



**GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA**

# **MIGRATION AND URBANISATION SURVEY 2009**

**HOUSEHOLD AND MIGRATION ANALYSIS**

**BANJUL  
DECEMBER 2012**



This project is funded  
by the European Union

**miex<sup>2</sup>**  
migration EU expertise



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## Explanatory notes

1. Percentages in some tables may not equal 100% due to rounding.
2. (0) or (0.0) less than 0.5%

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## List of Acronyms

CEPROD	Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur la Population pour le Développement
EU	European Union
GBOS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
LGA	Local Government Areas
MIEUX	Migration EU eXpertise
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MPFA	Migration Policy Framework for Africa
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

## Acknowledgements

The analysis of the 2009 Migration and Urbanisation Survey has been prepared by the Gambian Bureau of Statistics with the full financial support of the Migration EU eXpertise 'MIEUX' initiative. This Joint Initiative of the European Union (EU) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) aims to enhance the capacities of partner countries and regional organisations to better address all areas of migration through a comprehensive approach to migration management. MIEUX facilitates quick technical assistance tailored to the needs of the partner country of the European Union.

UNFPA and UNDP financially supported the Gambian authorities during the data collection and data processing phase. Furthermore, MIEUX aimed to enhance the Gambian migration data and information management system, and to strengthen the capacities of the national authorities through two workshops on data collection and data analysis. The Gambia Bureau of Statistics is grateful for all the support and contributions which made this report a success. The core editing team consisted of: Edrissa Ceesay, Youssef Courbage, Lamin Kanteh, Enrico Tucci and Alfred Woeger.



## Foreword

Migration is one of the defining phenomena of our time. Migration worldwide has expanded considerably in recent decades, converting virtually all states in the hemisphere into countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants. From an integral, cross-cutting perspective, the subject of migration involves a host of issues: human rights, political, social, economic and cultural dimensions; integration, security, health, labour rights and regulatory frameworks. It is therefore of paramount importance to view migration as a complex domain that needs the involvement of all sectors. *“We are only beginning to learn how to make migration work more consistently for development. Each of us holds a piece of the migration puzzle, but none has the whole picture. It is time to start putting it together.”* (UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan)

Up to the present time, migration in The Gambia has been heavily unregulated at all levels due mainly to the scanty nature of data on migration issues. Focus is put more on the right to control our borders and limit access to residence, and citizenship is seen as a strong prerogative for our sovereignty. There is little coherence and coordination between data producers and users on the management of migration flows in The Gambia. In The Gambia, the high rate of migration has affected the structure and pattern of settlement. A large majority of migrants settle in urban agglomerates where there is a high concentration of employment opportunities and social amenities, which act as pull factors. The urban population in The Gambia stood at 53% of the total population in 2003. Consequently, increasing urbanisation is causing stress on social services, leading to rising urban poverty. The worst incidence of urban poverty can be seen in the Greater Banjul Area where 51% of the country's population is concentrated.

Here it can be recalled that the summit of Heads of State and Governments adopted the migration policy framework for Africa (MPFA) in Banjul in 2006. The MPFA aims at encouraging Member States to implement and integrate migration issues in to national and regional agenda by developing national migration policies as stated in the Lusaka Decision. The Gambia fully subscribes to these regional efforts but is yet to formulate a National Migration Policy, which will provide a framework for managing both internal and international migration. It is important to have such a policy in light of the growing attractiveness of The Gambia as a safe haven and economically-stable destination in the sub-region. A survey of this kind is envisaged to provide information, guide and facilitate support to develop effective national migration management policies and strategies, increase dialogue between migration stakeholders at national and regional levels, and help the Government to monitor and manage migration flows through effective policy making, policy dialogue, information sharing and cooperation. This call for national development strategies therefore could focus on how migration can be an adaptation strategy and make positive contributions towards development. The Government of The Gambia believes that migration is a powerful force for development, in both the countries of origin and receiving countries, provided that it is accompanied by appropriate policies. It is important to recognise the need to build migration into a country's development plans and poverty reduction strategies.

I take the opportunity to thank all stakeholder institutions within and outside Government for their hard work in the preparation of this report particularly GBOS, the National Population Commission Secretariat and the Immigration Department. In conclusion, I would like to thank UNFPA, UNDP, MIEUX, EU and ICMPD for the assistance rendered to The Gambia in setting the scene for the survey, data collection and analysis. The Gambian Government, for its part, will continue to show political will in addressing migration and development issues. We shall also continue to honour our commitment towards the dissemination of the survey findings and the eventual formulation of a comprehensive policy on migration.

Saikou J. K. Trawally (Director of Population Affairs – National Population Commission Secretariat)

## 1. Introduction

Data on migration in The Gambia has been quite limited in the past. The Migration and Urbanisation Survey of 2009 is the second migration survey to have been conducted since 1978 in The Gambia. Hence, this analysis is a valuable source of migration data. It is hoped that the information contained therein will suffice the needs of both policy makers and data users in general.

The report encompasses seven chapters, each addressing an individual area and characteristic of migration data. The introductory chapter presents previous studies on national and international migration in The Gambia. Furthermore, the report introduces the scope and limitations of the censuses in addressing certain issues, the methodology used in analysing the data and the theoretical considerations concerned that may be pertinent to those involved in addressing migration issues.

Chapter 3 analyses the demographic, social and economic characteristics of household members. Chapter 4 looks at population movements to The Gambia with a view to reflecting on their settlement patterns and socio-economic characteristics. Chapter 5 provides information on Gambians abroad. Chapter 6 addresses internal migration and looks at the movement of Gambians within and between Local Government Areas and the characteristics of these internal migrants, key determinants of changes in population distribution. Chapter 7 analyses the characteristics of non-migrant household members, in particular their reasons for not having migrated and their intentions to migrate. Each chapter contains the main results and respective figures and tables.

## 2. The Migration and Urbanisation Survey 2009

### 2.1 Previous studies on internal and international migration in The Gambia

Migration is one of the three components of population dynamics. It is an important factor that influences the growth and structure (age, male/female, etc.) of The Gambian population and the composition of its labour force. Statistics on the number and characteristics of persons leaving or entering the country, as well as data on the status of internal and non-migrants, is essential in order to analyse changes and trends in the structure of the population and labour force.

The last migration survey in The Gambia was conducted in 1978. Since then, there has been a long lapse in obtaining adequate and reliable migration information relating to migration flows, stock, patterns, profiles and the impact of migration on both communities of origin and destination. The Population and Housing Censuses of 1983, 1993 and 2003 have thus far been the only sources of information on migration available, despite being limited and lacking in essential migration data, affecting meaningful policy planning. However, in 2003, the census included questions on place of birth, previous residence and duration of stay at current residence with the objective of studying patterns of internal mobility and determining the size and characteristics of the foreign population.

Data on external migration has been limited, mainly due to a lack of information regarding emigrants and their socio-economic characteristics. The size of the emigrant population could thus only be estimated through indirect methods. Consequently, it has been difficult to establish vital information on emigrants' destinations, the purpose of migration, the duration of stay outside the country and other information regarding migration necessary for policy and programme development. In light of these limitations, the 2009 Migration and Urbanisation Survey provides essential data on immigrants, emigrants, internal migrants and non-migrants, and will considerably facilitate the national development planning process in the area of migration management.

The format of the last census makes it possible to study the age/male/female structure of the migrant population and its socio-economic characteristics such as marital status, education, economic characteristics, etc. Analysis of the data collected makes it possible to study the movements between rural and urban areas as well as between rural settlements and urban settlements themselves.

However, despite the useful information collected on migration in the 2003 Population and Housing Census, it failed to address certain pertinent issues. Hence, the 2009 Migration Survey, which follows international standards, was designed to fill in the gaps of the census by focusing on issues such as the reasons for migrating and migrants' occupations before migrating and in comparison with their current occupations.

## 2.2 Concepts and definitions

The Gambia Bureau of Statistics applied the following concepts and definitions for the 2009 Migration and Urbanisation Survey:

*Migration* is a form of spatial mobility involving a change of usual residence between two clearly defined geographical units. A migrant is considered as such when he/she leaves his/her place of residence for a period of six months or more.

*Emigration* is the action by which a person, having been previously a resident in the territory of The Gambia, establishes his/her usual residence outside the national borders of The Gambia. An *emigrant* is a person aged 15 years and above who has lived in a household and left to stay elsewhere for a period of six months or more, and is also a person who left his/her household less than six months previously, but has the intention to stay beyond six months.

A *household* is the total number of individuals who reside in the same house, have meals together and recognise the authority of one person as the head of the household. A household can comprise several family units.

The *head of household* is a person (male or female) who is recognised as the head of other members of the household. The head of household can take economic responsibility of the household and own or rent the house.

*Immigration* is the action by which a person establishes his/her usual residence in the territory of the Gambia, having previously been a resident in another country. An *immigrant* is a person aged 15 years and above undertaking the act of immigration.

