

PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
COUNTRY: The Gambia
TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL: SEMI-ANNUAL
YEAR OF REPORT: 2021



Project Title: Strengthening Sustainable and Holistic Reintegration of Returnees in The Gambia	
Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: PRF 00113472	
If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund	Type and name of recipient organizations: International Organization for Migration (Convening Agency) International Trade Centre United Nations Population Fund
Name of Recipient Fund:	
Date of first transfer: 17 December 2018	
Project end date: 17 March 2022	
Is the current project end date within 6 months? No	
Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project	
Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):	
Recipient Organization	Amount
International Organization for Migration	\$ 1,200,000.00
International Trade Centre	\$ 550,000.00
United Nations Population Fund	\$ 550,000.00
Total:	\$ 2,300,000.00
Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: \$ 69%	
ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE	
Gender-responsive Budgeting:	
Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: \$ 243,314.82	
Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: \$183,028.36	
Project Gender Marker: GM1	
Project Risk Marker: Medium	
Project PBF focus area: 4.1 Strengthening National State Capacity	
Report preparation:	
Project report prepared by: Dr. Simeonette De Asis, Migration Health Officer, IOM The Gambia	<small>DE ASIS Simeonette</small> <small>Digitally signed by DE ASIS Simeonette</small> <small>DN: cn=DE ASIS Simeonette, o=IOM, ou=The Gambia, email=deasis@iom.int</small>
Project report approved by Fumiko Nagano, Chief of Mission IOM The Gambia	<small>MATETE Stephen Otieno</small> <small>Digitally signed by MATETE Stephen Otieno</small> <small>DN: cn=MATETE Stephen Otieno, o=IOM, ou=The Gambia, email=matete@iom.int</small> <small>Date: 2021.06.14 16:20:29 Z</small>
Did PBF Secretariat review the report: YES	

NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:

- *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.*
- *Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.*
- *Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*
- *Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*
- *Please include any COVID-19 related considerations, adjustments and results and respond to section IV.*

PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

Briefly outline the **status of the project** in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1500-character limit):

With the overall peacebuilding vision of the project to facilitate sustainable and holistic reintegration of returning migrants in the economic, social and psychosocial dimensions in a manner which contributes to peacebuilding, the first phase of the project recorded key achievements, as reported in the Annual Report of 2020, which contributed to the achievement of the project's vision including reduced stigma against and trauma among returnees, enhanced social inclusion and cohesion among returning migrants and host communities, and a more balanced and positive public perception of return migration and returnees to facilitate community stabilization. During this reporting period, covering the second phase of the project from January 2021 to May 31, 2021, the following were the key achievements:

Since the launching of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration in November 2019, seven of the eight Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) have been operationalized (see Annex B for the NCM and TWG implementation progress).

In November 2020, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) was officially launched in The Gambia with The Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS). Following a national and regional consultation four key Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) were identified namely: Brikama (West Coast Region), Barra (North Bank West), Farafenni (North Bank East) and Basse (Upper River Region).

During the reporting period, to support community-based psychosocial services structures, 1,507 (F= 901, M=601) community members (including 154 returnees) benefitted from medical and psychosocial assistance through the deployment of mobile health teams across the seven administrative regions in The Gambia. The current phase so far has witnessed the establishment of three migrant peer support groups in three regions of high return namely, West Coast Region (WCR), North Bank Region (NBR) and Upper River Region (URR) The formation of these groups in March and May 2021 has created more platforms for returnees to provide peer to peer support.

In coordination with Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure (MOICI), a series of coordination meetings and workshops were done to strengthen the multi-stakeholder communications platform and coordinate the delivery of messages related to irregular migration through series of media engagements (TV and radio shows).

A Community Reintegration Task Force was established in January 2021 with membership from the Employment Directorate of the Ministry of Trade (MoTIE), Department of Community Development, and returnee association. All preparatory interventions critical for returnee interest and community support of the project were concluded, including inception and validation meetings with key community members and returnees to introduce the project, identify returnees' needs and encourage local ownership and participation. The task force has concluded three consultation visits across The Gambia and has identified 12 projects for community--based reintegration. The task force has finalized refurbishment designs and business plans, and the procurement of equipment and materials is in process.

The toll-free line (1216) has been launched and operationalized with an operator hired. To date, there have been 68 recorded calls-- 54 male and 14 female (53% of callers from West Coast Region (WCR), 31% of callers from Kanifing Municipal Council (KMC), 7% of callers from the Lower River Region (LRR) and 9% of callers from Banjul, Upper River Region (URR) and Central River Region (CRR)). The refurbishment of the youth centers in Bundung and Jarra Soma is completed with IT and photography equipment installed. The centers have hosted few activities targeting returnees and community members.

Please indicate any significant project-related events anticipated in the next six months, i.e. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc. (1000-character limit):

Over the next six months, several activities will be executed. These include the provision of bespoke support packages such as training for returnees and community members, business advisory support, completion, and handing over of the community-based reintegration projects across The Gambia.

To engage and inform communities on irregular migration, MOICI will coordinate and embark on a community information caravan focusing on irregular migration. Ten coaches will deliver life skills curriculum across The Gambia.

Additionally, in close collaboration with the National Youth Council (NYC), a joint dialogue session between community leaders and migrant returnees is planned for June 2021 in migrants' communities of return. This will create a platform for returnees to share their stories and to disabuse negative misconceptions about them in their communities and to further design more inclusive and respectful ways of supporting each other for improved social cohesion in different communities of return. Furthermore, dialogue /learning sessions and town hall meetings between community leaders and youths including returnees, moonlight storytelling sessions and community reflection session with opinion leaders are planned to be implemented in the next six months. These sessions will be held across all regions engaging at least 1,500 youths including returnees. These activities are geared towards enhanced social support, increased reintegration successes and reduced stigmatization to promote community cohesiveness.

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarize the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to. This is not anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (1500-character limit): **Not applicable**

In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive **human impact**. May include anecdotal stories about the project's positive effect on the people's lives. Include

direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000-character limit):

The launch of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in November 2020 brought together participants from various government and non-government organizations. DTM is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. It also gathers and analyses migration data to disseminate critical multi-layered information on mobility. Head of The Gambia Bureau of Statistics Nyakassi Sanyang described the forum as very important, saying according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, a total of 33.4 million new displacements were recorded in 145 countries and territories in 2019. Of these, 8.5 million new conflict displacements were recorded in 50 countries and 24.9 million new disaster displacements in 140 countries. As at end-2019, 50.8 million people were recorded as displaced due to conflict, violence and disasters he stated. *“The global and regional level statistics indicate the importance and urgent need for The Gambia to adopt and start using the DTM”*, he added. (<https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/national-news/dtm-establishment-of-flow-monitoring-points-launched>)

The established Migrant Peer Support Groups (MPSGs) continue to serve as a healing and support platform for returnees who continue to experience limited supports and feel socially disconnected in their communities of return. With the COVID pandemic, their chances of vulnerability and poor inclusion has increased creating more need for returnees with shared experiences to continue to render support to each other and to share positive coping messages that will help them all build resilience and promote their social connectedness. Demba Sallah one of the group members mentioned in one of the arranged sessions *“prior to joining this group, I lived with numerous emotional injuries and memories of the journey, I could not escape or disclose to anybody. I eventually started becoming easily irritable, getting angry and nervous. I got married recently but could not share these thoughts with my wife for fear of hurting and making her unnecessarily worried. I am a tailor, and this affected my interpersonal relationship with my clients as I rage into tantrums and incapable to communicate appropriately. With this great initiative, I feel so secure”*. The online and in person platforms the group created helped Demba to constantly process and heal from all the repressed negative memories that have been hunting him. He further added, *“through the platform, I have made new friends and people who share similar experiences with me. They are strong and living. Knowing that I am not alone, I have stopped judging myself and I am not worried if people judge me or not, what matters most for me is that I am strong and hopeful of better days ahead. The group really supported my emotional wellbeing and has helped me worked on my interpersonal relations with my clients and immediate family members; I really feel connected now.”*. Another member of the group, Ebrima Demba lamented that the group gave him another family he never had; a family he can turn to during the blue moods he sometimes experiences and a source of hope to keep him going.

The organized dialogues sessions further promote migrant inclusion and social cohesion. In one of the sessions, Binta Jallow – Councillor of Bakau Ward: can be quoted *“Interesting stories have been shared which has changed my perception towards the returnees as such I’ll do what I can in pushing youth issues at the council to deal with the push factors to migration”*

PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME

Describe overall progress under each Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full

project duration). Do not list individual activities. If the project is starting to make/has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context.

- “On track” refers to the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan.
- “On track with peacebuilding results” refers to higher-level changes in the conflict or peace factors that the project is meant to contribute to. These effects are more likely in mature projects than in newer ones.

If your project has more than four outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.

Outcome 1: Gambian society has a balanced and positive perception of return migration.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On track.

Progress summary: (3000-character limit)

In October 2020, the research study on return and reintegration of returnees in The Gambia, and implications for peacebuilding was finalized. The research engaged returnees, community members/ leaders, stakeholders from different government and non-governmental institutions, United Nation (UN) partners, and other relevant stakeholders. Many gaps in current governmental policy frameworks are existent as well as the understanding over the political and socio-economic situation of the returnees. The research was able to highlight the social dynamics, profiling migrants and the economics engagements, factors and consequences faced by migrants. It equally highlighted the elements of reintegration both in the context of economic and psychosocial aspects to link it to peacebuilding measures. It has also helped to better understand the linkage between migration, return and reintegration and peacebuilding especially how successfully reintegration influence social cohesion and peace at community level. The research equally outlined the existing gaps in ensuring returns are reintegrated through sustainable means to avert potential tensions and conflicts at the community level which is believed to cause social conflict. Some of the findings revealed that nearly 44% of community members believe that returnees are reintegrated and better settled now than before and approximately two thirds (68%) of community members are of the view that migrant returnees need more financial support to ensure their full reintegration. Furthermore, (72%) engaged in Focus Group Discussion (FGD) sessions want to stay in The Gambia and contribute to national and community development. Research copies were shared with stakeholders to help them to continue to understand and appreciate the complex experiences faced by migrants during and after the migratory journeys and to continue to find improved ways to include returnees in key community social and decision-making platforms and activity formulation that will further enhance social cohesion of returnees in their respective communities of return. Likewise, the project team continue to review the research outcome and part of the recommendations are currently implemented in other ongoing project activities to ensure more inclusiveness of returnees in community initiatives. Other recommendations from the research continue to form the basis to seek for more project support and consultations with relevant government partners.

To support the Government of The Gambia (GoTG) to be able to track the flow of migrants, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) was launched in November 2020. This is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better

understanding of the movements and evolving needs of mobile population. Following the national consultations, four key Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) were identified namely: North Bank Region East and West (NBR East and West - Farafenni and Barra), West Coast Region (WCR - Brikama) and Upper River Region (URR - Basse). Additionally, through regional consultations led by The Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) and in coordination with Department of Community Development (DCD) and regional authorities, in January and February 2021, high mobility location assessments were done hence identifying key points of transits where data will be collected by the enumerators. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the enumerators was developed and 15 enumerators (8 male, 7 female) have so far been recruited and were trained from June 7 to 11, 2021 on data collection and other key elements. They will further be deployed to the various pre-identified FMPs to collect data on the flow of migrants on June 14, 2021.

The project is continuing to strengthen and support the Government of The Gambia through the Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure (Chair of the Communication Platform which is anchored under Communication and Advocacy Thematic Working Group of NCM. From the validation of the communication strategy, the action plan on the communications platform is being implemented with the first government TV and radio programs held. This media outreach enabled the government to communicate with the public on migration, return, and reintegration. Support was also given to the National Youth Council of The Gambia by establishing and operationalizing the Toll-Free line (1216) for young people and returnees in general. To date, 177 calls were recorded (140 male and 37 females). Two returnees were referred to employers by the toll-free line and managed to successfully secure jobs. Four callers have also participated in trainings with NEDI The Department of Labour is also engaged to roll out the job centre services and referrals to regional youth centres. The messages, ideas and advice disseminated through the Toll Help Line has positively impacted lives of returnees and young people through contributing in reducing youth unemployment, irregular migration and bridged the barriers of access to information on irregular migration. Precisely, after the launching, the Toll Help Line registered 109 calls in less than a month with young people discussing and sharing knowledge on issues affecting their lives and irregular migration.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:
(1000-character limit)

The majority of migrant returnees interviewed in the study were within the ages of 18 - 35. The research methodology took into cognisance youth and gender and other categories for an all-inclusive perspective on reintegration. Among family members there were 24 respondents from parents/guardians (12 male and 12 female) and 24 respondents from siblings (12 male and 12 female) per cluster. From the host community members, there were 30 respondents per cluster, comprising five village alkalos/VDC chairmen, 5 religious leaders, 10 women group leaders and 10 youth leaders (5 male and 5 female) per cluster.

The recruitment of key enumerators to be deployed to the various FMPs followed gender and youth mainstreaming. 46% of the enumerators selected were female. Additionally, the referral program and key messages on migration, return and reintegration under this project not only caters to returnees (mostly youth returnees) but also their families which include women.

Outcome 2: The Government of The Gambia demonstrate strengthened capacity to facilitate sustainable reintegration contributing to enhanced social inclusion and cohesion.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On Track

Progress summary: (3000-character limit)

The National Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Framework and Curriculum for migrants was developed in partnership with Ministry of Health and WHO. The document has highlighted the gaps and further amplified local Mental health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) resources for improving mental health services delivery in The Gambia.

To support the Government of The Gambia (GoTG) to manage the surge of COVID-19 cases and to further mainstream MHPSS, series of trainings were done in 2020 in collaboration with MoH, benefitting a total of 725 (333 female, 392 male) healthcare and frontline workers from private and public hospitals.

Following the establishment of the NCM which was endorsed by 23 agencies and ministries, for a whole-of-government approach in migration governance, the mechanism continues to serve as a platform for government's commitment in the management and coordination of migration related issues in The Gambia. As of May 2021, seven (7) out of eight (8) Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) have been operationalized. The eight TWGs are: Communications and Advocacy (Lead: Ministry of Information, Communications, and Infrastructure), Labour Migration (Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment), Border Management (Gambia Immigration Department), Migration and Development (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Return and Reintegration (Ministry of Interior), Migration Data, Policy and Legislation (Gambia Bureau of Statistics), Internal Migration (Ministry of Lands) and Cross Cutting Issues (Ministry of Women, Gender and Social Welfare, and Ministry of Justice as co-leads). In February 2021, a high level NCM meeting with 68 (25 female and 43 males) attendees from the UN, government and civil society organizations was presided by the Vice President of The Gambia to discuss the implementation progress and workplan of the NCM. During the reporting period, one of the most notable milestones of the different TWGs is the review of Migration Governance indicators (MGIs). The MGI, is based on the Migration governance Framework (MiGOF) elements and is made more detailed and measurable through the identification of 90 indicators grouped under six main policy domains; collectively, such indicators make a first attempt at defining "well-managed" migration. The six domains, considered as "the building blocks" of effective migration governance, include: 1) migrant rights; 2) whole of government approach; 3) well-being of migrants; 4) partnerships; 5) mobility dimension of crises and; 6) safe, orderly and regular migration. The NCM also paved way for The Gambia's prioritization exercise where the Government selected fifteen (15) out of the twenty-three (23) objectives of the GCM as priority objectives to address in short- to mid-term. Details of the NCM TWG can be found in Annex B including implementation progress and activities done in relation to migration governance.

To address the growing intra-youth resentment on returnees benefitting from reintegration services, community-based reintegration activities are currently being coordinated in various regions in the country. A community-Based Reintegration (CBR) task force – established in January 2021 - with members from the Employment Directorate of the Ministry of Trade

(MoTIE), Department of Community Development of the Ministry of Lands and Local Government (MoLLG), and Youth Against Irregular Migration (YAIM), had a series of consultations done at different levels to pre-identify locations and initiatives. 20 communities have been consulted, and eleven (11) are selected for projects contributing to livelihood, reintegration and peacebuilding. The CBR task force will continue working with relevant stakeholders to develop viable business models for the selected communities. Additionally, to support community members affected by irregular migration and develop livelihood skills, production training on soapmaking, tie & dye, batik, and basic literacy targeting 60 women in Kiang Kwinella (Lower Region) is currently being implemented. *Please see annex B for the full list of communities and corresponding initiatives.*

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:
(1000-character limit)

The training of key frontline actors had a 46% female representation. The MHPSS framework and curriculum are for all migrants in which majority of them are within the ages of 18 -35. The NCM high level technical meeting also saw a 37% female representation.

The CBR activities and interventions ensured gender mainstreaming since the inception stage. Consultations to pre-identify and validate projects with community members included women and returnees. The selection of beneficiaries of the craft production in Kiang (training in craft and literacy) deliberately targeted women, including returnees' female family members with the training content customized to their needs.

Outcome 3: Returnees enjoy enhanced access to psychosocial, political and economic reintegration services.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress:

Progress summary: *(3000-character limit)*

So far, 2021 witnessed the deployment of three (3) mobile health teams to communities of high return and communities negatively affected by the COVID pandemic on top of the five (5) outreaches previously deployed in 2019 and 2020. A total 1507 (906 female, 601 male) including 154 returnees have so far benefited from medical and mental health and psychosocial support services including complementary medicines, health and psychoeducation. 3 more mobile health teams are scheduled for deployment in 2021.

