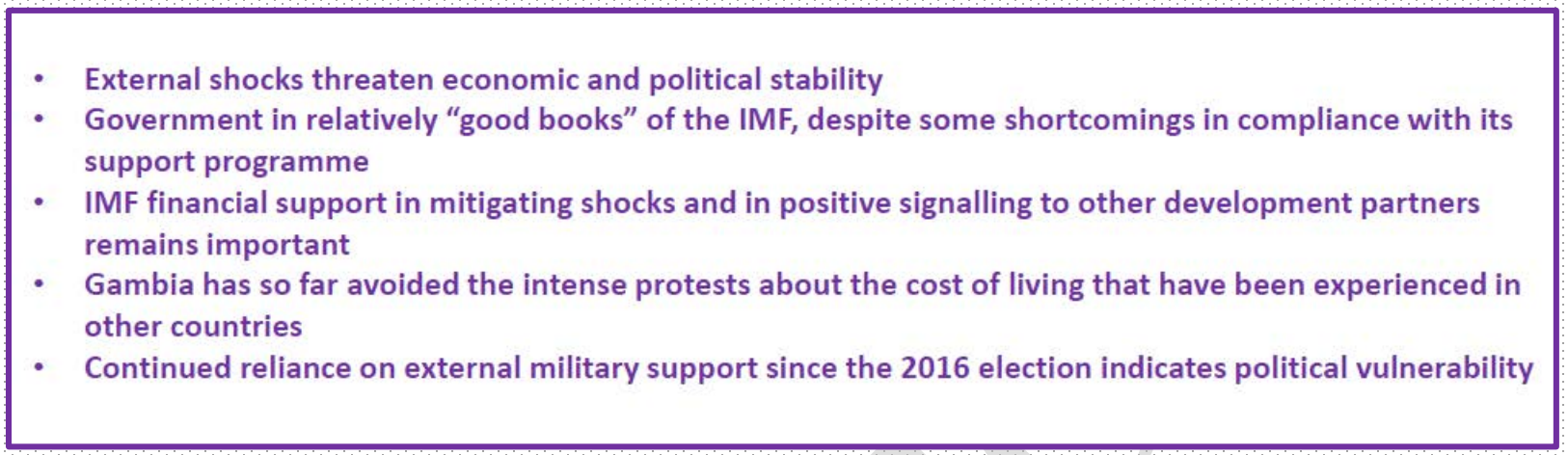


Figure 47: Where are we heading? - Updated context (4 of 4) on the Gambian Political Economy. Source: Dr Omodele Jones

REVISED

Appendix 3: Project Results Framework based on the Nov 2022 Progress Report

REVISION 1

Outcome	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Evaluator conclusion on Indicator status	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Outcome 1 Young people increasingly participate in governance and decision-making processes at national, regional, community and political party levels	Indicator 1.1 Percentage of political parties with regulations allocating at least 20% of their executive positions to young people (40% being young women)	**0**	**50%**		No definitive evidence of change	Structures such as the women and youth branch of the inter-party committee has been set up and will reportedly continue the advocacy within their parties for the executive quota allocation to young people. Most of the party leaders have reportedly agreed to this in principle but are yet to implement it.
	Indicator 1.2 Percentage of young people (m/f) who engage in leadership dialogue and consultation with community and opinion leaders	**10%**	**35% (40% young women)**	**50%**	Reportedly 60% of women participation rate in dialogue sessions. A total of 20 sessions were conducted. A total of 10 youth organisations, including three women-led organisations and an organisation of persons with disabilities conducted community sensitisation with their various constituents on media and information literacy as a tool to counter conflict triggers such as hate speech and disinformation	
	Indicator 1.3 Reduced involvement of young people in political violence in targeted regions	**0**	**40%**		A Perception survey is reportedly being conducted through the university of the Gambia Research and Development Unit. It was expected to be completed by Q1 of 2022 but is still outstanding in March 2023. ***This is a significant omission of an important source of scientific evidence.***	
Output 1.1 Youth leadership and participation increased in political decision-making processes at party executive and national level	Indicator 1.1.1 The National Inter-Party Committee Memorandum of Understanding revised to recognize the Inter-Party Youth Committee and make provisions for substantive collaboration	**No**	**Yes**		The YoBPIC has reportedly been recognised in the IPC MOU.	

Outcome	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Evaluator conclusion on Indicator status	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	Indicator 1.1.2 Percentage of young men in youth political wings who believe in the importance of participation of their female counterparts	**0**	**60%**		This is expected to be covered by the outstanding UTG survey identified in Outcome indicator 1.3 above	
	Indicator 1.1.3 Number of intra and interparty youth dialogue sessions conducted with active participation of party political leadership	**0**	**20**	**22**	22 Dialogues reportedly facilitated on the importance of peaceful elections including district level intergenerational dialogues on peace and social cohesion. They reportedly had the active participation of political party leaders	
	Indicator 1.1.4 Inter-party youth committee advocacy strategy for strategic communication on good governance and bipartisan youth engagement and involvement in peaceful electoral processes developed.	0	1	1	The advocacy strategy has reportedly been developed and is in use.	