*Internal migration* is the action by which a person changes his or her usual residence from one city, town or village to another within Gambian territory. An internal migrant is a person undertaking the act of internal migration. Three types of internal migration are differentiated: *Short distance migration* is defined as movement within the same district; *medium distance migration* is defined as movement between districts in the same Local Government Area; and *long distance migration* is defined as movement between different Local Government Areas.

*International migration* is defined as the movement of persons who leave their country of origin, or their country of usual residence, to establish themselves in another country. An international migrant is a person undertaking the act of international migration.

The Gambia is divided into eight *Local Government Areas* (LGAs) (see the map of The Gambia in the appendix): Banjul, Basse, Brikama, Janjanbureh, Kanifing, Kerewan, Kuntaur and, Mansa Konko.

A settlement is considered an *urban settlement* if it satisfies one or more of the following criteria (for the list of urban and rural settlements see appendix):

- Has commercial importance
- Has institutional importance
- Majority of the population should be non-agricultural in occupation
- Population should be 5,000 and above
- Density should be high
- Some degree of infrastructure should be available

All other settlements that do not meet the above criteria are considered *rural settlements*.

## **2.3 Methodology**

### **2.3.1 Sampling and sample selection**

At the first planning workshop for the National Migration and Urbanisation Survey which was organised with technical guidance from CERPOD (Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur la Population pour le Développement), the minimum sample size was determined as 2,500 households. This was based on the current trends and patterns of migration in the country.

According to the 2003 Population and Housing Census, the rate of internal migration was lowest in Basse with an in-migration rate of 2.1%. Aspiring for a 95 percent precision level, the minimum sample size was hence determined.

Any sample size above would have increased the accuracy of the estimates. After a series of consultative meetings, the survey coordinating committee has decided to keep the sample size at 2,500 households representing 1.6% of the total households in the country. To capture a large number of migrants, particularly international migrants who are dispersed across the country, it was decided to spread the sample across 125 enumeration areas (EAs) equivalent to 5.05% of the EAs in the country. This takes into account the spatial distribution of the population including the rural – urban spread.

### **2.3.2 The design**

A two stage probability, proportional to size (PPS) sampling, was used. 2,477 EAs from the 2003 census list of Enumeration Areas were distributed among Local Governments and the 125 EAs were proportionately distributed accordingly in the first stage.

The second stage of sampling consisted in the selection of the required number of households. In each EA selected, a listing of all the compounds and households was carried out. The households were serially numbered from 1 to N (where N is the last number); the supervisors selected the required households using either random sampling or systematic sampling.

### **2.3.3 Training and pre-testing**

A pre-survey training was conducted to ensure that enumerators and supervisors were knowledgeable and familiar with the survey instruments that were to be administered. An interviewer's manual, which was developed by the coordinating committee and translated into the three major local languages (Mandinka, Fula, Wollof), served as the reference document for the pre-survey training. The training ensured that nuances in translations were clarified and consensus reached on the concepts to be used in the different languages.

As part of the training, the trainees were provided with hands-on experience in completion of the questionnaires. This was accomplished by taking trainees to some sample urban and rural communities in the field to complete the questionnaires. The feedback from this exercise was used to amend the questionnaire. All survey instruments were pre-tested immediately before commencement of the survey.

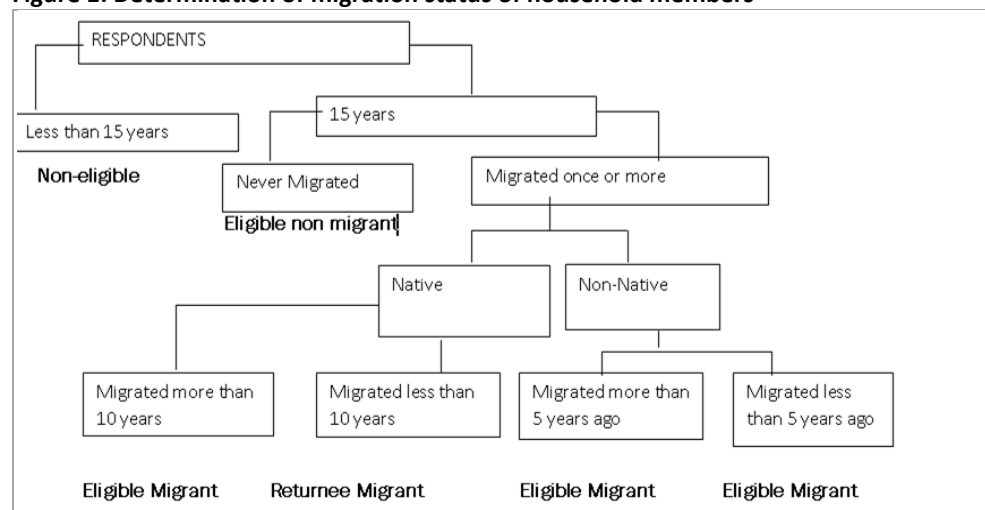
### 2.3.4 Data collection

3 sets of questionnaires were developed in order to capture data on all relevant groups of migrants:

- Household questionnaire (including 56 questions on individual and household characteristics, 15 questions on Gambians abroad)
- Migrant questionnaire covering immigrants and internal migrants (including 181 questions on individual characteristics, migratory background, information on destination, decision and financing, reception at current residence, migration and family, economic situation before migration, economic activity after arrival, current economic activity, assets, integration, remittances, and intentions and opinions on migration)
- Non-migrants questionnaire (including 68 questions on migration and intention to migrate, economic activity, migration, family and society, opinions on migration, remittances and reception of money or goods and equipment/properties)

In order to cover a wide spectrum of migrants, data was collected on persons aged 15 years and above. This was done to provide an opportunity to establish migratory trends among both the young and old, to study reasons for migration across the various ages and also to reveal the socio-economic consequences of migration on the population. The National Population Commission Secretariat, in collaboration with the Gambia Bureau of Statistics, were responsible for conducting the survey in the field. The figure below shows how the migration status of each member of the household was determined.

**Figure 1: Determination of migration status of household members**



### 2.3.5 Data editing, coding, entry and analysis

The first stage of editing the questionnaire was done by the supervisors and enumerators at field level prior to submission of the completed questionnaires to the Gambian Bureau of Statistics. CSPro software was used for data entry, and data validation rules were strictly adhered to the use of appropriate syntaxes and data ranges. However, due to a lack of funding to implement the next stages of the survey, other potential sources of funding

were explored. As such, the survey was completed through the technical assistance and funding provided by the Migration EU eXpertise (MIEUX) Project.

#### **2.4 Data source and limitations**

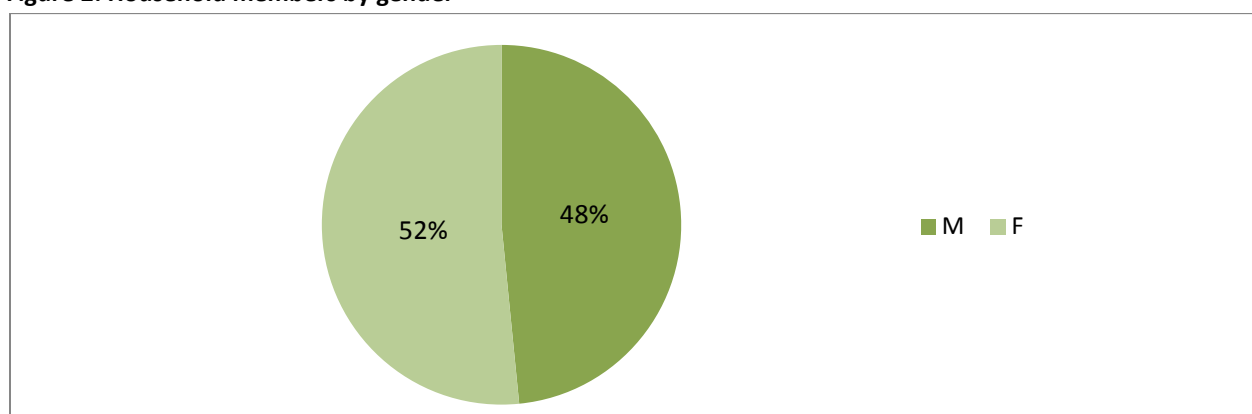
The sample design provided for 2,500 households, but only 1,601 households were actually interviewed. This implies that the level of precision of the statistics derived from the survey will decline slightly. Hence, instead of 95% confidence interval, it would be appropriate to talk about 90% confidence interval in evaluating the survey results.

### 3. Characteristics of household members

This chapter analyses the 1,601 households and the characteristics of their 12,542 household members. The following results provide a detailed picture of the demographic and social composition of the Gambian population and provide important background information for Chapters 4-7.