In a related effort to support returnees to recover from their traumatic experiences, Migrant Peer Support Groups (MPSGs) were formed to provide a platform for returnees to share their experiences and foster holistic reintegration into host communities. Three (3) MPSGs across three different regions namely: North Bank Region (NBR), West Coast Region (WCR), and Upper River Region (URR) were formed with 12 members per group, with a total of 36 (24 male, 12 female). Prior to the formation of the groups, a consultation with local and stakeholders including migrant-led groups, Red Cross Society (GRCS) was done, Migration Information Centres (MICs), Regional Health Team (RHT), Regional MHPSS focal persons, among others were consulted as well with commitment to participate in regular meetings and events in their respective communities. Since the formation of MPSGs, the MICs have been

very instrumental in organizing and coordinating the activities of the various groups. With the formation of the groups, some returnees have started to share and appreciate their subjective traumatic experiences and positive coping measures, and others have learnt from the various discussions and activities they have initiated.

The Youth Centre in Bundung and Jarra Soma was already refurbished. Amidst the pandemic and related restrictions, the centre in Bundung hosted some activities in 2020 and 2021, targeting returnees and community members. With photography, videography, and gaming equipment provided, the centre has since hosted photography training sessions for community members and a FIFA e-sports tournament attracting returnees and community members. The activities further provided an opportunity to promote social cohesion and raised awareness on the dangers of irregular migration. Photographers used the creative hub to take photographs of families during the Eid holidays.

Additionally, ten coaches participated in an intensive five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop from March 22 – 26, 2021, which combines theoretical training about essential football-based life skills for employability and entrepreneurship using Life Skills Curriculum. This activity was co-funded by UEFA Foundation for Children to help deliver the Kick4Trade Life Skills in The Gambia. The coaches will kick off the delivery of the toolkit in June 2021 which have components around conflict resolution and peacebuilding using football skills.

During the period under review, shared learning sessions were held in ten communities located in CRR, URR, WCR and KMC. 300 young men and women including returnees were reached as the sessions served as an interface between returnees and their communities. These sessions provided an opportunity where returnees shared from migrant led organisations such as Youth Association Against Irregular Migration (YAIM) and the communities shared their stories and discussed the perils of irregular migration and reintegration. Through focused group discussions community members expressed greater understanding and appreciation of the dangers of irregular migration, the plight of returnees, and how they are instrumental in supporting reintegration of migrants in their communities. Returnees in these communities are involved in decision making processes through the village development committees and at family level. Participants from the shared learning sessions engaged in sensitizing other community members including young men and women on irregular migration and reintegration thus shaping and changing their perception on migration and returnees, fostering social cohesion and peaceful co-existence.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:

(1000-character limit)

During the planning stages of the TOT, there was strong effort to ensure gender balance. There were three female coaches trained and the local coordinator to oversee the coordination of the delivery of the curriculum is one of the female coaches. Activities implemented in the youth centres ensured women and youth participation.

The mobile health clinics continued to attract female beneficiaries. As of May 2021, 906 females (60%) were given medical and psychosocial assistance through the mobile clinics. Furthermore, the MPSGs ensured female representation with 33% female membership.

PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

<p><u>Monitoring:</u> Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000-character limit)</p> <p>In November 2020 a joint field monitoring visit with government and UN partners took place. Among sites visited were: Gamjobs RESTART project, Department of Labour, Bundung Youth Centre, beneficiaries of shared learning sessions (Kerr Sait Maram - CRR North), PBF outreach beneficiaries (URR).</p> <p>As part of the project regular monitoring exercise, in May 2021, a joint project monitoring involving the government, UN partners, non-un partners took place. Among sites visited were: Bundung Youth Centre, MPSG URR, National Youth Council (GBA - Toll Free Line), Bundung Youth Centre, Shared Learning Sessions CRR, Outreach clinic NBR, and other locations.</p>	<p>Do outcome indicators have baselines? YES</p> <p>Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? YES</p> <p>During the first phase of the project, a consultancy to determine knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) is ongoing. The study is aimed to support the design of Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) efforts as well as to determine the effectiveness of all RCCE activities conducted under the project as part of COVID-19 reprogramming.</p> <p>Likewise, baseline survey was done during the first phase of the project.</p>
<p><u>Evaluation:</u> Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?</p> <p>In February 2021, an informal mid-term monitoring and evaluation was done by the project team and the PBF Secretariat to review the progress made on the current status of outcomes, achievements, and identification of areas which need further attention. It presented an overall summary analysis of results accomplished towards the project outcomes and the extent of impacts on beneficiaries, in particular returnees, in the country.</p> <p>Likewise, an internal midterm evaluation was also done in February 2021 (see annex C) to provide most recent data and information on the implementation of Phase 1 of the project. The methodology involved administering questionnaires, focus group discussion, interviews and project site visits to observe what has been</p>	<p>Evaluation budget (response required): 115,000 USD</p> <p>If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations (1500-character limit): Not applicable</p>

<p>achieved; meeting directly with beneficiaries to know the impacts and challenges; meeting with local partners and implementing partners to have sufficient and more accurate information. Concretely, as defined in the log frame, the report focused on results being achieved compared with the expected results and linked the overall findings to peacebuilding context.</p>	
<p>Catalytic effects (financial): Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project.</p>	<p>Name of funder: Amount: UEFA Foundation for Children \$200,000 The funds are used for the development of employability and entrepreneurship toolkit (Kick for Trade Program) using football and football coaches, popularize the concept of sports for peace and development and provide football materials for the roll out of the Kick4Trade program</p>
<p>Other: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? <i>(1500-character limit)</i></p>	

PART IV: COVID-19

Please respond to these questions if the project underwent any monetary or non-monetary adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 1) Monetary adjustments: Please indicate the total amount in USD of adjustments due to COVID-19:

During the reporting period, no monetary adjustment done

- 2) Non-monetary adjustments: Please indicate any adjustments to the project which did not have any financial implications:

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, most of the coordination meeting including the Project Technical Committee meetings are mostly done online. Furthermore, in close coordination with regional health directorates in the different regions, and local community structures, the deployment of mobile health outreach teams was modified, to curtail the risk of infection and in line with the country's COVID-19 protocols. The new modification factored in the formation of cohorts with each cohort made up of

members of 2-3 households at a time, from the neighbourhood or community to avoid overcrowding. The mobile health team divides itself into multiple stations and each station provides services to one cohort at a time.

Other COVID 19 preventive measures like the use of face mask and hand sanitizers are always adhered closely to.

80 young people, including returnees, from communities in URR and CRR were trained on COVID-19 prevention and response to serve as contact tracers of suspected cases of COVID-19. The trained young people supported the national surveillance system by sensitizing their community members on COVID-19 prevention and reporting suspected cases. This intervention heightened awareness on COVID-19 within the targeted communities, the migrant returnees also used the platform to sensitize the community members on irregular migration and peaceful co-existence

3) Please select all categories which describe the adjustments made to the project (*and include details in general sections of this report*):

- Reinforce crisis management capacities and communications
- Ensure inclusive and equitable response and recovery
- Strengthen inter-community social cohesion and border management
- Counter hate speech and stigmatization and address trauma

- Support the SG's call for a global ceasefire
- Other (please describe):

If relevant, please share a COVID-19 success story of this project (*i.e. how adjustments of this project made a difference and contributed to a positive response to the pandemic/prevented tensions or violence related to the pandemic etc.*)

The COVID-19 pandemic has become a threat to both the physical and mental health of migrants and to their psychosocial well-being. Through the project, migrant returnees and their families came together to enhance the availability of hand-made soap in their communities — serving as an alternative source of income while building the country's COVID-19 preparedness, prevention and response. In January 2020, no one, including Musa (a shipwreck survivor), would have expected that a global pandemic would throw a huge wrench in his plans. *"COVID-19 has limited the movement of people, goods and services, which makes income-generation very difficult. It has had an impact on almost everyone and every enterprise, so I am not spared"*. Musa did not give his participation even a second thought *"I knew it was a rare opportunity, so I did not hesitate to grab it. Not only is it another source of income, but it is going to promote good hygiene in my community,"* he notes. Musa believes that the skills he learned will be useful to his family members, whom he hopes to pass his knowledge onto. *"I have acquired another skillset, and I'm excited. I'll teach my wife and other family members how to make the soap. We can produce soap for ourselves and also make a living from it."* Musa, who says he was mocked by some community members when he returned, is not bothered one bit by the huge gender stereotype attached to soap manufacturing, widely considered a "woman's job" in The Gambia. *"Soapmaking is a genuine initiative through which I can support response efforts, teach members of my family the skills*

and, more importantly, earn income from it. Who knows? Maybe I can even be an inspiration to change the perception of soapmaking in my community,” reflects Musa. Through this initiative, social cohesion between migrants and host communities is promoted while contributing to the country’s response to fight the pandemic.

PART V: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments- provide an update on the achievement of key indicators at both the outcome and output level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight). Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation. Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (300 characters max per entry)

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Outcome 1 Gambian Society has a balanced and positive perception of return migration.	Outcome Indicator 1.a % of community members reporting negative perception of returnees (disaggregated in M/F)	59% (2018)	30%	% of community members reporting negative perception of returnees (disaggregated in M/F)	24% (2020) By gender, the proportions were 22.9% and 26.7% for males and females respectively.	
	Outcome Indicator 1.b % of 4000 returnees reintegrating	Baseline: Population of 4000 returnees	70% of returnees reintegrate in the communities	Survey will be done at the end of the project	79% (2020); By gender, 78.6% of males and 80.0% of females reported being reintegrated	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	(provided with reintegration assistance) in their communities (disaggregated in M / F)					
Output 1.1 Enhanced understanding of irregular migration, return and reintegration and implications for peacebuilding	Indicator 1.1.1 # of research studies conducted highlighting linkages between migration, return and reintegration and peacebuilding	0	1	Completed research study	Research study completed	
	Indicator 1.1.3 # of local mapping conduct in the	0	3	Flow monitoring maps Assessment reports	4 FMPs/local mapping done through regional consultation	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	Gambia prior establishment of the FMP (3)					
Output 1.2 Communication on migration, return and reintegration is coordinated by the government	Indicator 1.2.1 Communication platform established and operational and meets regularly	0	1	Platform to be established and operational	Platform is already established and headed by the Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications and Infrastructure	
	Indicator 1.2.2 further support of Youth Help Line (Operational)	0	1		The toll-free line (1216) has been launched and operationalized with an operator hired	
Outcome 2 The Government of The Gambia	Indicator 1.4.2					
	Outcome Indicator 2.a % of returnees reporting	6.5 % (2020)	40% increase in satisfaction	End of project assessment to be done	2% of the returnees reported satisfaction with support from the government.	Although the reasons for the low proportions are not known, the assumption is that returnees either do not understand government

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
demonstrates strengthened capacity to facilitate sustainable reintegration contributing to enhanced social cohesion and inclusion	satisfaction with GoTG services to support reintegration					interventions or they may have not received the support altogether.
	Outcome Indicator 2.b % of government officials reporting through the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM)	0	80%	End of project assessment to be done.	Following the NCM launch on the 6th of November 2019, 23 agencies and ministries are already part of the NCM.	NCM already launched with 8 thematic working groups (TWGs), of which 7 are operational. A total of 13 meetings among the six (6) thematic groups were held in 2020
	Outcome Indicator 2.c Increased coordination levels of reintegration efforts between	Low coordination	60%	Evaluation to be done at the end of the project.	7 out of the 8 TWGs have already been operationalized with regular meetings.	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	public and private partners.					
Output 2.1 National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCCM) is established and operational	Indicator 2.1.1 Endorsement of NCM	0	1	1	The NCM was successfully launched and endorsed on the 6 th of November 2019	
	Indicator 2.1.2 Development of ToR's for the NCM thematic working groups	0	8	7	labour migration, communications and advocacy, border management, migration and development, return and reintegration and data policy and legislation and internal migration thematic working groups	
Output 2.2 Economic empowerment of returnees	Indicator 2.2.1 Mapping of private and public partners with employment	0	15	32	The RESTART initiative attracted 152 participants with 57 participants (F=11, M= 46) successfully completed the program and secured a livelihood.	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	opportunities for referrals.				Also, Jobs Consulting and in partnership with the Department of Labour, a total of 32 institutions (public and private) were mapped and 20 responded with information further incorporated in the referral platform for more employment opportunities	
	Indicator 2.2.2 Training of MOTIE's Labour Department staff on counselling and referral best practices	0	3	3	Through consultancy assignment with Jobs Consulting (a Gambian HR experts based in Norway), three staff of the Department of Labour (Commissioner, Labour Officer and Assistant) were trained in job counselling and referral best practices	
Output 2.3	Indicator 2.3.1					

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
MHPSS integrated into primary health sectors	Development of MHPSS framework and curriculum	0	1	1	With technical support from WHO, a framework and curriculum on the MHPSS for returnees is finalized and distributed.	
Output 2.4 Enhanced capacity of local and national actors to deliver MHPSS services to returnees	Indicator 2.4.1 # of community health nurses and caregivers trained	0	100	725 (392 male, 352 female)		
Outcome 3 Returnees enjoy enhanced assistance to psychosocial, social, political and economic reintegration services for increased	Outcome Indicator 3.a % of returnees reporting adequate social inclusion after return	38%	60%	62% of returnees reported adequate social inclusion (2020) By gender, 65.7% of males and 53.3% of females reported adequate social inclusion	End of project assessment to be done	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
community social cohesion	Outcome Indicator 3.b % of returnees reporting high level of stress after return	71%	40%	45% (2020) For male returnees, 47.1% reported living with high stress while for their female counterparts, the proportion was 40%.	End of project assessment to be done	
	Outcome Indicator 3.c % of returnees been able to earn sufficient income upon return	57%	70%	69% (2020); The results show that 68.6% and 70% of males and females respectively reported being able to earn sufficient income after return	End of project assessment to be done	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Output 3.1 Enhanced quality and reach of MHPSS Services	Indicator 3.1.1 # of mobile health teams deployed in the community	0	8	7	As of May 2021, 7 mobile teams have been deployed to various regions – two (2) more in 2021 on the initial 5, and trained 152 (67 male, 85 female) community change agents on MHPSS for enhanced and qualitative MHPSS services delivery	
	Indicator 3.1.2 # of beneficiaries in community outreaches	0	500	1507	1507 community members have benefitted from the mobile health teams across the nine communities in six different regions, (M=601, F=906 and 154 returnees	
	Indicator 3.1.3 Outreach services (mentoring, coaching and counselling) for community change agents	0	200	500	Over 1,000 leaflets were distributed during training of community change agents and in the communities through 6 mobile health outreaches reaching more than 1,000	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	and youth workers in the area of mental health at the primary health care level.				participants. The materials were developed to reflect messages on MHPSS such as on depression, psychosocial support, substance abuse and stress, and have been used during training sessions and outreach activities	
	Indicator 3.1.4 Establishment of Migrant Peer groups	0	3	3	Three Migrant Peer Support Groups (MPSGs) established in three regions of high return, WCR, NBR and URR. Each group has a composition of 12 (36, 24 = male, 12= female). Groups have started meeting and have started to share ideas aimed at supporting each other's psychosocial reintegration and community resilience	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
					against stigma and discrimination	
	Indicator 3.1.5 Refurbishment of Tanka-Tanka hospital	0	% change in perceptions and views of health on support for the mental health of returnees	Project end line survey	Consultations with stakeholders and the facility management took place in March and April 2021, and work is proposed to commence in June.	
Output 3.2 Youth Centers enabled	Indicator 3.2.1 # of Youth Centers upgraded (facilities and services)	0	2	2	Youth Centres in Bundung (KMC) and Jarra Soma (LRR) have been refurbished and equipped and youth and women led activities are currently taking place at the centres.	
	Indicator 3.2.2 Financial and technical support to	0	1	Monitoring reports and site	ITC also supported the Kanifing Municipality Red Cross Branch to host	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	Youth Associations for outreach and reintegration activities			visit reports of youth associations	a youth summer camp of over 350 youth on the theme "Migration and Peace Building".	
	Indicator 3.2.3 Support to sports associations for integration of returnees through sports activities	0	5	3.	The project also supported the HOPE basketball Academy on their annual basketball clinic on "Migration and Peacebuilding). In partnership with UEFA Foundation for Children, ITC supported the hosting of the first stakeholder engagement on Sports For Peace and Development in The Gambia with over 150 participants. Through Kick 4 Trade, ten coaches participated in an	3 sports activities were implemented. Sporting activities could not be completed due to COVID restrictions on public gatherings and sporting events. The supported associations included Hope Basketball Academy, National Sports Council (Football Festival and Stakeholder Engagement for peace and development) and Kick for Trade Initiative in Kanifing Municipal Council and West Coast Region.

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
					intensive five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop which combines theoretical training about essential football-based life skills for employability and entrepreneurship using Life Skills Curriculum.	
Output 3.3 Community linkages are strengthened	Indicator 3.3.1 Organize dialogue forums for youths in communities and youth centres	0	2000	2780 (1,680 male and 1,100 female)	Activities on intergenerational dialogue sessions are being implemented as at the reporting date. Progress to be updated at the end of the 2 nd quarter.	
	Indicator 3.3.2 Organize townhall meetings (intergenerational dialogues)	0	12	10	Activities on dialogue sessions are being implemented as at the reporting date. Progress to be updated at the end of the 2 nd quarter	
	Indicator 3.3.3					

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	Community moonlight storytelling sessions with migrants to enhance community re-integration	0	35% of the number of returnees engaged in the sessions expressing satisfaction in community reintegration	Project activity reports, survey from participants	Update to be made by the end of 2 nd quarter upon completion of the activity	
	Indicator 3.3.4 Community reflection sessions with opinion leaders on migrant re-integration and support, awareness creation on social media	0	# of opinion leaders engaged (20)	Project activity reports and M/E reports.	No progress yet	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	Indicator 3.3.5 Training of Trainers for community youth returnee volunteer on COVID-19 prevention and response	80	40	120	No progress yet, activity to be implemented in the 3rd quarter	

Annex D - PBF project budget

Note: If this is a budget revision, insert extra columns to show budget changes.