DRAFT

Outcome	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Evaluator conclusion on Indicator status	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	Indicator 1.1.5 Number of youth statutory instruments developed or revised that reflect youth engagement and participation in leadership and political decision-making processes	**0**	**3**	4	Four statutory instruments have reportedly been developed but are yet to become law.	The National youth council act, youth service scheme, National enterprise development initiative, and the sports council act were reviewed to reflect young people's engagement in governance and leadership.
Output 1.2 Youth mobilized as key actors to engage in community dialogue initiatives to enhance inclusion and sustainable peace including prevention of electoral violence	Indicator 1.2.1 Percentage of mobilized youth key actors (m/f) who implemented community peace initiatives	**0**	40%	90%	Key youth actors were reportedly trained and have subsequently implemented community peace initiatives in their communities of origin.	
	Indicator 1.2.2 Number of policy briefs, fact sheets and technical analysis on young people produced.	**0**	16	9	5 policy briefs and 4 fact checks were reportedly developed.	
	Indicator 1.2.3 NYC situation room and early warning crisis response centre functional.	No	Yes	Yes	The situation room is reportedly in place and functional.	

REVISED

Outcome	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Evaluator conclusion on Indicator status	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	Indicator 1.2.4 Percentage of young people (m/f) in conflict hotspots trained as election observers that participate in 2021 elections.	**0**	60%	90%	90% of targeted young people were reportedly empowered as election observers. The actual number is yet to be determined.	
	Indicator 1.2.5 % of trained youth association leaders who have conducted activities promoting peace in their community	0	40%	60%	50 youth leaders from across the five regions of the project were reportedly trained on conflict prevention and peace-building. Subsequently, more than 60% reported that they had undertaken step-down engagements in their community	
Output 1.3 Improved intergenerational dialogue to maintain community peace and understanding	Indicator 1.3.1 Percentage of traditional and religious leaders that attend intergenerational dialogue sessions and serve as advocates for youth involvement in leadership at community, regional and national level	5%	20%	23%	86 traditional and religious leaders reportedly participated in dialogue session across the seven regions of the country.	

REVISED

Outcome	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Evaluator conclusion on Indicator status	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	Indicator 1.3.2 Number of dialogue sessions organized between security forces and young people to promote understanding and peaceful co-existence.	0	7	8	8 Regional dialogue sessions were reportedly facilitated in the six administrative regions.	
Output 1.4 Increased student capacities through assistanceship/mentorship to generate data/evidence and policy briefs information for public discourse on youth participation and inclusion in decision-making activities	Indicator 1.4.1 Number of youth-related policy forums conducted with active participation and engagement of policy makers	**0**	**5**	**10**	10 youth related policy forums were reportedly conducted	
	Indicator 1.4.2 Number of young graduates who benefited from 6-12 months' research internship and assistanceship.	**0**	**56**	100	100 students were reportedly selected for an Internship program with the National Assembly through the University of The Gambia.	
	Indicator 1.4.3 Percentage of successful youth-led community peace mediation initiatives supported through small grants	**0**	50%	100%	25 young men and women were reportedly successfully enabled to implement peace initiatives in their respective communities after a 10 day training and related award of grants	

REVISED

Outcome	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Evaluator conclusion on Indicator status	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Outcome 2 **Young people engage in community mediation efforts and serve as advocates against hate speech**	Indicator 2.1 Percent of young people (m/f) who believe that the level of political violence within their community has decreased	**0**	40%		This is to be assessed through the outstanding UTG survey identified in outcome indicator 1.3 above	
	Indicator 2.2 Percent of young people (m/f) who report experiencing hate speech within their communities.	0	30%		This is to be assessed through the outstanding UTG survey identified in outcome indicator 1.3 above	
	Indicator 2.3 Percent of young people (m/f) who know how to respond to hate speech without violence	0	40%		This is to be assessed through the outstanding UTG survey identified in outcome indicator 1.3 above	
Output 2.1 **Young people as champions of positive messaging and community change makers**	Indicator 2.1.1 A youth-led online radio station established and is operational.	**0**	1	Done	An online radio has been established although s**ome KII respondents questioned its reach and thus its value.**	
	Indicator 2.1.2 Number of youth-produced content, used to sensitize peers on MIL and hate-neutral speech	0	20 (30% by young women/girls)	40%	80 youth leaders, from across the country, were reportedly trained on media and information literacy (MIL). At least 30 reportedly conducted step-down engagements on how MIL is used to counter hate speech and disinformation. A further 10 reportedly used their MIL training to record video and audio messages to raise awareness about the dangers of hate speech and disinformation,	