According to the 2003 Population and Housing Census, The Gambia had a total population of 1,360,681 in 2003, of whom 49.3% were males and 50.7% were females. The total population growth is projected to have reached 1.8 million in 2012, at an annual growth rate of 2.3%. For the 2009 Migration and Urbanisation Survey, females constitute 51.6%, whereas males constitute 48.4% of all household members (including children) (see figure 3). The relatively low male/female ratio (number of males per 100 females), 94 males per 100 females, might be due to differential net emigration and/or differential mortality by gender.

**Figure 2: Household members by gender**



The Gambian population is still young as the age group (0-14) reaches 44.7% of the total population. This is a clear sign of persistence of high fertility. However, the shrinking of the basis of the age-gender pyramid (age group 0-4 years) clearly indicates that during the five years preceding the survey, fertility decreased. Youth (15-29 years) constitutes 27.3%, while persons aged 60 years and above amount to just 5.1% of the total population. Persons of working age (15-64 years) constitute 51.9% of all household members interviewed (see figure 4).

**Figure 3: Household members by age and gender**

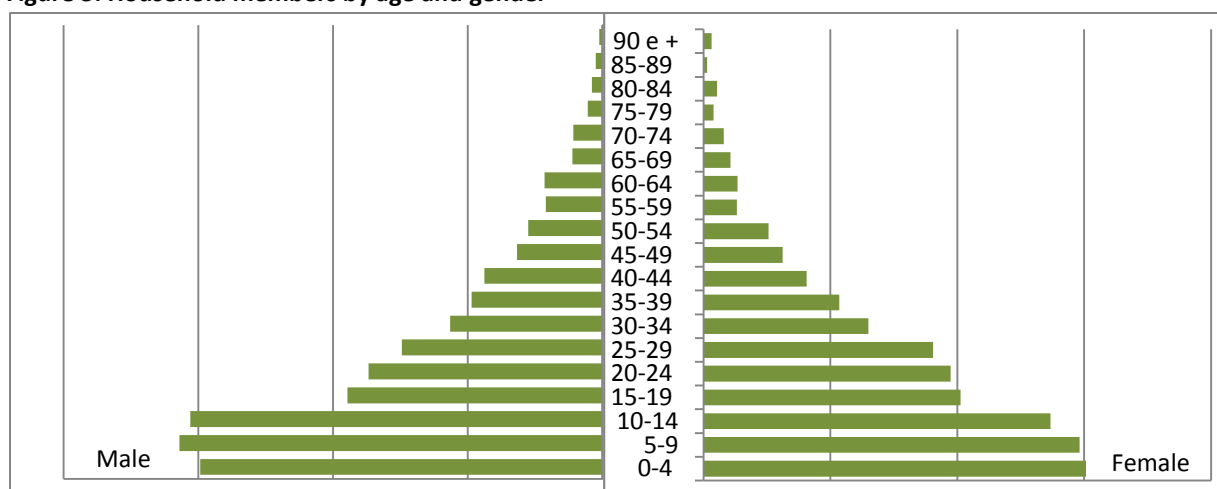
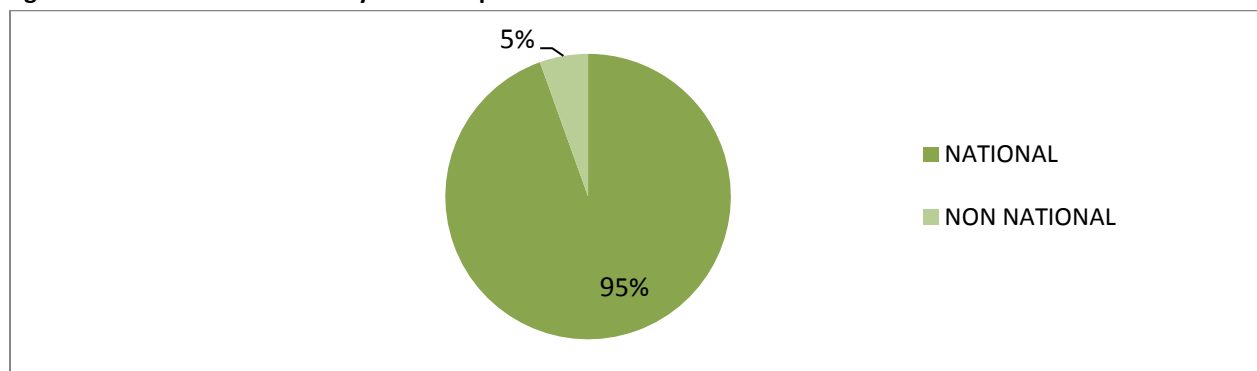


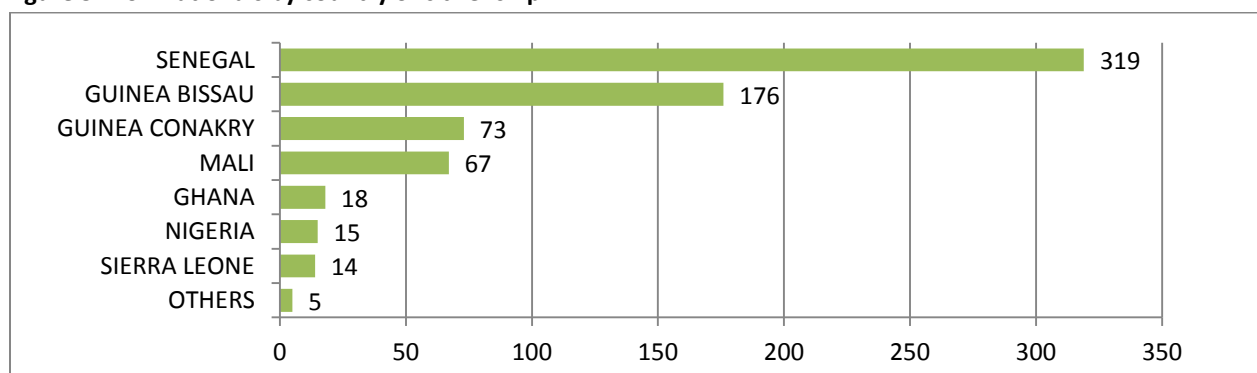
Figure 5 shows that 95% of all household members are Gambian nationals. Foreign nationals constitute only 5% of the total surveyed population.

**Figure 4: Household members by citizenship**



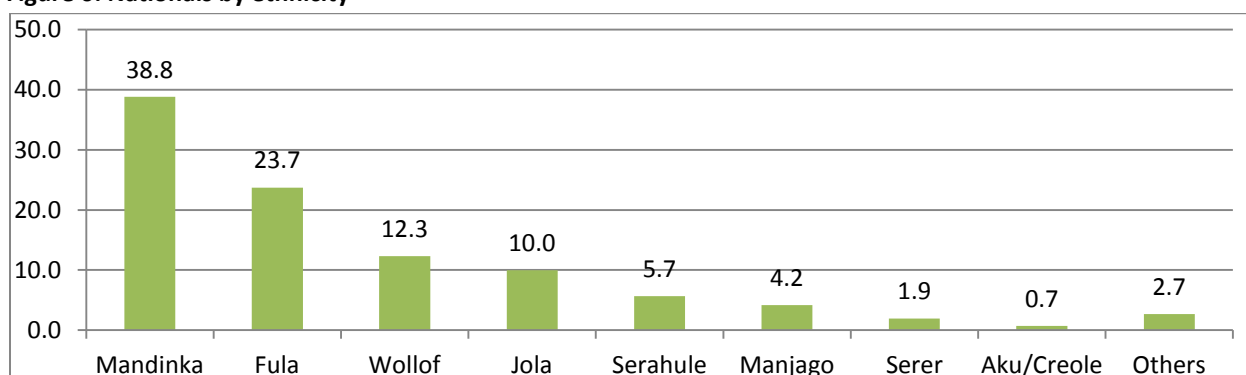
Almost all non-national household members originate from West African countries (99%). Being the immediate neighbour with shared ethnic groups and culture, it is not surprising that almost half (46.4%) of all non-nationals are Senegalese nationals. These were followed by non-nationals from Guinea Bissau (25.6%), Guinea Conakry (10.6%), Mali (9.6%), Ghana (2.6%), Nigeria (2.2%) and Sierra Leone (2%) (see figure 6).

**Figure 5: Non-nationals by country of citizenship**



There are eight main ethnic groups in The Gambia, with Mandinka being the largest in the country. Hence, 38.8 % of the household members interviewed are Mandinka. The next largest ethnic groups were the Fulas (23.7%) and the Wollofs (12.3%).