Table 1 - PBF project budget by Outcome, output and activity

Outcomes/ Output number	Outcome/ output/ activity formulation:	Expenses by recipient organization (not including staff, general operating costs and indirect fee) IOM	Expenses by recipient organization (not including staff, general operating costs and indirect fee) - ITC	Expenses by recipient organization (not including staff, general operating costs and indirect fee) - UNFPA	Percent of budget for each output reserved for direct action on gender equality (if any):	Amount of Expenditure for direct action on gender equality	Any remarks (e.g. on types of inputs provided or budget justification, for example if high TA or
Output 1.1:	Enhanced understanding of irregular migration, return and reintegration and implications for peacebuilding	88,916.45		61,286.00	15%	22,530.37	change of funds used to supplement production of high quality PBF Advocacy
Activity 1.1.1:	Conduct research into linkages between migration, return and reintegration and peace (exploring the social capital)	81,404.39		61,286.00		-	
Activity 1.1.2:	Host research validation and dissemination workshop	4,045.06					
Activity 1.1.3	Mapping of Key flow Monitoring Points	3,467.00					
Activity 1.1.4	System development and strengthening of remote data collection						
Activity 1.1.5	Preparation of Regular Flow Monitoring Reports						
Output 1.2:	Communication on migration, return and reintegration is coordinated and accurate		44,300.99	15,000.00	15%	8,895.13	
Activity 1.2.1:	Development of a platform to coordinate and disseminate messages related to irregular migration		4,100.00			-	
Activity 1.2.2:	Awareness raising of civil society around Tekki Fit campaign ("Make it here")		11,223.08			-	
Activity 1.2.3:	Installation of Youth Help line (Toll free services)		9,600.00			-	
Activity 1.2.4:	Produce communication materials to promote youth inclusion			15,000.00		-	
Activity 1.2.5	Strengthen the capacity of the Communications Platform		9,000.00			-	
Activity 1.2.6	Stakeholder engagement on migration, return and reintegration		10,377.91			-	
TOTAL \$ FOR OUTCOME 1:		88,916.45	44,300.99	76,286.00		31,425.52	
OUTCOME 2:							
Output 2.1:	National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCOM) is established and operational	38,980.21					
Activity 2.1.1:	Organization of interagency meetings	24,660.09					
Activity 2.1.2:	Development of NCOM TORs/policy document	8,393.00					
Activity 2.1.3:	Endorsement of NCOM	5,927.12					
Output 2.2:	Economic empowerment of returnees is facilitated through establishment and operationalization of a coordinated referral mechanism		57,480.28		15%	8,622.04	
Activity 2.2.1:	Mapping of job placement opportunities		36,534.28			-	
Activity 2.2.2:	Capacity building to government partners		20,946.00			-	
Output 2.3:	MHPSS is integrated into primary health care services through development of guidelines and framework with specific focus on return and reintegration	62,092.47			15%	9,313.87	
Activity 2.3.1:	Development of training guidelines and regulatory framework	62,092.47				-	
Output 2.4:	National and local actors have enhanced capacity to deliver mental health services to returnees	55,256.99	168,923.48		15%	33,626.98	
Activity 2.4.1:	Development of curriculum on MHPSS	13,458.72				-	
Activity 2.4.2:	Capacity building to government partners	40,504.50				-	
Activity 2.2.3	Establishment of community based reintegration support	1,293.17	168,923.48			25,532.50	
TOTAL \$ FOR OUTCOME 2:		156,329.07	226,403.76			77,895.39	
OUTCOME 3:	Returnees enjoy enhanced access to psychosocial, political, social and economic reintegration services for increased community social cohesion						
Output 3.1:	Enhanced quality and reach of MHPSS services available through community outreach health teams amongst communities of high return	121,546.94			15%	18,232.49	

Activity 3.1.1:	Provision of direct financial and technical support to community-based health teams				27,179.30					
Activity 3.1.2	Design and incorporate mental health info for use in health facilities				40,756.16					
Activity 3.1.3	Outreach services of community agents				49,825.00					
Activity 3.1.4:	Establishment of Migrant Peer groups				1,492.48					
Activity 3.1.5	Refurbishment of Tanka-Tanka hospital				2,350.00					
Output 3.2:	Youth Centers provide comprehensive information, referral and counselling services to returnees					110,632.52			15%	16,594.88
Activity 3.2.1:	Refurbishment of two Youth Centres (GBA and WCR)					77,704.02				
Activity 3.2.2:	Financial and technical support to youth associations for outreach and reintegration activities					14,788.50				
Activity 3.2.3:	Support to sports associations for integration of returnees through sports activities					18,140.00				
Output 3.3:	Community linkages are strengthened facilitating social inclusion and reintegration of returnees						264,533.92		15%	39,680.09
Activity 3.3.1:	Organise a Dialogue forum/ service provision for youths at Community Youth centres						131,851.67			
Activity 3.3.2:	Organise town hall meetings between community leaders and youths including returnee migrants to foster social cohesion						58,153.00			
Activity 3.3.3:	Organise Community Youth Festivals to promote learning and experience sharing among youth						23,686.00			
Activity 3.3.4	Raise Awareness on youth inclusion through social media						1,505.00			
Activity 3.3.5	Community moonlight strengthening with migrants to enhance community re-integration						29,371.45			
Activity 3.3.6	Community reflection sessions with opinion leaders on migrant re-integration and support, awareness creation on social media						19,966.80			
Activity 3.3.7	TOT for youth/returnees on COVID-19 response and recovery									
TOTAL \$ FOR OUTCOME 3:					121,549.94	110,632.52	264,533.92			74,507.46
Project personnel costs if not included in activities above					157,285.00	32,123.76	22,136.00			
Project operational costs if not included in activities above					74,167.00		12,909.00			
Project M&E budget					32,058.00		14,501.00			
SUB-TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:					630,305	413,461	390,366			183,028.36
Overhead					44,121	28,942	27,326			
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:					674,427	442,403	417,692			
Total Expenses:					1,534,521.68					

Annex A. Visibility

Visibility links 2019-2020

1. Nationwide training on psychosocial first aid in the context of COVID-19
<https://www.facebook.com/IOMGambia/posts/724735914945694>
<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1267856483259211789>
<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1275016651054997505>
2. Training of frontline workers at quarantine- partnership with WHO and the Ministry of Health
<https://www.facebook.com/IOMGambia/posts/712657369486882>
<https://rodakar.iom.int/news/iom-supports-quarantine-centers-gambia-covid-19-rise?fbclid=IwAR0ar1bLgLVbnOZjPAHBu45RNGgtUzTbW6Knx0Rvc3wD8HTktDxPw3Tcf8>
<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1293171078135779329>
<https://twitter.com/IOMROWCA/status/1294906745253498881>
<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1294607009615159296>
3. Support to Ministry of Health on COVID-19 preparedness
<https://www.facebook.com/IOMGambia/posts/693860074699945>
<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1268527461312143363>
<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/126237772099481602>
<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1259514927833845767>
4. Livelihood, Psychosocial Support as Shipwreck Survivors Contribute to COVID-19 Response in The Gambia
<https://www.iom.int/news/livelihood-psychosocial-support-shipwreck-survivors-contribute-covid-19-response-gambia?fbclid=IwAR3Ynaa7cwOrR3Z27UeajwIF0UxZkTrn5dt9KcJYn2eQ6ezArGuoeu7d6ZA>
<https://twitter.com/UNmigration/status/1297590696292093952>
<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1287336139117015040>
5. Engaging border Communities in the Upper River Region to develop community action plans

<https://www.facebook.com/IOMGambia/photos/a.229392034480087749286065824012/>

6. In partnership with the Ministry of Health: Tour of over 60 border communities in West Coast Region- engaging community members on appropriate hygiene, distancing, and anti-discrimination measures.

<https://www.facebook.com/IOMGambia/photos/pcb.728991891186763728989597853659/>

<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1287697104475914241>

<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1277541649216831488>

<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1272486422348431360>

<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1263797073331224579>

<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1254816322308968449>

7. Two-day review meetings for the National Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Framework and Curricula for Returnees in The Gambia

<https://www.facebook.com/nycgambia/photos/pcb.27412986294325912741298342765953/>

<https://twitter.com/GambiaNYC/status/1253317804050112516>

8. Radio show in partnership with Ministry of Health to combat stigma and discrimination of COVID-19

<https://www.facebook.com/IOMGambia/photos/a.228883077864316/678273899591896/>

<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1249675540166053890>

9. Handover of hygiene materials to the Governor's Office in Upper River Region

<https://www.facebook.com/IOMGambia/photos/pcb.674255153327104/67425282327337/>

<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1247239832402907136>

<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1247643361663684610>

10. Donation of personal hygiene kits to Ministry of Health to promote healthy and cohesive communities

<https://www.facebook.com/IOMGambia/photos/pcb.673449173407702/673447956741157/>

11. Partnership on the Student's Week of the University of The Gambia Students' Union- Dialogue on fostering social cohesion with returnees

<https://www.facebook.com/IOMGambia/photos/pcb.632276110809842/6322759644143322>

<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1226545596506497031>

12. Working to end discrimination against returnees

https://gambia.unfpa.org/en/news/community-shared-learning-strategy-ending-discrimination-against-returnee-migrants-and?fbclid=IwAR0sm3h998r8tDSgPLK-72v8uWq5xdYiF0VQncN35as-xya1Gb2_tWLMXLQ

13. Training of nurses, public health officials and civil society actors on providing psychosocial support to returnees in Central River and North Bank Region

<https://www.facebook.com/IOMGambia/photos/pcb.580507709368516/580505706035383/>

14. Official launch of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration

<https://www.facebook.com/IOMGambia/photos/pcb.560834108002543/560824638003490/>

<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1192030507539795968>

<https://twitter.com/IOMGambia/status/1296831332140687360>

https://twitter.com/ITC_Gambia/status/1221120387574108160

15. Launch of the toll free line twitter post – Nov. 27, 2020 : https://twitter.com/ITC_Gambia/status/1332417944899489798

Visibility links in 2021

The NCM high Level Meeting convened by the Office of the Vice President

IOM The Gambia on Twitter: "Today, @VicePresi_GMD convened a high-level meeting of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) to review progress and develop a 2021 workplan. Launched in 2019, the NCM is an inter-agency platform for all #migration actors, aimed at coherence and coordination. <https://t.co/HuTNWJFavy>" / Twitter

The return of mobile health outreach with Kuntaur , Wassu and Medina benefiting communities in Central River Region. Facebook

IOM The Gambia on Twitter: "Since 2019, our mobile health clinic has been touring communities of high return migration—ensuring no #migrant is left behind. Last weekend, we were in Kuntaur, Central River Region, promoting continuity of essential health services and psychosocial support amidst COVID-19. <https://t.co/irKVG1LodZ>" / Twitter

Second Outreach Clinic in Bwiam (West Coast Region)

IOM The Gambia - Posts | Facebook

IOM The Gambia on Twitter: "Our mobile health clinic with @MohGambia made a stop in Bwiam and Kanfenda. West Coast Region. Promoting mental & physical wellbeing among returnees, families and communities of high return #migration is one of our key @UNPeacebuilding initiatives. <https://t.co/WHpK9zPxje>" / Twitter

Launching of the 7th out of the 8 TWG under the National Coordination Mechanism for Migration

IOM The Gambia on Twitter: "Under @VicePresi_GMD's leadership, @MoWcsw and @Gambia_MOJ have launched the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM)'s Thematic Working Group on Cross-Cutting Issues. The TWG will focus on efforts to protect vulnerable #migrants and combat human trafficking. <https://t.co/1oAp0WYj56>" / Twitter

Fifa Tournament and photography workshop at Bundung Youth Center – Feb. 25, 2021:
https://twitter.com/ITC_Gambia/status/1365352118656380930
https://twitter.com/ITC_Gambia/status/1364991853452546053

Kick 4 Trade TOT twitter post – March 22, 2021: https://twitter.com/ITC_Gambia/status/1373940793011011584

Coach receives football materials twitter post – April 6, 2021:
https://twitter.com/ITC_Gambia/status/1379429277792264201
[eye.maillink.intracem.org/m2?r=wAPNAha4NWE3MDNINDdiODViNTM2YTIImNGJmNjA4xBaA0NoFKOzQ3EQ-0KPQhAxy0NxTOIHQhcQQ8AorA9C3HU_QttC30LMQfmA4NtCsXlnYWIAaW50cmFjZW4ub3JnoJqrQ0IWSUxJVfHSUSgkNPTIRBQIRfSUS2OEFvckE3Y2RUN2Ezc3hCLVIEZzJvQbNFTUFJTF9DTIJSRUNUSU9OX0IEoKxGSVJTVE5BTUVfSUSgkZoaXZkd2pIU095cIBBRjRQLW3a1Ggc0xBUIROQU1FX0IEoLFPUKIHSU5fQ0FOVEIPTI9IRL9BTEwtSVRDIChhdXRvbwWF0aWNhbGx5IHVwZGF0ZWQprk9S](https://twitter.com/ITC_Gambia/status/1379429277792264201)
[SUDJT19LSU5EX0IEpExJU1SzUEhPTkVfQ09SUKVDVEIPTI9JRKCoUIRBVEVfSUSmTk9STUFM](https://twitter.com/ITC_Gambia/status/1373931700619771907)

Human Interest Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVCjX2jXtT0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qefBFpBdOQ4>

Shared learning session

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYeyK0de9M&t=320s>

Annex B: Implementation Progress of Specific Outputs

National Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group Implementation Progress

No.	Working Group	Date of Meetings	Attendees	Agenda	Outcome/Action Points	Corresponding GCM objectives ¹
1.	<p>Border Management</p> <p><i>Lead: Gambia Immigration Department (GID)</i></p> <p><i>Members:</i> <i>DLEA, DSW, GCR, GID, GPF, GRA, MoFA, MoH, MOI, MOICI, MoLG, MOTIE, NAATIP, NYC, OVP, SIS</i></p>	<p>07 July 2020</p> <p>04 November 2020</p>	<p>GBoS, GID, GRA, IOM, MoFA, MoH, MOI, MOICI, MoLRG/RA, OVP, GCR</p> <p>GBoS, GID, GPF, GRA, IOM, MoFA, MoH, MOI, MOICI, MoLRG/RA, MOTIE, OVP</p>	<p>Launching of TWG Development and Review of ToR</p> <p>Review of MGI Assessment Report</p>	<p>TWG not limited to only immigration issues but other Trade border activities.</p> <p>Policy & Legislative areas identified during MGI² review. - OVP to allocate responsibilities to each Ministry or Department identified to address key policy gaps. - Strengthen inter-agency border coordination at</p>	<p>GCM 4: Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.</p> <p>GCM 9: Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants.</p> <p>GCM 10: Prevent, combat, and eradicate trafficking in persons in the</p>

¹ GCM- Global Compact on Migration; <https://www.iom.int/global-compact-migration>

² MGI- Migration Governance Indicators; Migration Governance Indicators (MGI). The main purpose of the MGI is to help governments, upon request, take stock of the migration policies and strategies they have in place, to identify good practices as well as areas with potential for further development

2.	Communication and Advocacy <i>Lead: Ministry of Information and Communication</i> <i>Members:</i> Department of Information Services, GID, MOFA, MOI, MOTIE, NYC, OVP				Points of Entry (PoE) - Workplan developed for Dec. 2020- Dec 2021	context of international migration. GCM 11: Manage borders in an integrated, secure, and coordinated manner.
		05 March 2020		Launching of TWG		GCM 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration.
		12 March 2020		Development of strategy and workplan	Commenced development.	GCM 17: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and
		25 September 2020		Validation of migration communications strategy	Strategy validated.	promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
		21 January 2021		Planning of migration media talks	Developed schedule for media talks.	

		4 February 2021	DIS, GID, NYC, MOFA, MOICI, MOTIE	Training on migration terms and concepts; discuss key messages for media talks.	MOICI to organize next TWG meeting to finalize key messages.	
3.	Cross-cutting issues <i>Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare</i> <i>Ministry of Justice</i>	15 April 2021	DSW, GAMCOTRAP, GID, GPF, MoGCSW, NAAATIP, SiS, OVP	Launching of TWG	TOR to be finalized	GCM 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin GCM 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin GCM 10: Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of

4.	Internal Migration <i>Ministry of Lands and Local Government</i>				<p>international migration</p> <p>GCM 15: Provide access to basic services for migrants</p> <p>GCM 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration</p>	<p>GCM 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies</p>
To be operationalized.						