Outcome	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Evaluator conclusion on Indicator status	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Output 2.2 Media practitioners and youth mobilized and engaged as community peace mediators and advocates against	Indicator 2.2.1 Number of youth-led organizations, per region, whose capacities are enhanced to integrate MIL in their operations, with a focus on tackling hate speech at community level	**0**	4 (at least 1 women-led organization)	**10**	A total of 10 youth organisations, including three women-led organisations and an organisation of differently abled persons, reportedly conducted community sensitization with their various constituents on media and information literacy as a tool to counter conflict triggers.	
	Indicator 2.2.2 Number of media professionals, and media houses, that have developed fact-checking skills and are contributing to fact-checking platform	**0**	**60% (**30% of women) / 15 media houses (at least 4 women-led media house)	30 media professionals (at least 30% women) from public, private and community media trained on conflict sensitive reporting	50 journalists were reportedly trained from at least 23 media houses, including 46% female representation.	
	Indicator 2.2.3 Increase number of fact-check reports posted on the platform	**0**	50%	Yes	Trained journalists are reportedly using the newly developed platform to fact check reports	

REVISED

Appendix 4: List of Persons Interviewed

REVISION 1

#	Name	Gender	Organisation	Status	Type of Interview
1.	Omar Bah	Male	National Youth Council	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
2.	Ismaila Badjie	Male	National Youth Council	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
3.	Lamin Sanneh	Male	National Youth Council	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
4.	Zacqline SM Sylva	Female	National Youth Council	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
5.	Mustapha Sonko	Male	National Youth Council	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
6.	Mariama Jammeh	Female	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
7.	Mbake Camara	Male	University of The Gambia	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
8.	Mamadou Juju Jallow	Male	Peace Ambassador The Gambia	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
9.	Nfamara Jawneh	Male	Beakanyang Kafo	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
10.	Modou Joof	Male	Beakanyang Kafo	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
11.	Sophie Manneh	Female	National Youth Parliament of The Gambia	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
12.	Isatou Jallow	Female	Think Young Women	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
13.	Awa Bah	Female	Think Young Women	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
14.	Fatima Jarju	Female	Think Young Women	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
15.	Ousman Bah	Male	National Council for Civic Education	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
16.	Ansumana Ceesay	Male	National Council for Civic Education	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
17.	Bakary Sonko	Male	Peace Hub The Gambia	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
18.	Elizabeth Gomez	Female	Peace Hub The Gambia	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
19.	Amadou Njie	Male	Peace Hub The Gambia	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
20.	Ndeh Fatou Nying	Female	Peace Hub The Gambia	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
21.	Monica Manga	Female	Peace Hub The Gambia	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
22.	Haddijatou Bah	Female	Peace Hub The Gambia	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
23.	Cherno Gaye	Male	Activista	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
24.	Fatoumatta Kanteh	Female	Activista	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
25.	Dawda Bojang	Male	Activista	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
26.	Amadou Jallow	Male	Activista	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
27.	Mam Serreh Jobe	Female	Activista	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
28.	Meita Touray	Female	Fact Check Gambia	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
29.	Bakary Fatty	Male	Commission on Political Debate	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
30.	Junking Jobateh	Male	Masafing Law Practice	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
31.	Mamadou Edrisa Njie	Male	Global Youth Innovation Network Gambia	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII

#	Name	Gender	Organisation	Status	Type of Interview
32.	Lanre Arogundade	Male	International Press Centre (Nigeria)	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
33.	Rabiu Alhassan	Male	Fact Space West Africa (Ghana)	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
34.	Adebimpe Abodunde	Female	Centre for Journalism, Innovation and Development (Nigeria)	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
35.	Caroline Anipah	Female	Centre for Journalism, Innovation and Development (Nigeria)	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
36.	Kemi Busari	Female	Centre for Journalism, Innovation and Development (Nigeria)	Non-UN Implementing Partner	KII
37.	Fatima Sonko	Female	UNFPA	UN Implementing Partner	KII
38.	Maimuna Denton	Female	UNFPA	UN Implementing Partner	KII
39.	Jankey Kassama	Male	UNFPA	UN Implementing Partner	KII
40.	Abdou Joof	Male	UNDP	UN Implementing Partner	KII
41.	Ida Persson	Female	UNDP	UN Implementing Partner	KII
42.	Angelic Mendy	Female	UNDP	UN Implementing Partner	KII
43.	Lamin Jahateh	Male	UNESCO	UN Implementing Partner	KII
44.	Mamadou Salieu Jallow	Male	PBF Secretariat	UN Funding Partner	KII
45.	Jay Njie	Female	Think Young Women	Beneficiary	FGD
46.	Mariama Touray	Female	Think Young Women	Beneficiary	FGD
47.	Fatou Jallow	Female	Think Young Women	Beneficiary	FGD
48.	Hawa Drammeh	Female	Think Young Women	Beneficiary	FGD
49.	Fatou Janneh	Female	Think Young Women	Beneficiary	FGD
50.	Malick Nyang	Male	Media Academy for Journalism and Communication	Beneficiary	FGD
51.	Yusef Taylor	Male	Media Academy for Journalism and Communication	Beneficiary	FGD

REPORT