**Figure 6: Nationals by ethnicity**

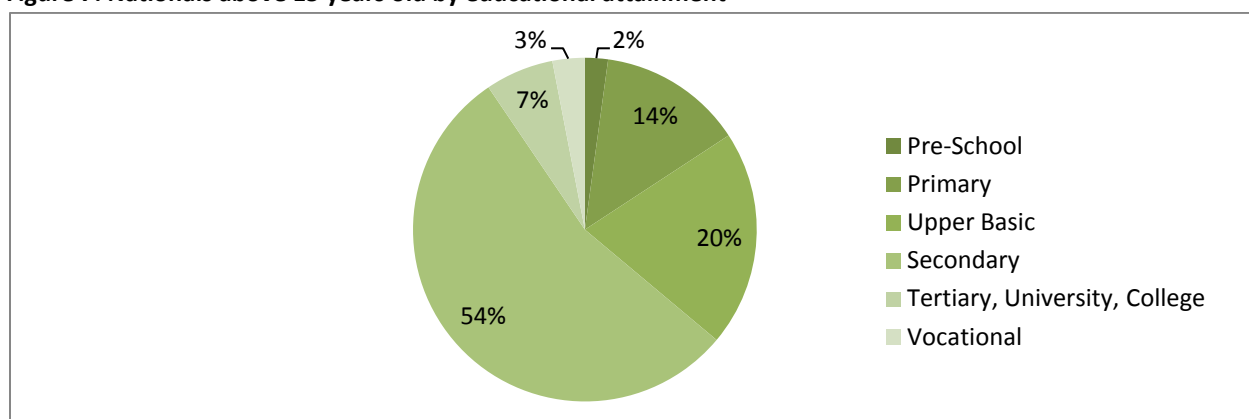




Households with 5 and 6 family members are the most common household sizes in The Gambia according to the 2009 Migration and Urbanisation Survey. The average household size in The Gambia is 7.8. Household size varies considerably among ethnic and national groups. Those headed by non-nationals are much smaller on average than households headed by Gambians, since immigration of these non-nationals is mainly constituted of adult males, rarely settling with their whole household.

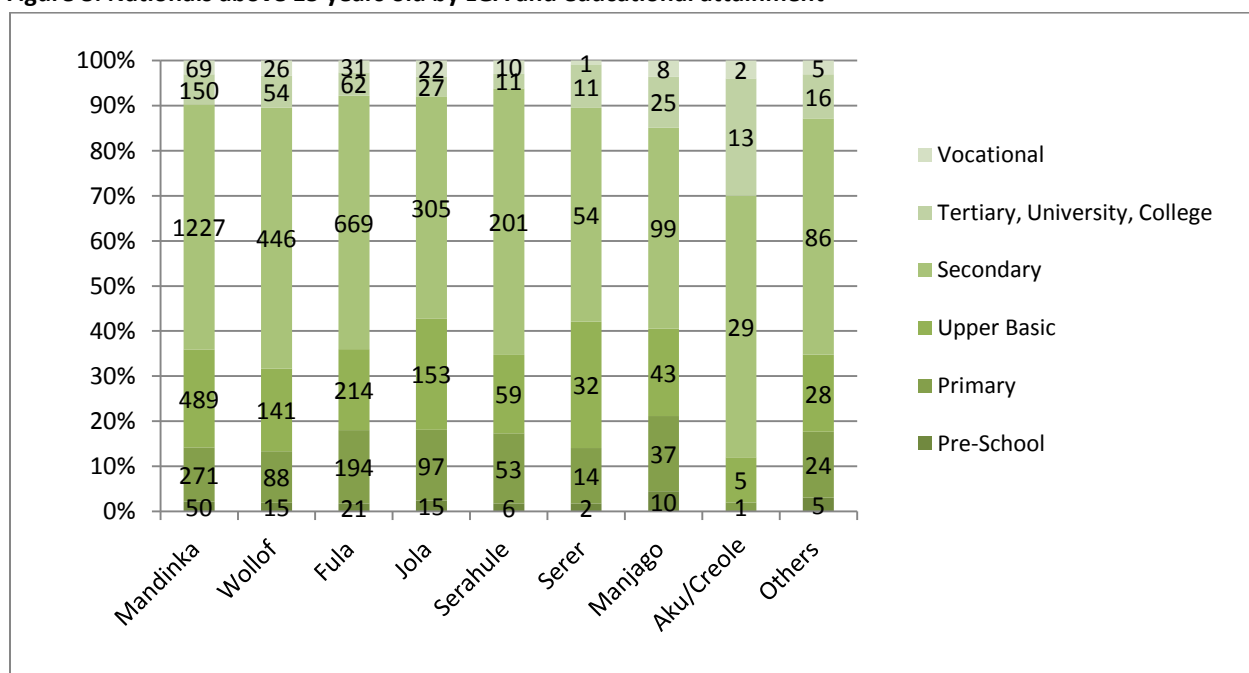
The large majority of Gambian household members aged 15 years and above had completed secondary education or higher (61%). 20% attained an upper basic level of education, and 19% are either illiterate or with lower levels of education (see figure 9).

**Figure 7: Nationals above 15 years old by educational attainment**



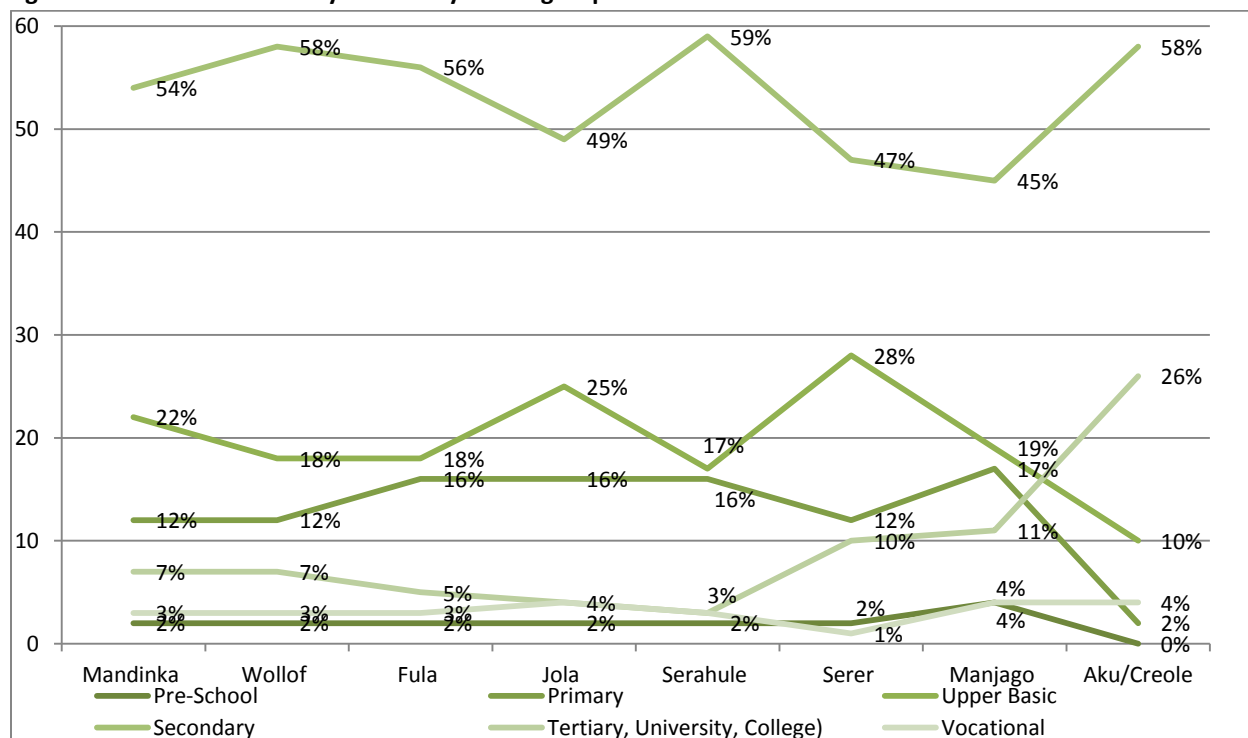
The figure below shows that the LGA of Kanifing has the highest proportion of persons who attended post secondary education.

**Figure 8: Nationals above 15 years old by LGA and educational attainment**



The ethnic group of Aku/Creole has the highest percentage of persons who attended tertiary education (26%), followed by the Manjagoes and Serers (11% and 10% respectively). The ethnic groups of Manjago, Serer and Jola have the lowest rate of secondary education (45%, 47% and 49% respectively).

**Figure 9: Nationals above 15 years old by ethnic group and educational attainment**



More than 52% of the household members above 15 years were employed or self-employed and almost one sixth were students. Around 9.2% of Gambian nationals reported being unemployed, against 7.5% of non-nationals. In terms of activity rates, the Fulas and the Serahules stand above other ethnic groups including the Mandinkas, the largest group (see table 1).