<p>5.</p> <p>Labor Migration</p> <p><i>Lead: Ministry of Trade, Integration and Employment</i></p> <p><i>Members: DoL, Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, GBoS, GID, MoFA, MOHERST, MOICI MoYS, NAATIP, National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Authority, National Enterprise Development Initiative</i></p> <p><i>NYC, NYSS, OP,</i></p>	<p>06 March 2020</p>	<p>AGM, DoL, GBoS, GID, IOM, MOICI, MOTIE, NAQAA, NEDI, NYC, NYSS, OP-DSPD, PIA</p>	<p>Launching of TWG Review of ToR Discussion on Labour Migration Policy</p>	<p>Stakeholder consultation on NMP -Change of nomenclature from Labour Migration Policy to a Labour Migration Strategy</p> <p>-Discussions on the Labour Migration Strategy. - Update the Labour Force Survey -Finalize and publish the draft National Migration Policy.</p>	<p>GCM 15: Provide access to basic services for migrants</p> <p>GCM 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.</p> <p>GCM 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.</p> <p>GCM 15: Provide access to basic services for migrants.</p>
	<p>03 November 2020</p>	<p>DoL, Gambia Trade Bureau GBoS, GID, IOM, MoFA, MOICI, MOTIE NAATIP, NAQAA, NYC, NYSS</p>	<p>Review of MGI Assessment Report</p>		

6.	<p><i>OVP, Presidents International Award, Trade Unions</i></p> <p>Migration and Development</p> <p><i>Lead: Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i></p> <p><i>Members: Central Bank of The Gambia, GBoS, GID, GIEPA, MOTIE</i></p>	<p>10 July 2020</p> <p>10 November 2020</p>	<p>CBG, GBoS, GIEPA, GID, IOM, MoFA, OVP</p> <p>GBoS, IOM, MoFA, MOTIE, OVP</p>	<p>Launching of TWG</p> <p>Review of MGI Assessment Report</p>	<p>MoFA working on agreements with Swiss, Austria, Sweden, Germany, and Russia on bilateral migration consultation.</p> <p>- Review of the 2018 National Diaspora Strategy.</p>	<p>GCM 14: Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle.</p> <p>GCM 19: Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.</p> <p>GCM 20: Promote faster, safer, and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial</p>
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						<p>inclusion of migrants.</p> <p>GCM 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly, and regular migration.</p>
7.	<p>Migration Data, Policy and Legislation</p> <p><i>Lead: Gambian Bureau of Statistics</i></p> <p><i>Members: Central Bank of The Gambia, DoL, Gambia Commission for Refugees, GID, MoI, MOTIE, NAAATIP</i></p>	16 July 2020	CBG, DoL, GBOS, GCR, GID, IOM, MOI, MOTIE, NAAATIP	<p>Launching of TWG Presentation on Harmonized ECOWAS Data tools</p> <p>Review of MGI Assessment Report</p>		<p>GCM 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.</p> <p>GCM 15: Provide access to basic services for migrants.</p>

8.	<p>Return and Reintegration</p> <p><i>Lead: Ministry of Interior</i></p> <p><i>Members: DCD, DoL, Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, GID, GIEPA, GRCS, MoA, MoFA, MoH, MOHESRT, MoLRGA, MOTIE, MoWCSW, MoYS, NYC, TANGO</i></p>	21 July 2020	DCD, DoL, GCCI, GID, GIEPA, GRCS, IOM, MoA, MoFA, MoH, MOHERST, MOI, MoLRG, MOTIE, MoWCSW, MoYS NYC, TANGO,	<p>Launching of TWG</p> <p>Development of ToR</p> <p>Discussion of the Migration Governance Indicators relating to Return & Reintegration.</p>	<p>Better understanding of Return & Reintegration issues on a national level.</p> <p>To rename TWG from Irregular Migration to Return and</p>	<p>GCM 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.</p> <p>GCM 4: Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.</p> <p>GCM 8: Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants.</p> <p>GCM 15: Provide access to basic services for migrants.</p> <p>GCM 17: Eliminate all</p>
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						forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based discourse to shape perceptions of migration.
						GCM 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Identified Community Based Reintegration Activities

Community	Community Based Reintegration Initiatives	Region
Kuloro	Fish Mill	West Coast Region
Jahally	Fish Mill	Central River Region
Barra 1	Animal Husbandry	North Bank Region
Barra 2	Poultry Farming	North Bank Region
Essau	Sheep Fattening	North Bank Region

Medina Serign Mass	Bakery	North Bank Region
Mayamba	Animal Husbandry	North Bank Region
Pakalinding	Poultry	Lower River Region
Banjul	Tuk Tuk Motorcycle	Greater Banjul Area
Brikama Gidida	Community Bakery	West Coast Region
Tinkijo	Bakery	Upper River Region
Kaur	Banana Plantation	Central River Region
Bakau	Youth Centre	Kanifing Municipality



Observations and suggestions on the Strengthening Sustainable and Holistic Reintegration of Returnees in The Gambia Project

(mostly from Government partners DSPD/OP)

1. Community-based psychosocial services which support community members and returnees with medical and psychosocial support through deployment of mobile health teams across the regions. We observe that these services are conducted in temporary facilities, therefore we suggest that for sustainability purposes, these services should be conducted in existing government health facilities.

Feedback: The Outreaches are mostly conducted in consistent coordination and partnership with the Ministry of Health through the Regional Health Directorates/Teams (RHD/RHTs). The RHT make consultations, identify sites, and assist in mobilizing community members. Although, the National Youth Council (NYC) through the Migration Information Centres (MICs) and the community leaders also mobilize community members and returnees for the activities. Nonetheless, this recommendation will be communicated to the regional health teams for future coordination. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the project team has to ensure that all protocols are observed, hence either a bigger venue is needed or a place which is more accessible to identified beneficiaries.

2. The Established Migrant Peer Support Groups in WCR, URR and NBR, which serve as platform for returnees to provide peer to peer support, requires support with capacity building and funds to fund their initiatives.

Feedback: activities are in place for them in line with the Terms of Reference (ToR) designed for them and the project's objectives. As part of the activities earmarked for them, they will undergo training on Psychological First Aid (PFA), communication and problem-solving skills before other activities are rolled out sequentially. Those in need



of further support will be referred to other projects and services for more support, based on their tailored needs.

More visibility is needed, in addition to meetings and workshops, by scaling up TV and Radio engagements and using returnees to lead such processes. There is need to increase visibility materials such as billboards in strategic locations and posters.

Feedback: that is already catered for under the Migrant as Messenger's (MaM) project and some returnees are actively involved in that. We will work with the recommendations, and advocate for more synergies with other projects.

3. The toll-free line (1216) was launched as a one stop shop for Youths, especially returnees for information on employment opportunities and other support services.

The lines used currently are Gamcel and Qcell, while the latter's network is better, most of the calls received are through that line, while the former's network is poor and therefore receives far lesser calls. The operator collates monthly reports on calls received and the data is disaggregated by age, gender and information shared – this was already reflected in the report

Large numbers of calls received were in the first 3 months, now this has dropped significantly with fewer calls. The operator attributed this to low sensitization on the existence of the toll-free line.

Also highlighted was the mismatch between requirement of the jobs advertised and the profile of those calling for information on job openings, most of whom are school dropout.



Challenges highlighted include operator unable to return calls to follow-up with returnees or those seeking for information on jobs, lack of capacity as first contact to provide basic counselling services to returnees which impacts her work, absence of feedback loop on whether returnees or those provided with the information on job opening eventually got the jobs.

Part of the recommendation is to strengthen the inter-agency psychosocial support; referrals systems need to be adequately addressed and to ensure they have the capacity and means to respond immediately on referred cases.

4. Refurbishment of Youth Centers

Bandung and Jarra Soma Youth Centers has been refurbished. However, the IT and Photography equipment was only operationalized in Bundung youth Centre, while Soma is yet be installed with the above equipment to make the Centre operational.

To sustain the enhanced infrastructure at Bundung Youth Centre, it was recommended for the Centre to be supported to set-up a management team to oversee the affairs of the Centre and also create income generating activities to sustain the Centre.

5. Some of the activities planned for next six (6) months, such as community health outreaches, , townhall dialogue sessions involving community leaders, youths, and returnees, moonlight storytelling sessions, community reflection sessions with opinion leaders, can some of these activities be shared publicly with voice overs or altered voices on TV/Radio (if the identity of the returnees needs to be protected) to create more visibility and raise awareness on irregular migration.



Feedback: Yes, some of the pictures are shared on our Twitter and Facebook handle (IOM The Gambia). Nonetheless, we have the duty of care and to ensure ethical standards/confidentiality for our beneficiaries, therefore, sensitive information, especially medical and psychosocial information may only be available based on request and based on the client's approval; and may not be for public knowledge. Otherwise, other components of our interventions are online.

6. Stigmatization is still prevalent in some communities in CRR, therefore there is need to scale awareness raising, to address these issues. There is also the need for the project to do more awareness raising and counseling services across regions and communities, to discourage irregular migration.
7. Some returnees complained of not being given a voice in the community due to their economic status, while some returnees are yet to receive support from Government or development partners to help them resettle and reintegrate. Activities in the project needs to be extended to address these underlying issues affecting returnees.

Feedback: Those concerned are mostly identified and referred to the projects they qualify for support under. This is the practice and will be improved on.

8. MPSG in WCR have planned activities, which include community engagement, awareness raising in schools, Radio/TV program, Youth dialogue and storytelling but waiting to hear from IOM, to implement those activities that were initiated by the returnees through their peer support group.

Feedback: Most of the activities were suggested by the returnees and they will be supported to conduct activities in line with the project objectives and the Terms of Reference. Some of the engagements are currently ongoing under other IOM projects - with a huge involvement of returnees in awareness raising activities.



9. As a sustainability measure, there is need for agencies under this project to work closer and integrate their interventions with existing Government structures such as health facilities in the regions, especially the mobile clinics, rather than conducting them in rented places or open spaces.

Feedback: most of the outreaches are done in government's community Health Posts (HP) or designated locations, through consultations with the RHTs. The location used for the last outreach in Barra is the office of the National Youth Council under the Ministry of Youths and Sports.

Mid-Term Monitoring & Evaluation PBF Project Report

Strengthening Sustainable and Holistic Reintegration of Returnees in The Gambia

Project duration:	December 17, 2018 – December 16, 2021
Project title:	Strengthening Sustainable and Holistic Reintegration of Returnees in The Gambia
Reporting period:	November 2020 to March 2021
Implementing UN agencies:	IOM (lead agency), ITC, UNFPA and WHO

Executive Summary

The current round of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is part of the end of project (Phase 1) activities to report on current status of outcomes, achievements, and identification of areas which need further attention. It is to present an overall summary analysis of results accomplished and to measure the extent of impacts on beneficiaries, in particular returnees, in the country. The report is results-oriented, focusing more on the impact of the interventions and extended to spell out the linkages to the peacebuilding context. The overall objective of the project is to “facilitate sustainable reintegration of returnees in order to promote increased social cohesion, youth engagement, job creation as well as community stabilization and development, thus contributing to peacebuilding.” Altogether, the project is designed on three outcomes which describe the anticipated changes resulting from implementing the activities under each respective outcome.

The methodology involves administering questionnaires, focus group discussion, interviews and project site visits to observe what has been achieved; meeting directly with beneficiaries to know the impacts and challenges; meeting with local partners and implementing partners to have sufficient and more accurate information.

The success of this round of monitoring and evaluation was mixed. For outcome 1, all activities were successfully achieved. Outcome 2 has 7 out of 8 activities successfully completed whilst for the outcome 3, 6 of the 10 activities were achieved. The reasons that some activities were not achieved were, a) the global corona virus pandemic (COVID-19) has disrupted most of the project activities, observing preventive measures, resulting to reprogramming of some activities, and b) funding for other activities were used to support the government’s response to fight COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite these drawbacks, there are a number of major positive output achievements, the key amongst them being:

- a) The online communication platform is already established and operational, facilitating coordination and dissemination of messages and communication channels related to irregular migration.
- b) Youth Help Line was installed and operational registering 215 calls in the first month of launching the line.
- c) Overall, 32 public and private institutions were reached and engaged in the job placement referral system for returnees and youth, exceeding more than double the initial target. Out of 152 participants, a total of 56 returnees were employed of which 31.2% was female returnees as a result of the job placement system.
- d) A total of 725 community mental health nurses, social workers and volunteers including 352 females were trained on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Infection Prevention Control (IPC) to provide mental health services and support the fight against COVID-19 disease.

- e) Far exceeding the target of 500, an overall 1,175 community members have benefitted from the mobile health services in 6 communities across 5 regions, including 725 female and 132 returnees.
- f) The deployment of health teams to various regions ensured the training of 152 (85 female) community change agents on MHPSS to enhance standard and ethical quality service delivery.
- g) 24 media events were successfully conducted on awareness raising of civil society around Tekki Fii (“Make it here”) campaign. This has surpassed the target of 20 and there are 5 more media outreach activities finalised with QTV and Gambia Radio and Television Services (these two have nationwide coverage).
- h) 51,940 Twitter and 136,237 Facebook impressions were received on posts and articles on youth inclusion and returnee reintegration. The youth were educated and engaged on youth inclusion, reintegration and peacebuilding through social media. The social media target was 50,000 impressions.

The report was based on the information provided by the project focal persons at local partner institutions, beneficiaries at project sites and staff at implementing UN agencies. Therefore, the authenticity, coherence and validity of the results of the assessment is ascertained and verifiable. Recommendations were proposed by beneficiaries, implementing partners, stakeholders and the M&E team. Despite the project still being implemented under observance of COVID-19 restrictions and protocols, it is recommended to find new approaches to assure continuity and efficiency of remaining activities that have been reprogrammed under Phase 2, as well as additional new activities. It is important to pay attention to potential risks that can interfere with project success and implement the mitigation strategies. It is also recommended to refer to past learned lessons, challenges and risks encountered and evaluate what has been done. This will inform new strategies to overcome similar challenges in the implementation of Phase 2.

Introduction

This monitoring and evaluation report was prepared to provide most recent data and information on the implementation of Phase 1 of the project in the country. Concretely, as defined in the logframe, this report focuses on results being achieved compared with the expected results and linked the overall findings to peacebuilding context. In partnership with the Government of The Gambia, particularly Office of the Vice President (OVP), Ministry of Interior (MoI), Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Trade, Industry and Employment (MoTIE) as main stakeholders in migration governance, the Implementing UN Agencies relied on working in cooperation with the wide range of national local partners with organizational capacity to implement various activities and ensuring project objectives are measurably achieved. This strategic alliance with government institutions also ensured good practices and techniques were followed and that national ownership on migration governance in the country is enhanced.

Overall, the project has 3 outcome areas, 9 outputs and 24 activities centred around services to returnees and their communities, capacity building for government stakeholders at national and local level as well as promoting dialogue and awareness-raising in communities of origin. The three outcomes were:

- Outcome 1 - Gambian society has a balanced and positive perception of return migration.
- Outcome 2 - The Government of The Gambia demonstrates strengthened capacity to facilitate sustainable reintegration contributing to enhancing social cohesion and inclusion.
- Outcome 3 - Returnees enjoy enhanced access to psychological, political, social and economic reintegration services.

Additionally, the report is expected to inform project implementing partners and management updates on outputs achieved and allow review of what has been conducted so far as compared to the set plans. This allows the management to be action-focused and use the findings as evidence to spell out what needs to be done in the next extension period. Subsequently, the remaining part of the report presents brief methodology used for data collection, findings, impact, and links to peacebuilding (Annex 2), conclusion and recommendations.

Given that few activities are still to be carried out to meet specific needs and priorities, the transitioning to Phase 2 of the project cycle will call for strengthening program design and operations, adapting and scaling up and intensify efforts to achieve greater impact for more successful reintegration of returnees.

Methodology

Given that the implementing partners were working in partnership with local national partners, the methodology involves data collection from a range of both internal and external sources. The analysis takes into account, the nature of data (qualitative or quantitative) and thus, the following methodologies were employed:

- **Collection of primary data:** different sources reached and then analysed which include:
 - a) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with project beneficiaries,
 - a) Interviews using different questionnaires designed for each target group with beneficiaries, stakeholders, and implementing partners, field visits/observations of project sites,
 - b) Minutes of meetings with project implementing partners.
 - c) Random probability sample survey of 100 returnees to measure six outcome indicators. As a benchmark, these indicators are critical in measuring or tracking progress, reflect change or assess performance. The study was conducted in a period of one month.
- **Desk reviews:** available secondary information and documents are synthesised and utilised. They include:
 - d) Project documents such as proposal, progress report, and correspondences among related stakeholders,
 - e) Reviewing outputs of the project including previous field trip reports, relevant comments and minutes of meetings and validation seminars,
 - f) Internal records to track project activities, processes and output indicators.

Prior to M&E visits, preparation and finalization of assessment tools (including questionnaires, discussion guides for FGDs and interviews, minutes) were thoroughly carried out to ensure validity and good practices were followed. Strict adherence to ethical principles, including informed consent, confidentiality and anonymity were observed.

Findings

In total, nine (9) deliverables resulting from project activities centred around services to returnees and their communities, capacity building for government stakeholders at national and local level as well as promoting dialogue and awareness-raising in communities of origin were:

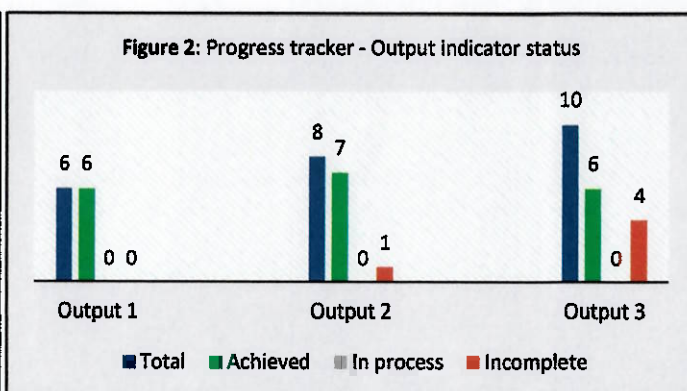
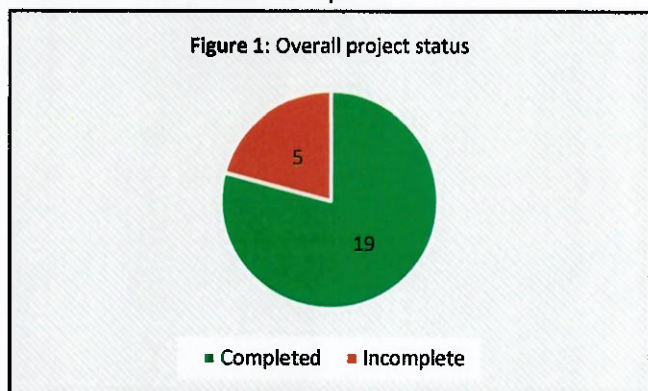
- a) **Output 1.1** – Enhanced understanding of irregular migration, return and reintegration and implications for peacebuilding
- b) **Output 1.2** – Communication on migration, return and reintegration is coordinated by the government (OVP)
- c) **Output 2.1** – National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCMM) is established and operational and returnees are successfully referred to different services to assist in their positive reintegration
- d) **Output 2.2** – Economic empowerment of returnees is facilitated by the establishment and operationalization of a coordinated referral mechanism
- e) **Output 2.3** – MHPSS is integrated into primary health care services through development of guidelines and framework with specific focus on return and reintegration
- f) **Output 2.4** – National and local actors have enhanced capacity to deliver mental health services to returnees
- g) **Output 3.1** – Enhanced quality and reach of MHPSS services available through community outreach health teams amongst communities of high return

- h) **Output 3.2** – Youth centers enabled to provide comprehensive information, referral and counselling services to returnees
- i) **Output 3.3** – Community linkages are strengthened facilitating social inclusion and reintegration of returnees

The M&E team, assisted by International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and International Trade Centre (ITC) staffs, conducted project site visits, observations and FGD in all regions of the country. One of the project field visits was conducted in attendance with one staff from Office of the Vice President and another from the Ministry of Interior to promote transparency. Other primary data collection and analysis, as well as desk study were carried out.