**Table 1: Household members above 15 years old by employment status and ethnic group**

Ethnic group	Employed/ self - employed	Un- employed	Have a job but not at work	House- wife	Student	Not working/ Inactive	Retired	Total
Mandinka	1151	215	22	309	429	173	18	2317
Wollof	384	87	7	112	137	41	9	777
Fula	742	65	14	126	163	98	14	1222
Jola	280	71	4	83	125	60	7	630
Serahule	199	30	0	38	46	31	2	346
Serer	55	12	1	14	28	5	1	116
Manjago	100	36	3	19	50	16	1	225
Aku/Creole	20	8	0	4	12	2	5	51
Others	78	17	2	19	36	11	2	165
Non Nationals	308	37	3	91	29	25	0	493
Total	3317	578	56	815	1055	462	59	6342

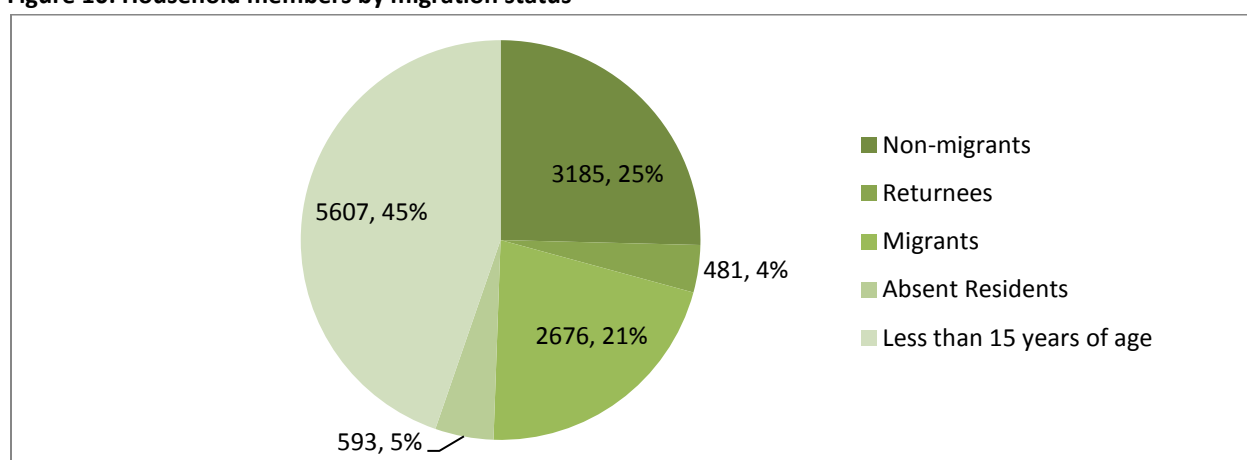
The LGA Kanifing regroups the largest population, and therefore also has the biggest group of employed persons aged 15 years and over. However, in relative terms, Kuntuar, Jangjangbureh and Basse have higher activity rates. In the LGAs of Kuntaur, Jangjangbureh and Basse, only 2-6% household members were reported as being unemployed, while in all other LGAs the percentage was much higher (between 9.6% and 21.7%, with the LGA of Banjul having the highest rate) (see table 2).

**Table 2: Household members above 15 years old by employment status and LGA**

LGA	Employed/ Self-employed	Un-employed	Have a job but not at work	House - wife	Student	Not working/ Inactive	Retired	Total
Banjul	65	30	2	17	19	2	3	138
Kanifing	898	247	26	285	423	140	32	2051
Brikama	834	172	18	272	335	145	11	1787
Mansa Konko	166	36	0	32	36	26	1	297
Kerewan	418	35	4	130	130	54	5	776
Kuntaur	164	4	0	7	12	12	1	200
Jangjangbureh	326	27	5	23	44	32	1	458
Basse	446	27	1	49	56	51	5	635
<b>Total</b>	<b>3317</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>1055</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>6342</b>

Figure 10 shows the different migration status of each member of the households interviewed. Almost half of the 12,542 household members were aged less than 15 years and consequently not eligible as migrants (5,607 persons or 45%). 3,185 household members (25%) were non-migrants; 481 (4%) Gambian nationals who lived outside The Gambia and returned to the country; 2,676 (21%) migrants, and 593 (5%) absent residents.

**Figure 10: Household members by migration status**

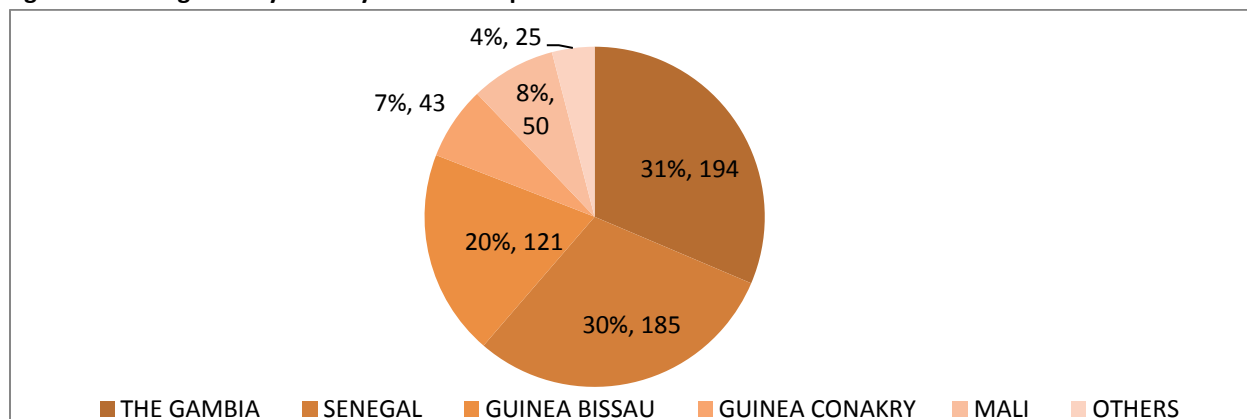




#### 4. Immigration

Immigrants to The Gambia include persons who have moved to The Gambia and also stayed in another country for a period of 6 months or more. Consequently, immigrants include two group of persons: returning Gambian nationals and non-nationals entering The Gambia. In total, 618 (10%) of the eligible household members interviewed immigrated to The Gambia. Female immigrants (57%) have been more numerous than male immigrants (43%). Gambian nationals, returning from another country to The Gambia, account for 31% of the immigrant population, which is almost equal to Senegalese nationals (30%) (see figure 12).

**Figure 11: Immigrants by country of citizenship**



Non-national immigrants originated predominantly from West African countries (93%), with Senegalese nationals being the most important non-national immigrant group (50%). Other important countries of origin are Guinea Conakry (20%), Guinea Bisseau (8%), Mali (6%), Nigeria (3%), Mauritania (3%) and Cameroon (3%) (see figure 12).

**Figure 12: Non-national immigrants by country of origin**

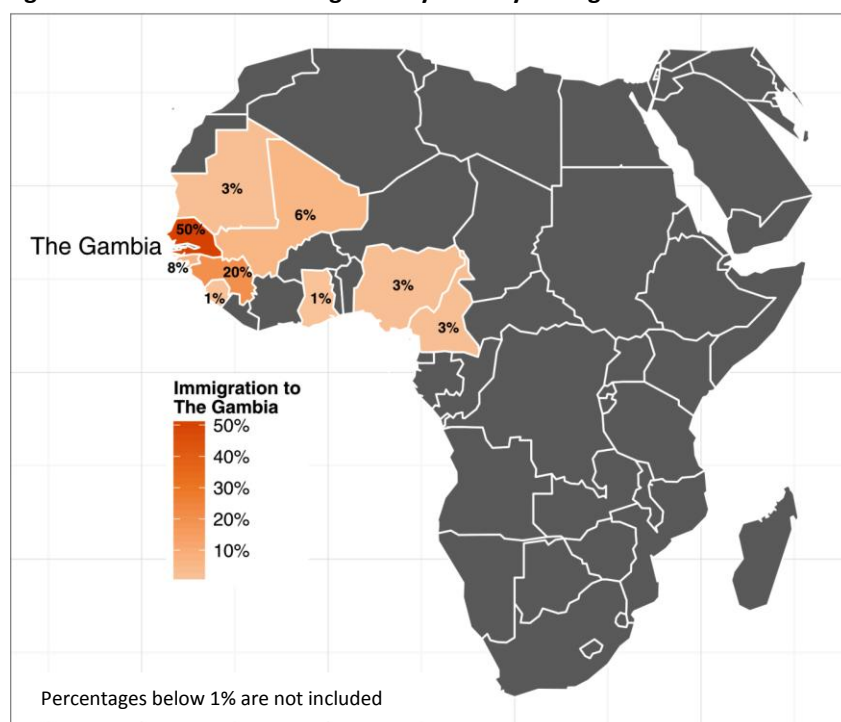
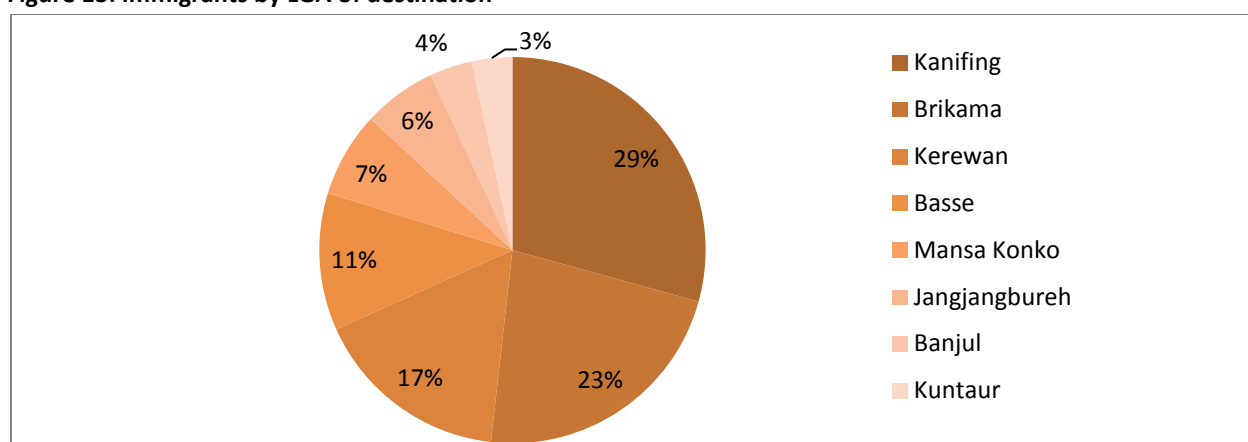


Figure 13 indicates that more than 50% of all immigrants settled in Kanifing and Brikama LGAs (29% and 23% respectively). The main reason for the concentration of immigrants in these LGAs is due to their economic and social advantages, including, amongst others, higher opportunities for formal and informal jobs, availability of markets, existence of modern banking and other financial institutions, and access to better social services, particularly in education and health.

The third most important destination of immigrants is Kerewan (17%). With the exception of Kanifing and Brikama, access to Banjul is easier from this LGA than any other. Only 4% of all immigrants settled in the LGA of Banjul, mainly due to limited space on the island of Banjul where the provision of adequate housing for the growing population is limited. Basse received 11% of the immigrants.

Given its location as the last LGA on the east bordering southern Senegal, most migrants from Senegal, Guinea Bissau and Guinea Conakry entering by land establish themselves there. In addition, due to its location and lack of job opportunities, Kuntaur LGA is found to be the least represented (3%).

**Figure 13: Immigrants by LGA of destination**



The three main reasons for their immigration mentioned by immigrants are the search for work/employment, marriage/divorce and education (in total more than 74%). While work/employment is the most important reason for immigration amongst male immigrants, marriage/divorce is the most important reason amongst females.

**Table 3: Immigrants by main reason for most recent immigration and gender**

Reason for most recent immigration	M	F	Total
Education	35	8	43
Health	3	10	12
Work/employment	133	23	156
Apprenticeship	8	0	8
Retired	0	1	1
Marriage / Divorce, widow	5	255	260
Others (specify)	78	47	125
Do not know	3	9	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>618</b>

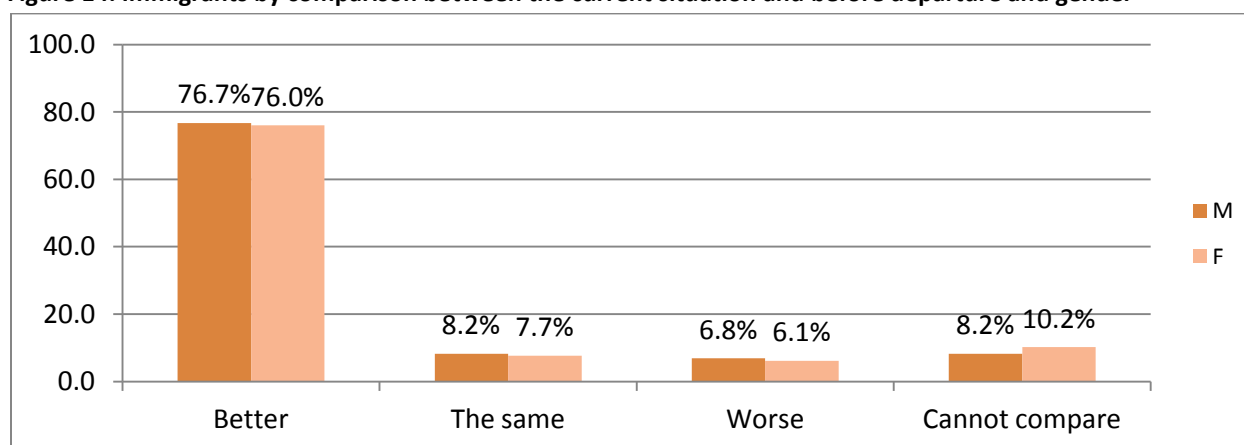
Table 4 shows the difference in the economic situation of internal migrants before and after migrating. It demonstrates that most internal migrants are involved in an economic activity before migrating. This is largely true for males (73.6%) and slightly less for females (62.7%). In general, immigration had no positive effect on the economic activity of the household members interviewed. The percentage of immigrants involved in an economic activity before migrating and after even dropped slightly from 67.5% to 67.2%. This is especially relevant for women whose economic activity declined significantly (-7.1%) and not relevant for men (+8.7%).

**Table 4: Immigrants by economic activity which allows to earn money or something for sustenance – Comparison between the current situation and prior to migration**

Prior to migration	Current situation				Current situation		
Total	Yes	No	Total		Yes	No	Total
	<i>absolute numbers</i>				<i>percentage</i>		
Yes	315	103	417		51.0%	16.7%	67.5%
No	101	100	201		16.3%	16.2%	32.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>618</b>		<b>67.2%</b>	<b>32.8%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<i>absolute numbers</i>				<i>percentage</i>		
Yes	181	14	195		68.3%	5.3%	73.6%
No	38	32	70		14.3%	12.1%	26.4%
<b>Total Male</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>265</b>		<b>82.3%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<i>absolute numbers</i>				<i>percentage</i>		
Yes	134	89	222		37.9%	25.1%	62.7%
No	63	68	131		17.8%	19.2%	37.0%
<b>Total Female</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>354</b>		<b>55.6%</b>	<b>44.4%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The current situation compared to the situation before departure has improved for more than three quarters of immigrants. Only 7% stated that their situation had worsened (see figure 15).

**Figure 14: Immigrants by comparison between the current situation and before departure and gender**



However, 48% of the immigrants stated that they cannot satisfy their basic needs through their current economic activity (see figure 15)

**Figure 15: Immigrants by satisfaction of basic needs through current economic activity**

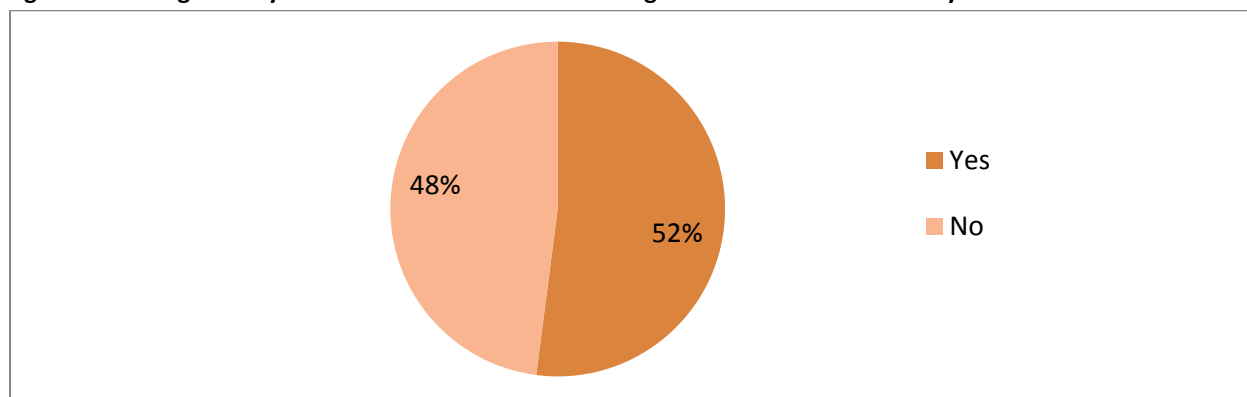
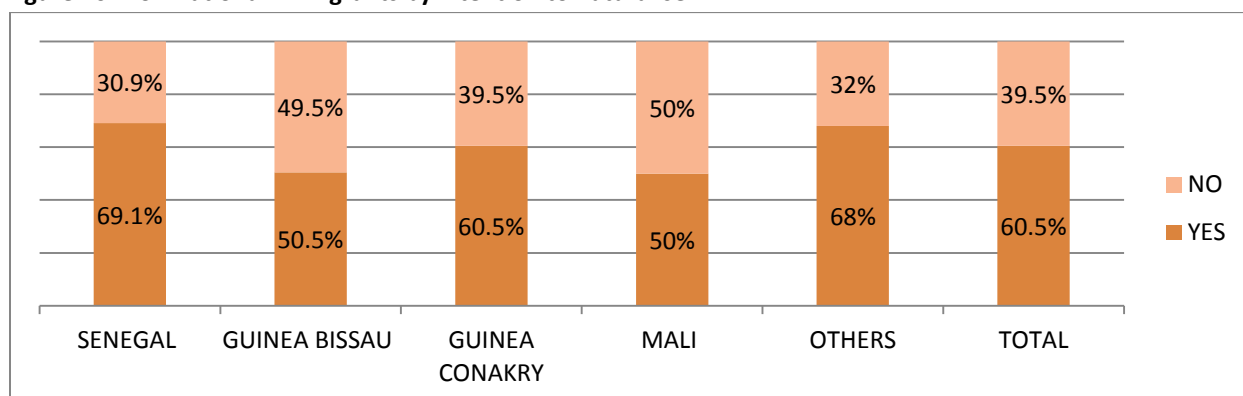