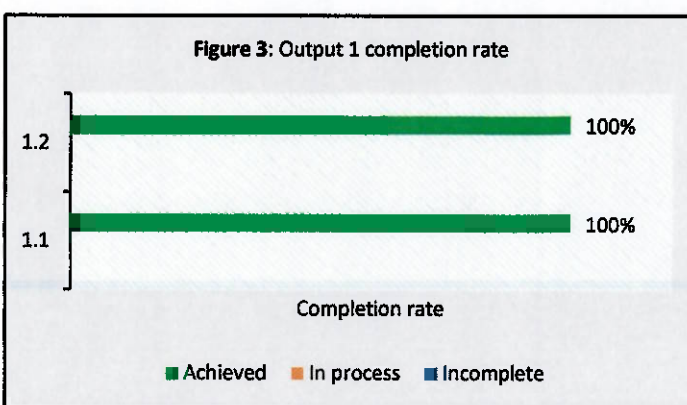
Output Level Analysis

A total of 24 activities were set to be accomplished in a 24-month period and all were in line to be completed by then. However, COVID-19 had a tremendous impact which affected the timely completion of 5 activities. This is because part of the funds was redirected to support the government in the fight against the virus and health and safety measures were in place making it impossible to pursue the activities (Figure 1). Figure 2 presents key target accomplishment summary for each of the three outcomes. Overall, all the 6 activities of outcome 1 were successfully achieved. For outcome 2, the findings indicated that only 1 of the 8 activities was not adequately delivered. Also observed is that 40% of the activities under outcome 3 could not be completed.



Outcome 1

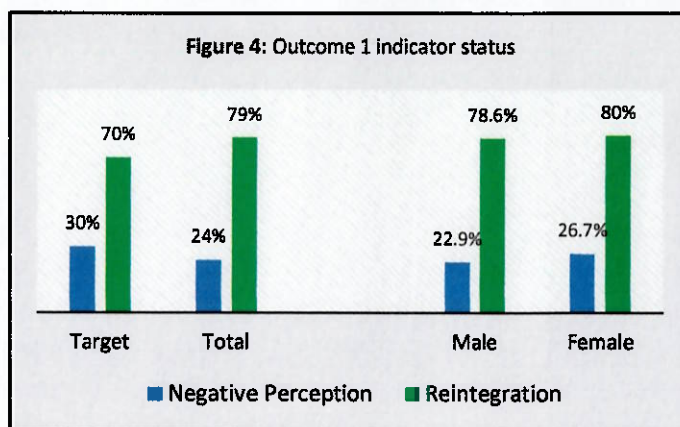
Overall, all activities under this outcome have been completed (Figure 3) and showed that perception of society on return migration has changed to a more positive one. As a milestone, the specific, planned level of change under this outcome for all the outputs were successfully achieved. The sharing of information on migration related issues through sensitization campaign, awareness raising, youth help line and communication materials have positively impacted the beneficiaries given that returnees are now more positively perceived by their communities and societies. People were more sensitised, educated and their tolerance level was enhanced and raised. Communities and youth were mobilised, sensitised and bring support to the returnees and vulnerable ones. This has facilitated successful reintegration of returnees and ensured social cohesion in the communities. However, despite the success achieved, challenges were seen for some



However, despite the success achieved, challenges were seen for some

returnees that still have difficulties reintegrating due to lack of opportunities in the country. They have informed that they still suffer from stigma and discrimination which negatively affected their reintegration into the society.

The pursuit of this work is required for the community and the youth to continue changing their perception and approaches towards returnees allowing them to feel understood, safe and inclusive in their communities for stronger reintegration. The findings from the survey show, through proxy, 24% of returnees reported experiencing negative perception from community members. By gender, the proportions were 22.9% and 26.7% for males and females respectively. The findings also show that 79.0% of returnees reported being reintegrated in the communities. By gender, 78.6% of males and 80.0% of females reported being reintegrated (Figure 4).



Output 1.1

Under this output, UNFPA and IOM have commissioned a research to establish linkages between migration, return and reintegration and peacebuilding. This study was completed by the consultants with some challenges encountered as little information were at the time available on returnees' status. Many gaps in current governmental policy frameworks are existent as well as the understanding over the political and socio-economic situation of the returnees. However, this research was able to highlight the social dynamics, profiling migrants and the economics engagements, factors and consequences faced by migrants. It equally highlighted the elements of reintegration both in the context of economic and psychosocial aspects to link it to peacebuilding measures. It has also helped to better understand the linkage between migration, return and reintegration and peacebuilding especially how successfully reintegration influence social cohesion and peace at community level. The research equally outlined the existing gaps in ensuring returns are reintegrated through sustainable means to avert potential tensions and conflicts at the community level which is believed to cause social conflict. On this note, the research will be shared with relevant stakeholders in the field of migration governance, youth development and academicians to help in policy planning and programming to enhance holistic and sustainable reintegration for return migrants.

The report was reviewed at a validation workshop in which all key stakeholders in the migration governance were invited. As a result, 13 institutions were engaged and informed of the results. These include National Youth Council, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Health, Gambia Bureau of Statistics, West African Network for Peacebuilding, National Youth Service Scheme, Gambia Police Force, PBF Secretariat, Activista The Gambia, National Population Commission, and Gambia Immigration Department. The recommendations to enhance linkages between returnees, return/reintegration and peacebuilding in the report as reviewed by stakeholders were on finalization and expected to be disseminated to all stakeholders by the end of first quarter 2021. Among others, one of the key challenges the consultants highlighted was that they were not able to get administrative data on returnees from The Gambia Immigration Department despite a series of official requests.

Output 1.2

The activity has successfully reached its target with the establishment and operationalization of an online platform and the development and validation of a communication strategy which will serve in facilitating communication on migration, return and reintegration chaired by the Office of the Vice President (OVP). The platform also aims at performing sensitization and awareness raising on migration as well as communication on government efforts on migration and the overall NCM activities. So far, the findings show that the platform has impacted the lives of returnees, educated and informed young

people and youth about the risks of irregular migration. Also, a media engagement is developed and it is anticipated that this will help young people to make informed decisions, provide them alternative opportunities to stay in the country and better live their lives. However, it was reported that due to the election year, the program has been put on hold to prioritize the political messages. At this time, messages on migration is more narrowed to political narrative which prevents the communities from benefiting fully. Therefore, the Ministry of Information, Communications and Infrastructure (MOICI), in charge to supervise and lead on this online platform has expressed the need to continue reaching the communities directly to assure continuity of the impact of this program. In order to do so, MOICI informed that material resources is required for tools such as production material, mobility and all associated cost for production. It was added that reaching communities directly allows them to ask any questions they may have and getting an answer to it.

The awareness raising “Tekki Fii” (Building a Future: Make it in The Gambia) activity has reached its target of 20 media events and is now progressing to meet a final target number of 29 media events for Phase 1 of this project. The Tekki Fii campaign is critical and has promoted attractive employment and income opportunities for returnees to venture into positive alternative sources of good livelihoods. It has positively ensured that returnees and young people are not excluded and marginalised but empowered and encouraged knowledge acquisition, engage their societies and become agents of positive changes in the country. The Tekki Fii awareness campaign has also helped to inform communities on mechanisms to strengthen contingency plans for incoming irregular migrants. This is critical to ensure that returnees have sustainable positive experience in the country upon arrival and engage in skills development to accelerate their reintegration. As a result, 24 radio panels for 6 months were conducted at City Limits radio and 5 more media outreach activities are being finalised with QTV and Gambia Radio & Television Services. Messages are to be shared nationwide through media communication means such as radio station, prints, press release, social media adverts and more. Other communication platforms are to be used to target specific groups of people for sensitization, behavioural and attitudinal change. These means are proposed by the Communication Strategy and covers community dramas, community film shows, traditional communicators and other meso-level communicators, such as NGOs, opinion leaders, and more.

Also, the project has supported the recent establishment and operationalization of Youth Toll Help Line in communicating migration, return and reintegration in the country. Coordinated by the Office of the Vice President (OVP), the platform serves as one-stop shop information centre or directory for all youth services and opportunities in the country. The messages, ideas and advice disseminated through the Toll Help Line has positively impacted lives of returnees and young people through contributing in reducing youth unemployment, irregular migration and bridged the barriers of access to information on irregular migration. Precisely, after the launching, the Toll Help Line registered 215 calls in less than a month with young people discussing and sharing knowledge on issues affecting their lives and irregular migration. In addition to low network coverage and limited electricity supply for continuous operation, other challenges include callers requesting for immediate employment by service providers. Also, the findings indicated that returnees whose returns were not facilitated by IOM find it very difficult to access funding to start their initiatives. Other callers also preferred formal to informal works. Among others, it is recommended to erect billboards at strategic locations and expand the service to all the Global System for Mobile (GSM) communication companies to increase awareness campaign.

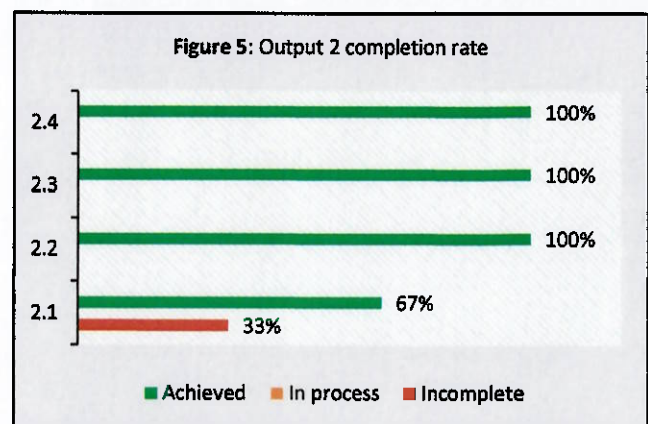
Overall, the production of communication materials designed to promote youth inclusion in all levels was critical in strengthening peaceful coexistence in the communities. The materials, which were of quality, were important and effective tools used by the project to communicate or disseminate information on youth inclusion. The target was achieved, in total, 5 types of communication materials were produced and disseminated. These include 2,000 T-shirts tag with peace messages, 1,500 bag packs, 1,500 headphones, 500 high-visibility vests, and 300 branded pen drives. The distribution of communication materials has enhanced the youth inclusion and engagement in meaningful activities to have sustainable peace and good livelihoods. The messages communicated reinforced and positioned the youth as agents of change and not only as receivers of support or assistance all the time. It boost their morale and confidence to engage in good initiatives

rather than involving in activities detrimental to their lives and society. The bringing together of youth has also strengthened social cohesion dimensions, enabled them to discuss and bridge their differences. The Open MIC musical festival was also critical given that youth has taken the commitment to peace and stabilization of environment for progressive livelihood. It has also enabled an environment for youth to showcase their talents, allowed their voices to be heard, and stimulated conversation on peace and sustainability issues in the country. Some challenges were encountered including restrictions on public gatherings as a measure to fight against COVID-19. Other communication materials such as headphones and bag packs with peace tags were not distributed yet as they were not received on time due to procurement hitches.

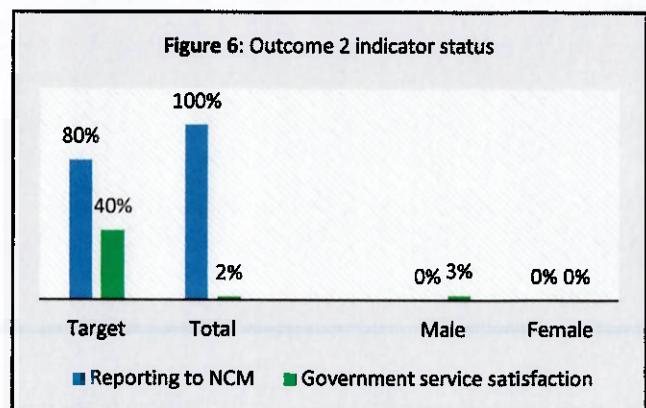
Outcome 2

Overall, the targets for the outputs under the outcome are successfully met with the exception of one (1) activity. As shown in Figure 5, 100% completion rates were reached on outputs 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 respectively. The unfinished and ongoing activity is under output 2.1 and is related to the internal migration and cross-cutting thematic working groups' formation which is expected to be fully operational by the first quarter of 2021.

The project deliverables under this outcome were strategically designed to strengthen the government capacity to respond to returnees' needs and support in their reintegration. The results of the research performed by M&E show that the activities performed under this outcome have positively impacted returnees, enhanced their positive reintegration into their communities, and strengthened social cohesion. The returnees' inclusion and engagement into community activities were also enhanced. Returnees were economically empowered through linking them to coordinate referral mechanism where job placement opportunities were communicated. Some of the returnees were employed, capacities built, and are now having better livelihoods. Returnees have significantly benefited from MHPSS interventions which greatly stabilised and gave them good mental health and well-being and reduced their post-return trauma effects. Also, government officials and health workers were trained. As a result, the referral systems are now more effective and ethical and best practices of MHPSS service provisions were facilitated.



Since the establishment of NCM, all focal point people are reporting on migration through this mechanism. However, it is unclear whether additional assigned officials are reporting to it. Further evaluation will be required for this indicator as no further information was available at the time of this report. As for the second indicator, the information so far gathered shows only 2% of the returnees reported satisfaction with support from the government. For males, 2.9% reported being satisfied with services (Figure 6). None of the female returnees reported satisfied with government services. Although the reasons for the low proportions are not known, the assumption is that returnees either do not understand government interventions or they may have not received the support altogether. In their statements/testimonies, IOM was the only organization returnees mentioned having given substantial support to them which has greatly assisted their reintegration. Further studies in this regard is recommended. Moreover, some challenges were encountered under this outcome. Many administrative and coordination delays were met between



stakeholders which added great challenge at meeting the set target in due time for some activities. More challenges are mentioned in the following sections.

Output 2.1

No information on the number of interagency meeting(s) established has been confirmed by IOM. However, in the IOM registry, a total of 13 meetings among the six (6) thematic groups were held in 2020. The agenda of the meetings were related to finalization of Terms of Reference (ToR), establishment and launch of Thematic Working Groups (TWG), development of draft communication strategy, revision of identified gaps and inaugural meetings. Those interagency meetings are the foundation to creating the ToRs of the NCM, endorsement of the NCM and effective participation of the relevant government agencies working on migration issues. With the high turnover of the government officials, the launch and endorsement of the NCM were slowed down. COVID-19 has also impacted the frequency of meetings under the various thematic working groups due to restriction that were laid down by government. However, activity has gradually resumed now that the rules are much more relaxed.

Aside from technical assistance, the project also provided resources that enabled the function of the groups. In total, as the findings indicate, eight (8) thematic working groups were in the agenda to be formed to strive and deal with cross-cutting issues and facilitate dialogue on migration governance in the country. As at February 2021, six (6) thematic groups were formed (Migration and Development, Irregular Migration, Policy and Legislation, Communication, Labour Migration, and Border Management), and another two (2) working groups (Internal migration and Cross cutting) are yet to be established. As the NCM is a government-led process, the various thematic working groups are headed by institutions that have a mandate around working groups. Each thematic working group seeks to address a certain migration theme. This allows the various groups to tackle issues around migration based on technical expertise, data availability and engaging relevant partners under the various working groups. In addition, the concept of the thematic working group is appreciated by members because it is timely to have migration information and data for evidence-based planning. The Gambia has very little data on migration and there is a need for more data. Therefore, the work of the group will ensure that migration related issues are properly coordinated, and provide migration data and information for evidence-based decision-making. Further, capacity gaps within migration agencies would be mapped out and addressed. However, in order to ensure full implementation of the ToRs, all members of the group will need to work together and ensure all migration data are accessible to the group, relevant sectors and public for consumption.

As per document review, the NCM was successfully launched and endorsed on the 6th of November 2019 by 23 agencies and ministries. The findings show that the NCM has successfully been aligned to the National Development Plan (NDP) of The Gambia as migration continues to be a very burning issue that needs to be addressed. Despite the fact that not many activities have yet started, one achievement was the successful development of the Terms of Reference (TORs). It is now at the implementation stage to ensure the full operation of the group ensuring all members contribute effectively to have credible migration information in the country. The NCM is an inter-agency platform that has provided a whole-of-government approach aimed at addressing timely migration issues, mainstreaming of migration in the NDP and ensuring policy coherence. As migration is not explicitly spelt out in the NDP, the NCM will provide more room to recognize the importance of migration issues should a review be conducted. It allowed the government to synergize all their efforts regarding migration issues in the country. In the government system, there is not a single government agency that is solely dedicated to address migration issues. The NCM will give the platform to provide information and seek for collective solutions. It has given the opportunity for the involved agencies to take a more holistic approach to migration management.