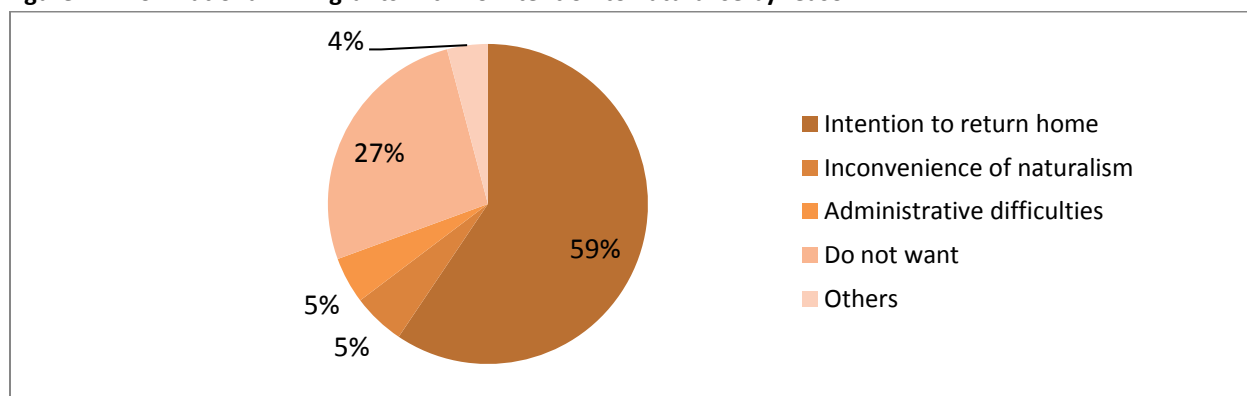
Figure 16 indicates that Senegalese immigrants have the highest intention (almost 70%) to naturalise. Immigrants from Guinea Bissau and Mali have the lowest (50.5% and 50% respectively).

**Figure 16: Non-national immigrants by intention to naturalise**



Regarding reasons or motives for no intention to naturalise, 59% plan to return to their country of origin, while 27% simply do not want to (see figure 17).

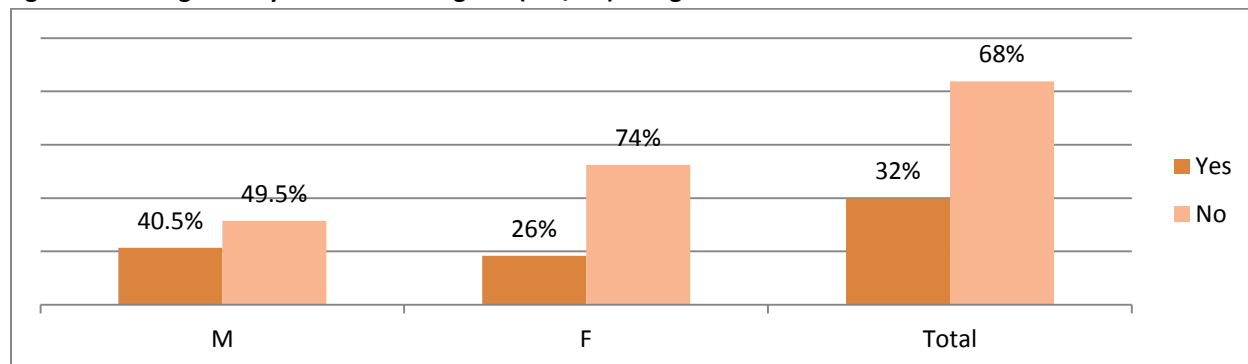
**Figure 17: Non-national immigrants with no intention to naturalise by reason**





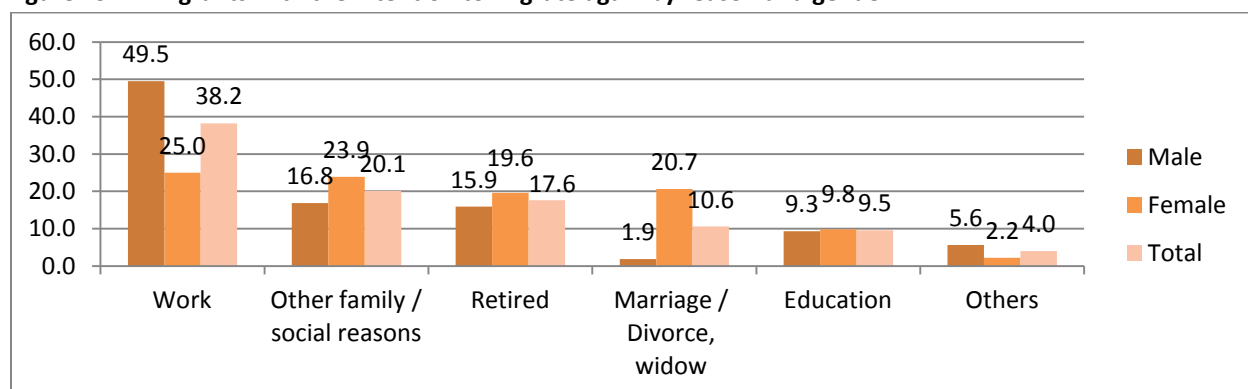
The figure below shows that 32% of all immigrants plan to migrate again (within The Gambia or to another country). The intention to migrate is significantly higher among male immigrants (40.5%), compared to females (26%).

**Figure 18: Immigrants by intention to migrate (Yes/No) and gender**



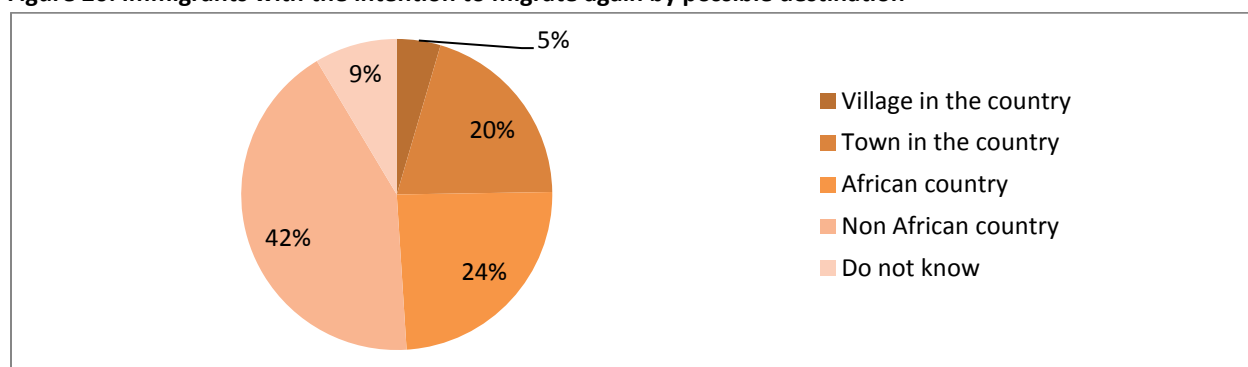
The main reason for intending to migrate again for both male and female immigrants is the search for work (38.2%). Other important reasons are family or social issues and retirement (20.1% and 17.6% respectively). In particular, marriage/divorce/widowhood is an important reason for females (20.7%) (see figure 19).

**Figure 19: Immigrants with the intention to migrate again by reason and gender**



While only 25% intend to migrate within The Gambia (5% to another village in the country and 20% to another town in the country), 66% of all immigrants plan to emigrate (24% to another African country and 42% to a non-African country) (see figure 20).