Output 2.2

The RESTART project was successfully implemented reaching more than twice the set target with 32 institutions engaged in the referral system. This project attracted so far 152 participants. Among this, 56 were returnees that found work of which 31.2% was female returnees. However, due to COVID-19, many are waiting to hear back from their employers for a

return to work or start a new opportunity since some of the economic activities in the country went on a halt. The establishment and operationalization of a coordinated referral mechanism/system has provided a concrete avenue that economically empowered returnees to accelerate their successful reintegration. In this context, the Gamjobs RESTART project supported returnees in their efforts to reintegrate into society, provided them with coaching, skills acquisition and job placement opportunities that enabled them to earn decent living and contribute to socio-economic development of their communities. Not only it gave them hope that they can now make it in The Gambia but also supported them to regain a status among their communities and friends. Further, all institutions participating in the project reported being satisfied with its outcome and are willing to recruit more returnees, especially in the marketing and insurance sectors. Furthermore, capacities of staff at Gamjobs were also enhanced to better and more effectively operate in response to the returnee and vulnerable groups in need. Their involvement in the project has increased their communication and leadership skills, helped them become more skilful in dealing with people who are in need of help and brought them to connect with more people in the employment industries which increased their visibility. Gamjobs has become a change agent who will continue to work with the Gambian employment society to increase the returnees' chances of better reintegration through socio-economic activities.

However, Gamjobs has faced the challenge of returnees increased disinterest and reluctance to accept work in certain sectors, notably the security sector (due to low salary scales, social stigma and associated risks with such works) while other employment sectors demand higher qualifications. Among the challenges, as reported by returnees, the locations of work opportunities were not convenient enough since the majority of attractive work places were in urban areas and are not decentralised. In this regard, Gamjobs itself proposed the need to extend and decentralize the services in various regions across the country in order to reach more returnees. Also recommended by the returnees is the expansion and strengthening of the working environment to include more government and private institutions to provide more skills training and better opportunities for those returnees who barely have the basic skills or those who are determined to learn new careers is critical.

In addition to the job placement referral systems, training programs were conducted for the government officials to build their capacities on strategies geared towards economic empowerment of returnees. In this regard, career counselling training of three staff (2 male, 1 female) at the Department of Labour was successfully completed and material support, such as computers, desks and chairs (15 of each) as well as cables for internet connection (materials only) was provided to Employment Service Unit to enhance their operations. However, it was reported that some support, such as the internet connection, is still needed for full operationalization of the centre. So far, the project supported the Employment Service Unit to re-emerge and efficiently operate as there was an exponential increase in numbers of people reaching for registration, seeking information on employment and other types of requests. Since the support received, more job seekers are registering, reaching more than 200 now including returnees. Despite inactivity of the centre's full operations, positive impact on beneficiaries was seen as they already gained knowledge on job employment and its process. Many got individual sessions and acquired good knowledge to start some processes. However, more can be evaluated once all activities are fully operational. Moreover, it was reported that the staff will need more training due to the current inactivity of the centre's operations constraining them to put in practice the knowledge gained. On another hand, prior to COVID-19, the Department of Labour had planned to start reaching out to schools and providing vocational training to the youth. However, due to lack of funding and social gathering restrictions, this project has been placed on a halt. Other projects such as the development of Labour Market Information systems are on the agenda if financial support is provided.

Output 2.3

Following a strong recognition of MHPSS in addressing mental health needs of returnees and other vulnerable groups in communities affected by traumatic experiences of irregular migration, theoretical and conceptual MHPSS framework was initiated and developed. The framework will be presented to National Training Authority and Health training institutions

and distributed to government ministries and departments, training institutions, UN agencies and other development partners. These parties will be equipped with the requisite knowledge and skills to address the mental health needs of returnees and migrants. It will bring institutional changes, provides strategic guidance to the government and strengthen the governance mechanism and health system for standard and ethical provision of mental health and psychosocial support services in the country. The contents of the framework is well suited to strengthen capacity in reducing stigma and discrimination against returnees which will also support the returnees' reintegration in communities. However, limited human resource capacity was a setback. Other challenges were encountered due to COVID-19 which causes reprioritization of some activities, limiting the services of mental health as the government's efforts were in the fight against the virus. It is recommended by WHO to provide regular monitoring of and support for the implementation of the MHPSS strategic framework and curriculum.

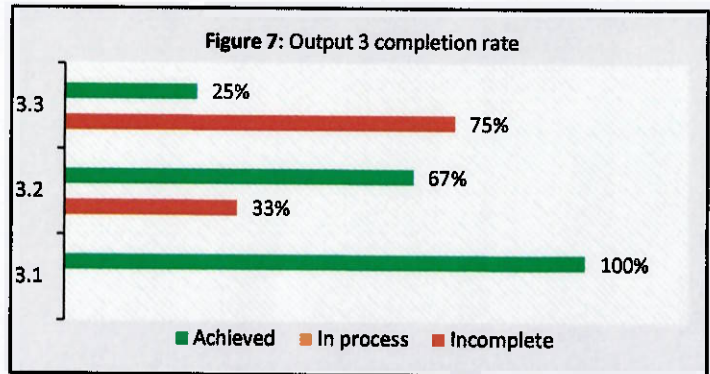
Output 2.4

The curriculum, which was successfully developed, was critical to provide strategic guidance to mainstream migration and MHPSS ethics and standards in the different training curriculum and primary health care services. The findings show that the curriculum for MHPSS services was designed at multi-stakeholder settings involving subject matter specialists and people with diverse areas of expertise. Reflecting critical core competencies, the curriculum was completed as a pillar to educate and train health workers at all levels across the country. As a result, it will increase participants' understanding on instruments available to promote mental well-being of returnees which in its turn will increase the knowledge and skills required to deliver effective and responsive mental health and psychosocial services.

In this context, the project has supported MHPSS capacity building programs for community health nurses, social workers and other volunteers across the country to deliver services. As of 2019, there were 2,546 health workers in the country and as a result of this activity, 725 health service providers were capacitated (352 females), representing about 28.5% of the country's health workforce. As a result of COVID-19, additional training such as Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Infection Prevention Control (IPC) were conducted which were critical in the fight against the virus. Although training was highly effective, the duration seemed not to have been enough to allow many of the trainees to fully assimilate all the course contents. More refresher training was recommended by the trainees and implementing partners. Despite those challenges, the MHPSS trainees have gained skillful knowledge on MHPSS service delivery in the communities and have recognised the effectiveness of the training at changing mental health service delivery in the country. In contrast to their previously held misconception of returnees, trainees are now positively perceiving and rendering MHPSS services to returnees and other vulnerable groups. They are now able to identify persons with early stages of mental health problems and needs (early warning symptoms) and are ready to assist them with the tools and knowledge gained during the training. As a result, significant impacts on the lives of returnees were realised. They have immensely benefitted from MHPSS services which have protected and improved their mental health and psychosocial well-being to contribute to positive livelihoods. It has strengthened their resilience and improved their hope for better livelihoods, coping and functioning. This has improved their acceptance in the communities and thus enhanced social cohesion to better support their reintegration.

Outcome 3

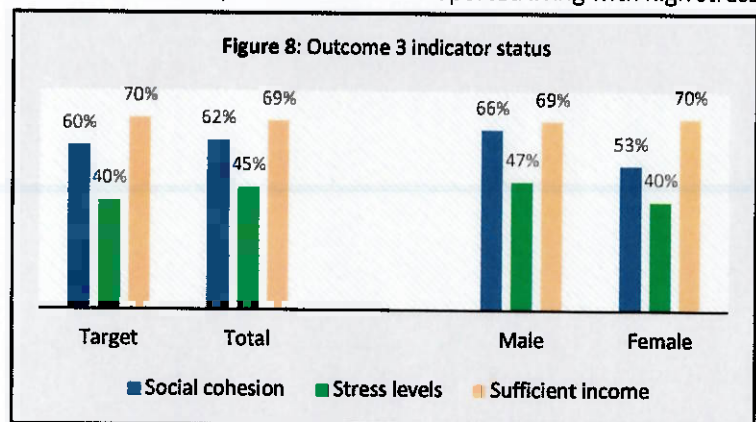
Activities under this outcome were mostly affected by the impact of COVID-19 and only activities under output 3.1 were all successfully completed (Figure 7). As a result, four (4) activities (activity 3.2.3 - Sports Events, activity 3.3.1 - Dialogue Forums, activity 3.3.2 - Intergenerational Sessions and activity 3.3.3 - Community Events) could not reach their targets due to social gathering restrictions and funds reprogramming in support of the government. It is planned the activities will be carried out in Phase 2 of the project to meet the priorities and needs. Some of the challenges include the limited number of participants, allocation of short periods of time and low attendance of local authorities in the interface dialogue sessions. Also, during the community shared learning sessions, female returnees were often hesitant or reluctant to share their stories. They were often neither willing to have their pictures nor videos taken during sessions. This has led to missing vital information.



Despite the challenges, this outcome has great positive impacts on returnees, improved their mental health and psychosocial well-being, and enhanced their positive reintegration into communities. As a key strategic priority, the successful mainstreaming of MHPSS practices into primary health care services and the training of national and local actors have enhanced more effective and efficient delivery of mental health services to returnees and other vulnerable groups in the country. The outcome has positively changed lives of returnees, helped build peace, strengthened social cohesion of returnees in their communities through social events and sensitization sessions, and built resilient communities to withstand post-return effects.

However, it is highly recommended to conduct more campaign to increase sensitization of youth from potentially embarking on irregular migration and take up alternative local opportunities for better livelihoods. The awareness raising teams have stressed the need for production of documentaries about difficult lives of returnees in Italian, Spanish and other Western European migrant camps as a demotivating and dissuading strategy to mitigate/lessen interest levels by youth. It is highly recommended that activities under this outcome be continued in Phase 2 of the project cycle. Chiefly, because the outcome has immensely contributed to more positive changes in the lives of returnees, their families and other vulnerable groups and has greatly facilitated positive reintegration into society.

The results obtained from the research shows that 62% of returnees reported adequate social inclusion. By gender, 65.7% of males and 53.3% of females reported adequate social inclusion. Overall, 45% of returnees reported living with high stress levels after return which is higher than the target of 40%. For male returnees, 47.1% reported living with high stress while for their female counterparts, the proportion was 40%. The survey findings also show that 69% of returnees reported being able to earn sufficient income after their return, which is less than the target of 70%. The results show that 68.6% and 70% of males and females respectively reported being able to earn sufficient income after return (Figure 8). Lack of well-paid jobs and employment opportunities for the returnees have greatly affected



their reintegration in the communities and appears to be one of the main causes of stress in the country. Increase in efforts to help reduce stress is greatly needed in order to achieve the set target under Phase 2 of the PBF project.

Output 3.1

In order to enhance quality and reach of MHPSS services available through community outreach health teams to communities of high return, the findings show that 1,175 community members have benefitted from the mobile health teams in 6 communities across 5 regions (450 male, 725 female and 132 returnees). The initial target was for 500 returnees which was later revised due to the nature of returnees' accessibility in the regions. The revised target was to reach out to returnees, family members and members of the beneficiary communities and its surroundings. The services were very well appreciated by the communities and improved lives of many citizens to live in better health conditions to pursue their daily economic activities. Majority of the communities do not have the funds/resources to afford or access quality medical services. The mobile health clinics have raised the hope of many on getting better. It has also improved their medical knowledge on identifying symptoms related to their problems. It increased their understanding and confidence to support others in their communities as well as the understanding over the returnees' plights and struggles. Many returnees never got the chance to access psychological support since their return. This activity has given them the chance to seek support to get better. However, it was informed that the greatest weakness of this activity is that many remote communities could not have access to the services. Mobility was an issue for some which deprived them from accessing the medical interventions. It was also added that the message wasn't clear to everyone on who was eligible to access the services. Many people in the communities, as reported, thought they were not eligible to receive medical support since their children were not returnees. It was recommended to increase this activity to reach more remote communities, increase sensitization programs and train more change agents that can provide more support to communities.

By extension, mentoring, coaching and counselling services for community change agents and youth workers in the area of mental health was provided. As a result, health teams were deployed to various regions and conducted training of 152 (67 male, 85 female) community change agents on MHPSS to enhance quality service delivery. The training had great impact on capacity building of community change agents since they have acquired new skills on MHPSS services and are now able to effectively support outreach activities, helping vulnerable people and returnees. They felt they are now in a better position to recognize and treat people suffering from mental health and psychological problems. It has improved their approach and ability to handle people living with mental health and related problems. The tools also enhanced their skills to bring more effective support to communities. However, it was informed that the greatest weakness of this activity is that mental health services cannot be provided to all communities. Mental health officers in other communities also need to be trained as well as more people in communities, especially the traditional communicators (TCs) since they have greater influence and are well-listened to by communities.

Over 1,000 leaflets were distributed during training of community change agents and in the communities through 6 mobile health outreaches reaching more than 1,000 participants. Although it is impossible to know exactly how many leaflets were distributed, it is confirmed that both activities, under which leaflets were distributed, surpassed way beyond 1,000 beneficiaries. The materials were developed to reflect messages on MHPSS such as on depression, psychosocial support, substance abuse and stress, and have been used during training sessions and outreach activities.

Output 3.2

The project has supported upgrading and refurbishment of youth centres to provide comprehensive information, referral and counselling services to returnees. In this context, youth centres in Bundung (Kanifing Municipal Council) and Jarra Soma (Lower River Region) were successfully upgraded. However, COVID-19 and restrictions caused delays in upgrading/refurbishment of the centres. The Jarra Soma Youth Center is yet to be completed given that external toilet, windows, office partitioning and some mural paintings were left. For Bundung Youth Centre, some minor renovations still remained but efforts are in place to complete the work. Other large scale activities attracting many young people could also

not be held. So far, the findings show the centers were found to be safe and fit to allow the youth, community and the returnees to conduct meetings, exchange ideas and discuss way forward on issues relevant to strengthening peaceful communities and development. They both provide a convenient venue for hosting important events such as referral and counselling services to returnees, Youth Against Irregular Migration (YAIM) meetings, community meetings, seminars, and symposium on migration related issues. As a milestone, the Bundung Youth Center in its operational strategy, is equipped with a permanent Health and Support Office (HSO) where a medical, psychosocial and specialised migration officer will be stationed to attend to returnees, youth, vulnerable groups and communities in need. Young people including some returnees who participated in the refurbishment process have indirectly built some skills such as laying of tiles, wall paintings, small plumbing works, and wiring for electricity connections. Acquisition of these skills could potentially spur and motivate the returnees and youth to continue on these careers. As for Jarra Soma Youth Center, although events have not fully started, people in the community are excited about the prospect of the facility in working to achieve its strategic objectives. The center was highly approved by the community who sent in representatives to participate in the design stage meetings. During the planning stage, all community-based organizations were represented in the sectoral meeting, mapped out the plans and identified out the specific area within the community.

As a major output achievement, two youth associations under the Kanifing Municipal Red Cross Society was supported. The findings show that activities carried out were impactful as it attracted over 300 youths including returnees. The projects financial and technical support to youth associations for outreach and reintegration activities have contributed to changing lives of returnees, youth and young people in the country. The youth associations are actively operating and have carried out sensitization campaign to educate the people about preventive measures of COVID-19 pandemic. However, large-scale events cannot be performed due to the pandemic. It was also shared that young women have great challenges to get involved in social activities and be part of decision-making. They are discriminated and stigmatised by some people in communities who complained or are of the opinion that young women should desist from roaming and stay at home. This has discouraged many females to participate. More sensitization and support will be needed on the matter.

Extending the support to sport associations for reintegration of returnees through sport activities, it was found that only 3 of the 10 planned sporting events was implemented. Sporting activities could not be completed due to COVID restrictions on public gatherings and sporting events. The supported associations included Hope Basketball Academy, National Sports Council (Football Festival and Stakeholder Engagement for peace and development) and Kick for Trade Initiative in Kanifing Municipal Council and West Coast Region. The inclusion of returnees in the events has changed their lives from being stigmatised, discriminated or excluded to being included in the events. This has improved their well-being. The sporting events were also designed to train participants to gain valuable leadership skills in order to make positive impact in their friends, families, schools and communities. The support through sports also positively influenced their character, confidence, inspiration, empowerment, and mental toughness to deal with issues surrounding their lives. The association also discouraged them from going through irregular migration and encourage them to continue working hard to achieve their goals. However, the youth have recommended provision of more support to the association by government and NGOs with scholarships for young people to study. Support could also be provided to young athletes who wish to continue sporting careers as well as providing training equipment, such as sports shoes and balls, to satisfy the demand.

Output 3.3

The strategic objective of conducting the activities under this output was to strengthen community linkages thereby facilitating social inclusion and reintegration of returnees into communities. Effective dialogue forums for youths in communities and youth centers to discuss participation in decision-making/transitional processes were conducted reaching out to 2,780 participants (1,680 male and 1,100 female) across the country. The target could not be achieved as funds were reprogrammed to support the government on COVID-19 efforts through community surveillance and contact tracing which includes returnees. This activity will be pursued in Phase 2 of the PBF project aiming to reach another 2,300 beneficiaries.

The shared learning session had positively impacted lives of returnees as it gives them a platform to freely share their stories, interact and socialize, and discuss the way forward with other members in the community. It has changed the negative narrative on returnees, reduced stigmatization and improved perception level. This has enhanced returnees' reintegration into communities. Instead of perceiving them as failures, returnees are now better perceived by communities. As a result of the tragic stories heard from returnees, many youth and young people have been discouraged from going on the backway. Many now believed they can make it here in The Gambia while others (returnees themselves) are on sensitization campaigns to influence other young people. However, much more effort remains as many young people believed that organizations that provide the forums are only there to discourage them from taking the journey. It was recommended to intensify dialogue sessions in other remote communities, conduct more sensitization in schools, and motivate more youth participation in the dialogues.

The target achieved was 26 intergenerational dialogue sessions with 915 participants engaged (506 Male and 409 Female) in the dialogues. In 2019, 16 intergenerational dialogue sessions were performed and another 16 sessions were planned for 2020. However, this target had to be revised due to COVID-19 for the same reasons mentioned above. In communities, the Town-Hall Meetings were well attended by returnees through their associations. The topics discussed were; youth and women, political participation; youth civic rights, women civic rights; why youth and women's inclusion in politics and decision-making processes; how women and youth can be included. While discussing these topics, issues of returnees, their stories, opinions, experience and reasons of participation were mainstreamed in the discussion. This has positively changed the lives of returnees, accelerated their reintegration and changed communities' negative perception about returnees. The sessions give a platform in which people come together to also learn from experiences of returnees in the journey with an overall aim of changing their perceptions. Other returnees also learned from their counterparts and that has strengthened their confidence and increased their hope. The sessions have also helped in conflict prevention, promoting transparency and youth leadership, unionism, and encouraging women to participate in decision-making. The sessions were effective in encouraging the youth, young people and returnees to look for work opportunities to make it here in The Gambia.

On community youth cultural and recreational activities designed to promote learning and experience sharing amongst youth and build quality relationships, 24 social events were successfully organised and carried out. However, the output indicator has not reached the expected target of 32 due to challenges relating to COVID-19 and the funds reprogramming to support the government efforts to fight against the virus. The 24 social events include 4 regional football tournaments, 8 communal moonlight storytelling, 8 inter-regional cultural arts fairs and 4 regional peace concerts. A total of 3,300 youths were actively engaged in these activities. Each event included the participation of National Assembly Members, local government officials, local leaders such as Alkalos and Chiefs as well as representatives from the security sector and other people of influential status. The communal moonlight storytelling events, attended by returnees, have positively changed their lives as it created positive space for them to voice out their needs, opinions and engaged with their peers and other community members on relevant discussions. The cultural art fair in which returnees were also part of provided the platform for people from different cultures to showcase their tradition, experience and appreciate different cultures. This has created an opportunity for dialogue on issues of cultural, ethnic tolerance and acceptance of returnees. The inter-party football tournament also provided a platform, and an opportunity to bring together political parties on the same platform to discuss and motivate youth to commit to peace. These events created space for returnees to also engage, interact with others rather than feeling isolated or marginalised and that enhanced the reduction of their stress level. Low turnout in the events was a challenge. In Phase 2, more Community Youth Cultural and Recreational Activities to improve tolerance especially targeting potentially polarised societies and communities should be conducted.

The use of social media is popular among youth and young people. Therefore, awareness raising on youth inclusion using these platforms (Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp) was critical. The number of Facebook and Twitter impressions from social media users was extremely high, reaching more than 3 times the set target. A target of 50,000 impressions was

planned, however, 51,940 twitter and 136,237 Facebook impressions were received on posts and articles on youth inclusion and returnee reintegration. The shared messages on social media have impacted the lives of returnees and youth through knowledge creation in the communities on perception, stigmatization and intolerance towards returnees and other vulnerable groups in the communities. Information and stories shared on the media platform have positively shaped the perception of people on returnees. People relate themselves to the stories and messages shared and that has changed their lives to become more tolerant and accepting. The media awareness raising has created more tolerant space that encouraged participation of returnees in civic engagement, decision-making as well as filling leadership positions to become change agents in the society. As a challenge, it was difficult to assess the full extent of impact this activity has on the society since contact data on who had access was unavailable.

Catalytic and Reprogrammed Activities

Since the beginning of year 2020, COVID-19 has negatively impacted economic, human and social development, either directly through the spread of the virus, or indirectly through the preventive social distancing measures. As a result, the project has redirected some of the funds to support the government in its efforts to mitigate the spread and impact of the disease through community surveillance and contact tracing which also includes returnees. During the implementation of the project, exposure to the field, realities and further needs have brought the implementing agencies to pursue research and new activities to support the vulnerable ones. Consequently;

- a) In response to COVID-19 pandemic, the PBF has supported the government of The Gambia through Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) to create and increase awareness campaign with particular focus on border communities. The public awareness campaigns were part of several measures IOM in partnership with the Ministry of Health conducted to sensitize border communities on COVID and its preventive measures. The advocacy and communication campaign targeted community leaders and trained them to dispel misinformation about COVID, encourage use of personal protective equipment (PPEs) and promote health recommendations and medical guidelines. The communities were also supplied with PPEs including sanitary items. Additionally, mentoring and coaching services on COVID-19 response measures were conducted for these border communities in the health regions. Two rounds of communication and advocacy were successfully completed (Phase 1 and Phase 2). However, it was found that in the cross-border communities, there was not enough supply of PPEs for protection against COVID-19. In light of emergence of the new COVID-19 strain, it's critical to intensify efforts and provide more PPEs to border communities and control officers.
- b) The shipwreck that happened in Mauritania has led to loss of too many young Gambians who went on irregular migration. The project's mobile health team has provided counselling, medical and mental health and psychosocial support to 78 survivors who escaped from the shipwreck. Further measures to mitigate the effect of the incident were taken including training of community change agents to assist in identification of survivors who need mental health and psychosocial support. This was a planned activity as per the log frame only that the necessity was aggravated following the arrival of the survivors in North Bank Region (NBR). This outreach clinic became the only mobile health clinic which was specifically rolled out for returnees. It helped to boost the number of returnees directly engaged through the mobile health clinic as direct beneficiaries in the outreach clinic through psychosocial services and primary health care services.

Altogether, 116 shipwreck survivors of which 6 females were recorded. The survivors have timely accessed and benefitted from the mobile health outreaches through psychosocial support services. Those in critical needs were referred to Essau Health Centre for further treatment. The outreach clinic deployed gave the survivors the opportunity to receive primary health care services to stabilize their mind, stimulate their energy, and connect with their environment. The team from protection and psychosocial support officers has close interactions with the survivors in serious depressed mood to support in reducing stress level and traumatic experience. The medications

and primary health assessment administered helped the survivors in their arrival after a traumatic experience from the shipwreck.

- c) In order to provide more lucrative income generating enterprise, returnees were trained and provided with financial support to start operating their small enterprise on soap making to sustainably improve their economic status. Following the shipwreck in 2019, IOM did a need assessment targeting the survivors, their communities and families. The major stakeholders who have portions of services that are likely needed by these groups were consulted to ascertain the current capacity, and suggestions on the follow-up interventions that might prove beneficial. One of the recommendations from the report highlighted the need to enhance livelihood support for affected groups which will promote resilience, psychosocial and socioeconomic reintegration. Furthermore, it was equally noted to include families and communities of affected groups to foster social cohesion and support social networks. IOM had 41 beneficiaries among which 35 were males. Ten (10) of the 41 beneficiaries were the direct survivors and the rest were family and community members. The five-day event gave the survivors the opportunity to have close interactions with their close family members. The livelihood support contained three elements:
- MHPSS support and link peer support ambassadors,
 - Training on skills on soap production for both domestic and commercial purposes,
 - Awareness raising through psychodrama which gives insight on the messages of irregular migration.
- d) Focus Group Discussion with women in Basse was conducted to identify new vulnerabilities of women in rural communities who have experienced the burden of having a family member embarked on irregular migration using the Libyan routes and finding solutions to problems of social cohesion in such communities especially on psychosocial dimensions.

Going forward, as part of activities in Phase 2, the stakeholders and implementing partners are to strengthen engagement and partnerships, and intensify efforts to accelerate the delivery of catalytic and reprogrammed outputs.

Impact

Overall, the strategic objectives were satisfactory and have positively changed the lives of returnees, vulnerable groups and other beneficiaries in the country. Significant impacts and benefits of the project have enhanced and reinforced a balanced and positive perception of return migration, strengthened government's capacity to facilitate sustainable reintegration, enhanced and facilitated community social cohesion and inclusion. Further, broader and more significant impacts of the project on lives of returnees were realised given that they have accessed to better psychosocial, political, social and economic reintegration services. The support of the project has created or strengthened community structures, government institutions, and private sector institutions and empowered them through capacity building programs and provided resources that ensured best practices and most effective migration management strategies were implemented. The interventions positively contributed directly or indirectly to the changes in the country, particularly to the lives of returnees. In addition to the summarised overall project's impact translated through all activities performed, impacts and sustainability per activity is found in the Annex 1. In addition, for each of the project's deliverables, the following were assessed:

- Impact on returnees, vulnerable groups and communities,
- Impact on Government and private sector staff,
- Stress levels of returnees,
- Reintegration of returnees,
- Perception of community members towards returnees,
- Establishing or strengthening social cohesion in the community,
- Sustainability,

- Impact on the environment.

Development of Change Agents/Actors:

The project's Phase 1 interventions have ensured delivery of tangible services and items to the returnees and other beneficiaries in the communities. As a result, many of the returnees' lives are transformed, successfully reintegrated and now having better livelihoods. Through building their capacities and linking them to job placement opportunities, returnees were empowered as a catalyst for change to inspire and influence others in the communities to take up alternative initiatives in the country, encouraged their resilience and coping, and passed the knowledge and skills gained to them. These change agents championed the promotion of reintegration interventions, worked behind the scenes to interact with their peers, influencing positive behavioural changes in them to do away with anti-social attitudes. At the community level, the dialogue sessions and advocacy programs which were highly effective have inspired community leaders (alkalos, community development association leaders, women leaders, youth leaders, etc.) to be change agents in the communities, transforming and regularly communicating positive messages about returnees and their reintegration needs. Through the project's intervention, these leaders developed appropriate approaches to people who may act differently to the needs of returnees and the way they are perceived. They listen to other community members, engaged them on meaningful discussions on returnees, influencing and persuading them to have positive perception about returnees. The leaders also allowed and encouraged participation and inclusion of returnees and youth in peacebuilding in communities.

In addition, people were trained, infrastructure refurbished (Youth Centers), goods delivered (COVID-19 sanitary items, PPEs) and services performed. For example, the training of community health nurses and social workers on MHPSS services has positively impacted the nurses and social workers in providing standard and ethical services to returnees and other vulnerable groups in the communities. These services are directly sustainable given the knowledge gained and retained could be used to massively benefit incoming returnees in the communities. The training also improved structural and institutional capacities to provide services to wider beneficiaries. For example, the staff of Tanka Tanka Psychiatric Clinic were trained on MHPSS and that has improved service delivery to people with mental health problems at the clinic. Youth inclusion programs have successfully empowered youth to act as agents of change and inspired others to fight against anti-social attitudes, discourage other youths from taking irregular migration and encouraged their participation in project's initiatives to better their livelihoods. The collaborative partnership with government institutions has led to positive changes in services to improve mental health and better psychosocial well-being of returnees and other vulnerable groups. Staff of government institutions were empowered to become change agents to bring about lasting and meaningful changes within their ministries, departments and agencies and transfer/scale up of what they have learned to others in their institutions. This ensures sustainability and long-term improvement in services towards returnees.

Risks

As the project is transitioning into Phase 2, it's critical to take a look at systematic consideration of potential scenarios that could derail or have negative impacts on Phase 2 activities in meeting targets and priorities. In this context, the implementing partners could revisit/reassess work plans and strategically mapped out approaches and processes, readjust to current development and ensure remaining and new activities are successfully carried out in Phase 2. The mitigating strategies could be followed to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the project. As it stands, the possible bottlenecks include:

- a) The implementation/delivering of remaining activities are planned to take place during a quickly evolving pandemic, which creates substantial risks and logistical challenges. As a second wave hit and future potential waves could hit The Gambia, in response to COVID-19, the government could impose social distancing measures or movement limitations which will reduce the spread of the virus but also limit personal mobility, thus creating challenges in the operational context.

- b) In response to COVID-19, borders could close once more creating economic disruption and social distress, and increase the illegal border crossing between Senegal and The Gambia. In such case, further support could be once more requested from the implementing agencies to support the government efforts to fight against the virus.
- c) Limited and ineffective coordination and delays in administrative response from stakeholders, implementing partners and all other involved parties.
- d) Change of power dynamics at national level, given some level of uncertainty in the political environment and that 2021 is an election year for the country. The political risk could lead to overall changes in governance structures.
- e) Unprecedented change in communities' interest, motivation and time to engage in project activities. The lack of interest from beneficiaries including, returnees, communities, community leaders, youth groups in reintegration efforts could potentially risk the overall success of the project.

In light of the above, it is critical for implementing partners to act on mitigating strategies or countermeasures devised to ensure that the project remains on track in terms of its timeline and avert risks that can interfere with success. These include:

- In the fight against the virus and to assure the "Do no harm" principle in the operations, it is advised to continue providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), sanitary items and strictly observe the health and safety measures set by WHO and MoH to the beneficiaries during active engagements to protect both staff and beneficiaries from risk of COVID. After findings and due to a lack of response capacity in the fight against the virus, it is also recommended to expand the supply of PPEs to more border communities and border control officers in the country.
- As an opportunity to strengthen the strategic partnership, IOM and its mobile health clinic project could team up with the health authorities and actors to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to remote communities. Opportunities to sensitize and provide medical support could also be continued.
- Intensify communication interventions at the community level to increase awareness, provide accurate and reliable information on COVID-19 and dispel misinformation that could potentially expose project staff to danger.
- The implementing partner agencies should conduct relevant meetings to discuss and if necessary, engage with government or authority should a challenge need to be overcome, such as being prepared to reprogram activities and funds if need be and find a strategic approach to continue work on activities of Phase 2 project cycle.
- Pursue meetings with stakeholders to assure a high level of commitment to spearhead the efforts in implementing the activities.
- Engage in dialogue with partner institutions to formulate risk management plans and strategies relating to election periods including potential temporal stop to all activities during this period. It is hoped that the 2021 election results will lead to a stable transition or transfer of power and stable environment for the operation.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The end of Phase 1 of the PBF project monitoring and evaluation exercise has generated a vast amount of information from a wide range of sources on what has been accomplished, what has not, where improvements are needed and potential opportunities to explore. Project implementing UN agencies and beneficiaries including returnees were met by the M&E team to gather information on the extent of the impact, identify relevant gaps or areas unfulfilled, and evaluate the overall progress on achievement of results. The feedback obtained was used as a basis to strategize more efforts in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the remaining activities. By extension, the information obtained is to be also used as evidence for planning the activities in Phase 2. Overall, most of the project activities have positively contributed to changing lives of returnees, their families, youth and young people, women and people in the communities. Many of the returnees have now successfully reintegrated, obtained employment and are directly contributing to helping their families and communities. The M&E visits also enabled the team together with staff from Office of the Vice President and Ministry of Interior to have direct meeting with project beneficiaries including returnees, community mental health nurses and social workers. Facility-

level monitoring was also conducted to see the refurbishment and renovation of Youth Centers and how that influenced activities to be carried out in the centers.

Despite great accomplishments, much remained to be done to strengthen the sustainability of the PBF project's Phase 1 outcomes. Many returnees still face stigmatization and discrimination. Others find it difficult to properly reintegrate into the society due to lack of work opportunities caused by lack of basic skills, unfavorable geographic locations of work opportunities or psychological distress caused by their journey. All of which requires continuous support by all parties involved to support those in need and to empower those that are in the path to making it in The Gambia. Broadening awareness raising and community activities to reach more people, strengthening national policies and frameworks to better cover and support migration related issues, increasing the quantity and quality of work opportunities for the returnees and more. Not only training need to be rendered to national health and social staff, but it also needs to be extended to all parties involved in managing MHPSS cases, such as national authorities, security guards, community members, returnees and more. This will not only increase the capacity to deal with such cases, it will support in strengthening peaceful communities through transformation of citizens to change agent actors.

In order to ensure the remaining output indicator targets are adequately met as planned, the critical areas recommended for the Implementing agencies to increase their efforts on are:

- a) Increase efforts to ensure full operationalization of National Coordination Mechanism on migration governance, addressing crosscutting issues, new irregular migration trends, and broadening dialogue sessions.
- b) Continue conducting intergenerational dialogue sessions between community leaders, parents of returnees and youth to strengthen community linkages, facilitating social cohesion and reintegration of returnees.
- c) Increase the amount of dialogue forums for youth and returnees in communities and youth centers to discuss participation in decision-making/transitional processes.
- d) Continue pursuing the activities that were halted due to COVID-19 in Phase 2 of the project as they proved effective in fostering social cohesion and support reintegration of returnees in community. It is also effective in reducing stigmatization, discrimination and associated problems.
- e) Conduct a larger sample survey of returnees to measure the six outcome indicators and make inferences (representativeness) to the returnee population in the country.

In addition, several recommendations were shared by the stakeholders, implementing partners, the beneficiaries and the M&E team to better support the reintegration of the returnees and foster more social cohesion for sustainable peace in the country. Among others, the following recommendations would have a greater impact on reinforcing support in the reintegration process and building peace in the country.

- Conduct MHPSS and Migration issues capacity training programs to primary and secondary schools, other training institutions outside the health sector, traditional communicators (TCs) and authorities such as police officers, security guards, soldiers, immigration officers to have basic skills on mental health and psychosocial support services considering that they are a stakeholder in the migration management.
- Provision of facility-level guidelines (SOPs), feedback, and additional training modules such as a documentary film on MHPSS for visual support and training to help other health care workers on how to deliver mental health and psychological support to returnees and vulnerable communities.
- Formation and training of associations with mental health-focused to ensure more lasting impacts, targeting remote communities.
- Increase and expand the MHPSS service delivery to remote communities across the country so that new returnees in remote communities would also sufficiently benefit from interventions. Considering people living with disabilities,

there is a need to develop MHPSS curriculum on sign language and provide psychosocial support to them as vulnerable groups.

- Strengthen community structures and mechanisms to better prepare the communities in dealing with violent cases of returnees, through conducting psychodrama activities, dealing with stress and better management.
- Provide additional resources and advocacy to mainstream the project goal and ideals into the national development agenda. Migration needs to be integrated into the national development agenda and should be institutionalised.
- Review and update national policy and multi-year strategic plan on return, reintegration and peacebuilding, including Cabinet approval and ratification by the National Assembly for more effective implementation. Extend sensitization campaigns to include interviewing the migrants that reached Europe, exposing their reality on the field, and hardships in the camps in the hope of discouraging potential and would-be migrants. As a strategy, a documentary film on migrants' lives in European camps could be a potential source of discouragement.
- Provide more support to the government and work with the private sector to create more opportunities in employment and wealth creation to further enhance successful reintegration and promoting peacebuilding.
- Expansion and strengthening of the working environment to include more government and private institutions to provide skills training and other opportunities for returnees who barely have the basic skills or those who are determined to learn new careers.
- Provide more support and strengthen the capacity of Local Government Authorities and other regional stakeholders to enhance their participation and sustainability of ongoing reintegration and peacebuilding activities.
- Increase the amount of sensitization campaigns to inform the public about the work opportunities and services available for them as well as facilitate more discussion on migration related issues.
- Intensify support and encourage local structures at the community and ward level (Village Development Committees and Ward Development Committees) to work closely with returnees with a view to enhancing successful reintegration and promotion of peacebuilding.
- Strengthened the work synergy between the government, NGOs, UN agencies and other development partners as well as the private sector to help returnees reintegrate better.
- Continue the Dialogue Forums on shared learning sessions. The sessions are effective, and provide safe space for returnees and young men and women to discuss their matters, and find solutions to problems.
- Introducing the Dialogue Forums topics in the schools' curriculum for greater sensitization including the expansion of special topics such as risks of women in irregular journeys.
- Facilitate more Community Youth Cultural and Recreational Activities to improve tolerance among young Gambians, targeting potential polarized societies and communities and engage them in the events.
- The interface with local authorities created spaces for youth, women and communities to interact with their elected representatives, raised questions and concerns on their actions and inactions. For improving governance in The Gambia these kind of activities need to be repeated to create space for people to learn to hold their leaders to account, interact and mapped out way forward. Also, it encourages transparency in communication.
- Continue to provide and strengthen psychosocial support to returnees when they come and immediately organize share learning sessions as a strategy to counter stigmatization and discrimination upon arrival.
- Facilitate more training of returnees on political participation and advocacy. Returnees as advocates would improve their civic engagement in communities.
- Encourage participation of returnees, preferably in planning stages of specific project activities that concern them as stakeholders, for sustainable reintegration. It is also critical to continue working with the government for their ownership of the activities.
- Continue to support youth centers to create and expand more skills training in many other trades allowing youth, young people and returnees to gain new skills, knowledge, develop new capacities while building relationship and networks.

- As an opportunity to strengthen the strategic partnership, IOM and its mobile health clinic project could team up with the health authorities and actors to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to remote communities. Opportunities to sensitize and provide medical support could also be continued.

The other recommendations can be reviewed under each activity's Summary Activity Analysis document mentioned in the Appendices.

Appendices

Under this section, the following are presented:

- Annex 1: List of Summary Activity Analysis Reports
- Annex 2: Analysis of Linkage of Returnees to Peacebuilding

Annex 1: List of Summary Activity Analysis Reports

The following summary activity reports have been created to support in the writing of this M&E End of Project report. Any document can be provided upon request. Please find below the list of the documents with their names.

Outputs	Activities	Documents
Outcome	All Indicators	SA – Outcome Indicators Phase 1 PBF Project – Final Analysis
Outcome 1		
Output 1.1	Activity 1.1.1	SA1.1.1-2 - Consultant Research - Final Analysis
	Activity 1.1.2	
Output 1.2	Activity 1.2.1	SA1.2.1 - MOICI_Online Platform - Final Analysis
	Activity 1.2.2	SA1.2.2 - Awareness Raising Tekki Fii - Final Analysis
	Activity 1.2.3	SA1.2.3 - Youth Help Line - Final Analysis
	Activity 1.2.4	SA1.2.4 - Communication Materials to Promote Youth Inclusion - Final Analysis
Outcome 2		
Output 2.1	Activity 2.1.1	SA2.1 - Development of NCM - Final Analysis
	Activity 2.1.2	
	Activity 2.1.3	
Output 2.2	Activity 2.2.1	SA2.2.1 - Restart Project - Final Analysis
	Activity 2.2.2	SA2.2.2 - DoL_Capacity Building of Government Partners - Final Analysis
Output 2.3	Activity 2.3.1	SA2.3.1 - Framework & Guidelines on MHPSS - Final Analysis
Output 2.4	Activity 2.4.1	SA2.4.1 - IOM_Curriculum on MHPSS - Final Analysis
	Activity 2.4.2	SA2.4.2 - MHPSS Training - Final Analysis
Outcome 3		
Output 3.1	Activity 3.1.1	SA3.1.1 - Community Outreaches - Final Analysis
	Activity 3.1.2	SA3.1.2 - Outreach Services - Final Analysis
	Activity 3.1.3	No summary activity analysis can be developed. All data to be found in this report.
Output 3.2	Activity 3.2.1	SA3.2.1 -Youth Centers Bundung_Jarra Red Cross - Final Analysis
	Activity 3.2.2	SA3.2.2 - Local Lp_Youth Associations - Final Analysis
	Activity 3.2.3	SA3.2.3 - Local Lp_Sports Association - Final Analysis
Output 3.3	Activity 3.3.1	SA3.3 - Dialogue Forums, Intergenerational and Social Events - Final Analysis
	Activity 3.3.2	
	Activity 3.3.3	
	Activity 3.3.4	SA3.3.4 - Media Impressions - Final Analysis

Annex 2: Analysis of Linkage of Returnees to Peacebuilding

Linkages to Peacebuilding Context

At the current overall project implementation, it is critical to also use data and information obtained from monitoring and evaluation to investigate the extent of project's outcomes in peacebuilding context. In recognition that peacebuilding needs a holistic approach involving many actors, especially vulnerable groups, the project has supported different activities at different levels in communities and societies in the country. In particular, the activities have led to the creation or strengthening of environment for peace and inclusiveness of vulnerable groups. In recent years, The Gambia has experienced maximum influx of returnees. Many of these returnees have gone through highly traumatic experiences during their irregular migration and unfavorable or horrific living conditions in their transit countries. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that returnees returned to The Gambia with significantly fewer resources, assets and valuables than when they embarked on the journey. This extremely high returning migrants are a destabilising factor given that the country is already having inadequate basic services and facing high unemployment rate. In addition, inadequacy of government structures to support intermittent population influx back home compounded the problems. The IOM has considerably supported the returnees in numerous ways both externally and internally. Despite the support provided, there is still a considerable number of returnees who have limited access to services and support that they need to have meaningful opportunities of inclusive participation in their communities. This situation, compounded by other numerous barriers, has great implications for peacebuilding, especially where instances are likely to be perceived as denial to access leading to provocations.

Provision of reintegration programs for returnees in the country has contributed to strengthening peace in the communities. The programs have created positive post-return experience for returnees, strengthened their potential to be agents of change, stimulated their willingness and built their capacities to contribute to change with regard to development and peacebuilding. The project has contributed to economic empowerment of returnees through the establishment of coordinated referral mechanisms for employment opportunities and skills building. Under output 2.2, through mapping of job placement opportunities, the RESTART project has promoted returnees as agents of change, rather than as victims of stigmatization and discrimination. This has had a massive impact on their acceptance, respect, and peaceful coexistence within their communities. Many of the returnees are now employed as a result, and have better and improved livelihoods, have accessed to better opportunities that seeks to provide direct solutions and pave the ways for their reintegration. These efforts have contributed to preventing the destabilising effect of return, restoring social status, and thus contributing to peacebuilding.

Increased partnerships with government institutions and private sectors have drawn together expertise and ensured effective delivery of outputs. The partner-driven efforts in implementing activities has enabled positive influence on program activities, strengthened inter-institutional cooperation and collaboration, and engaged with ideas about peacebuilding. This partnership has also facilitated technical assistance and training for government staff. Though with different mandates and profiles, this strategic partnership has ensured uniformity in the approaches and strengthened speed up efforts to implement activities. The existing trust in the partnership was extremely critical in ensuring the overall successful program implementation.

Social cohesion was facilitated and strengthened by the impact of the project. The increased strategic dialogue sessions, shared learning sessions and intergenerational dialogues have positively changed the dominant narratives around returnees. Communities were more enlighten and accepted returnees as agents of change and as their own rather than stigmatising, excluding, and marginalising them. Direct engagement with returnees in the communities has helped in mitigating potential social fragmentation and helped bring people together. Communities and societies positive engagements with returnees as a result of the dialogues have ensured inclusion, created space for participation and social cohesion. This has reduced probability of any potential violence.

The project's dialogue forums have established and strengthened community structures and linkages, enhanced social inclusivity and reintegration of returnees. The shared learning sessions have contributed to peacebuilding through provision of a platform in which people hear the real stories of returnees, interact and socialize, and discuss the way forward. The sessions have changed the narrative about returnees, and reduced the stigmatization in communities. This has also

enhanced their reintegration into communities, and supported their engagement in peacebuilding initiatives. The forums were a source of learning for young people about their roles and responsibilities in the communities, their rights as key players, and readiness to participate in civic engagement at the community and regional level. The interaction and bringing people in the communities including returnees together to share common problems and discussed solutions have created a space for tolerance, acceptance, inclusion and peace at community levels.

In particular, the intergenerational dialogue (town hall meetings) between community leaders, parents of returnees, youth and returnees have created a strong and meaningful civic engagement and discourse. Variations in age groups in the communities are critical. Community leaders such as alkalos, imams, village development committee members and other opinions and influential people are trusted and respected by returnees and youth. The high presence of these community leaders as local actors influenced other community members since their opinions are highly respected, revered and followed. The messages shared during the sessions have contributed to enhancing reintegration, positive perceptions, social cohesion and thus strengthening peace in the communities. These dialogues were effective at local level, leading to changes in community structures, improvement in economic status of returnees, and improvement in livelihoods. The reliance on community assets including leaderships and structures to improve social change in perception towards returnees. The intergenerational dialogue sessions have contributed to reduction of potential tensions between young and old especially on intergenerational shift pertaining to control of community resources, people, and power on local structures and associations. Youth are often eager or impatient on their willingness to be seen as capable and responsible and any barriers especially community structural that can possibly stand on their way would be seen in negative aspect. The dialogues have helped to control such palpable tensions in the communities.

Learning and experience sharing through community youth cultural and recreational activities has contributed to strengthening social cohesion and stability. The cultural art fair has provided the platform for people from different cultures and ethnicities to showcase their tradition, experience and appreciate different cultures. Thus, use of cultural traditions as a tool for change was strategised, thus providing an opportunity for them to dialogue on issues of cultural and ethnic tolerance. It gives the participants the opportunity to reflect on the shared values, learn and appreciate the diversity. The community and youth acceptance of diversity was critical and an indication of ethnic tolerance which contribute to shared vision for a plural society in The Gambia and peacebuilding. Also, the inter-party football tournament supported by the project provided a platform, and an opportunity to bring together political parties on one platform to share experience and learn from each other. These tournaments were organised in a mixed fashion to control party identification. This has contributed to creating peaceful political environment in the country. The inter-party tournament was graced by influential figures who give opening and closing tournament remarks centered on peace and positive social changes. In addition, all political parties have equal access to sporting activities and services.

Moreover, the youth cultural and recreational activities have ensured tolerance through creating a peaceful space for legitimising potential voices of returnees who were previously subjected to discrimination, marginalization and exclusion. It has strengthened inclusiveness and ensured social harmony. The activities were highly interactive and attracted a diverse range of community members, including returnees and other vulnerable groups.

In all project activities, female returnees were particularly encouraged and supported to participate as part of inclusive recognition. In the dialogue forums, women were given shared spaces where open and respectful discussions, sharing and learning took place. As a significant milestone, acceptance of diversity and inclusion in all stages of program activities was critical in fostering social cohesion.

The provision of services on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to returnees and other vulnerable groups in the communities have significantly improved their mental health and psychosocial well-being. During their irregular migration, returnees were often exposed to many tragic incidences and dreadful experiences. Exposure to these incidences has often traumatised them and poses significant risks to their mental health and psychosocial well-being. This problem is often exacerbated by stigmatization, isolation and other anti-social behaviours. This further poses distinctive impacts of direct threat to their families and communities. For example, this leads to violence and other petty crimes. It also leads to disintegration of families, societies and community structures and affect daily lives. In order to avert or mitigate these

situations, the project has provided MHPSS training for community mental health nurses and social workers to address mental health and psychosocial needs of returnees to achieve sustainable peace and reconstruct the social fabric of the Gambian communities. These trained nurses and social workers were providing services to mitigate the stress level and trauma returnees often experienced after return. The provision of MHPSS services has also helped to strengthened resilience, social cohesion and reintegration of returnees and other vulnerable groups thereby contributing to creating the conditions for sustaining peace in the country. The MHPSS services have contributed to reduction in depression levels of returnees and other vulnerable groups in the communities. It has countered possible disintegration between returnees and communities as their mental health and well-being are improved. The services have also directly strengthened the mental capacities of beneficiaries to build coping mechanisms and help to peacefully interact with community members, feel involved and contribute to the community building. The empowering of nurses and social workers ensured systematic service delivery for MHPSS in the remote communities and rural areas. The reduction of psychological distress observed among returnees has triggered positive society and community recognition, thus enhancing strong social cohesion in all activities in the communities. Many returnees who were previously suffering from psychosocial distress have now healed as a result of the interventions and are contributing in a non-stigmatised environment. Addressing their psychosocial needs, recognising them as survivors, counselling, providing trauma relief, empowering and healing have effectively restored mental and emotional well-being of returnees and other vulnerable groups. This has resulted in positive psychosocial consequences and thus strengthening peacebuilding in the country.

Also, the project's psychosocial interventions offered to returnees have increased their interest and prepared them to participate in important community activities, feeling connected to others, new sense of hope for future and engaged in meaningful peacebuilding activities. The community mental health nurses and social workers have rendered services at community levels across the country which has improved the collective community well-being and strengthened social connectedness.

The capacity building programs offered to government staff including staff at the Ministry of Health (community mental health nurses and social care workers), Ministry of Trade, Industry and Employment (Department of Labour), have ensured acquisition and retention of knowledge within the institutions. The knowledge gained is sustainable and could be transferred or passed on to other members of the staff within or outside institutions especially to stakeholders on migration matters. The training were highly interactive learning processes which encouraged participation, created mutual respect, and strengthened partnerships for joint approach to migration governance. In particular, community mental health nurses and social workers were empowered to promote and focus on providing best practices on psychosocial services, promoting social dialogue and encouraging attitudinal change among returnees. They were empowered to use MHPSS as a tool to mitigate or avert potential social disintegration by returnees and vulnerable groups through provision of services that improved mental health and psychosocial well-being. The local communities have recognised and welcomed these efforts which also strengthened social cohesion and acceptance (inclusion) of people with mental health problems and other vulnerable groups. In particular, some of the staff at Tanka Tanka Psychiatric Clinic, the country's only psychiatric clinic, benefitted from the training and are now providing services to the mentally challenge people. Overall, the reduction of psychological distress often observed among returnees has triggered positive society and community recognition, thus enhancing strong social cohesion in all activities in the communities. Many returnees who were previously suffering from psychosocial distress have now healed as a result of the interventions and are contributing in a non-stigmatised environment. Addressing the psychosocial needs of people, recognising them as survivors, providing trauma relief, empowering and healing has effectively restored mental and emotional well-being of returnees and other vulnerable groups and that resulted in positive psychosocial consequences and thus strengthening peacebuilding efforts in the country. Psychosocial practices have also improved the capabilities and socio-economic status of community health nurses and social workers and are able to interact more effectively in communities and societies where returnees were mostly prevalent.

Distribution of communication materials to promote youth inclusion has also enhanced inclusive society for all. The youth and young people are vibrant, full of life and energy. They are innovative but quite often, they are not adequately involved or engaged in discussions processes on peacebuilding. Equally, many of the youths have no access to opportunities or platforms to communicate and receive messages that are critical for good and sustainable livelihoods. The distribution of communication materials has enhanced the youth inclusion and engagement in meaningful activities to have sustainable

peace and good livelihoods. The messages communicated reinforced and positioned the youth as agents of change and not only as receivers of support or assistance all the time. It boost their morale and confidence to engage in good initiatives rather than involving in activities detrimental to their lives and society. The bringing together of youth has also strengthened social cohesion dimensions, enabled them to discuss and bridge their differences.

In particular, the Open MIC musical festival was also critical given that youth has taken the commitment to peace and stabilization of environment for progressive livelihood. The festivals have enabled an environment for youth to showcase their talents, allowed their voices to be heard, and stimulated conversation on peace and sustainability issues in the country. Given the high popularity of Open MIC festivals among the youth and young people in promoting social change, the musical shows bring young people together, arouse their emotions, offer hope, shaped their consciousness, encouraged nonviolent interaction across, act as therapy and inspired returnees and youth to take up positive actions, make connections and commit themselves to peace.