**Figure 20: Immigrants with the intention to migrate again by possible destination**



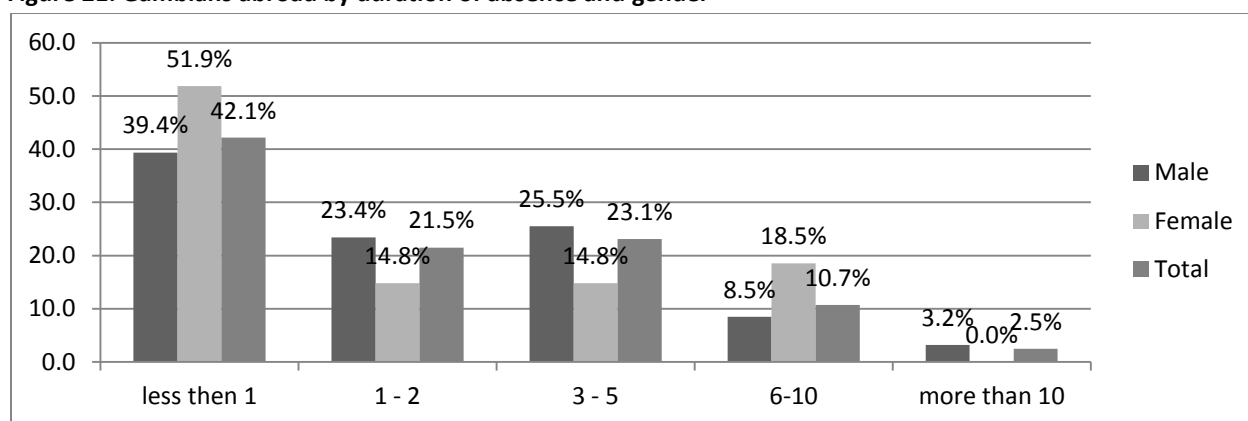


## 5. Gambians abroad

Neither the last census nor former household surveys have included information on Gambians abroad. For the Migration and Urbanisation Survey 2009, Gambians abroad have been identified by asking household interviewees if any household member had left The Gambia to stay abroad during the last five years. Therefore, the results of the survey cannot be used to estimate the number of Gambians abroad. For this reason, this section includes only the percentage distributions of Gambians living abroad.

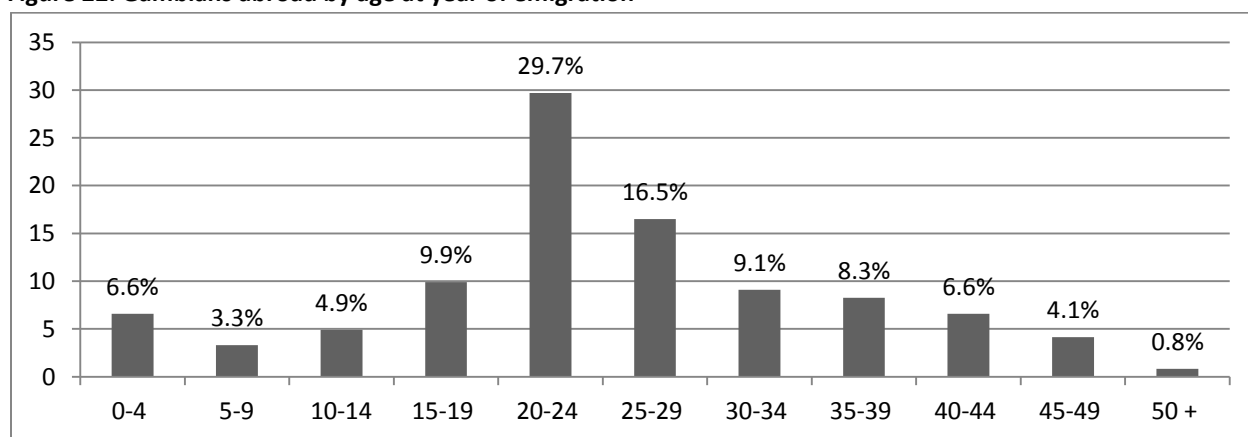
According to the information provided by the household members, 121 persons have been reported as Gambians abroad. 78% of Gambians abroad were male, whereas only 22% were estimated to be female. About 42% of all Gambians abroad were absent for 1 years or less. Of these the majority are men with a significant proportion of about 73%. A proportion of 45% were absent from 1 to 5 years and only 13% for more than 6 years. Overall figures indicate that the duration of absence for male Gambians abroad is higher than for females (see figure 21).

**Figure 21: Gambians abroad by duration of absence and gender**



Regarding the age at year of emigration, the findings of the survey indicate that almost 30% of all Gambians abroad left The Gambia between the age of 20 and 24. Youth (15-19 years) represents 56.2% out of total Gambians abroad. Gambians above 50 years are not inclined to emigrate (0.8%).

**Figure 22: Gambians abroad by age at year of emigration**



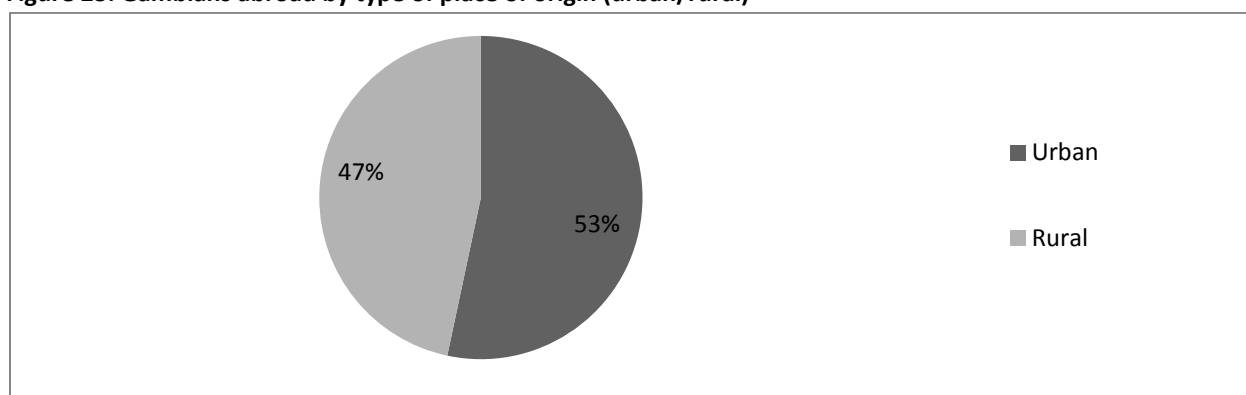
As to countries and regions of destination to which Gambians emigrate, the results indicate that more than half (61%) were bound for Europe and the United States of America (45% and 12.4% respectively). Further analysis indicates that 44% of Gambians abroad emigrated to other African countries, with Senegal being the most frequent destination within Africa (20%) (see table 5).

**Table 5: Gambians abroad by country/region of destination and gender**

Country or Region of Destination	Sex		Total (%)
	Male (%)	Female (%)	
SENEGAL	18	25	20
GUINEA CONAKRY	6	10	7
MAURITANIA	7	5	7
AFRICA (OTHERS)	13	0	10
EUROPE	45	50	46
USA	15	15	15
OTHERS	3	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

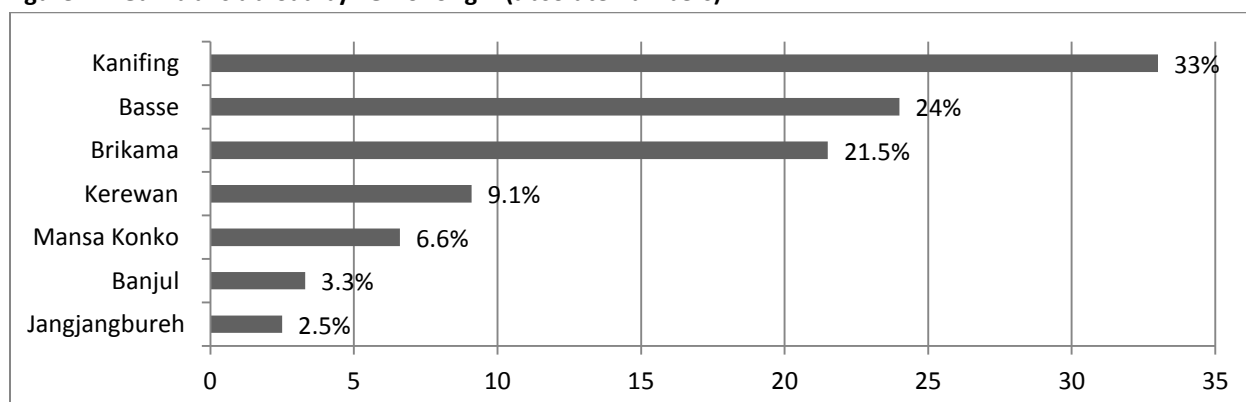
Figure 23 shows that 53% of Gambians abroad originated from urban areas and 47% from rural areas, which corresponds to the urbanisation rate of the Gambian population.

**Figure 23: Gambians abroad by type of place of origin (urban/rural)**



The figure below indicates that, Kanifing, Basse and Brikama are the most important LGAs of origin for Gambians abroad (33%, 24% and 21.5% respectively). Only 22% of Gambians abroad lived in other LGAs before departure.

**Figure 24: Gambians abroad by LGA of origin (absolute numbers)**



Air transport is the preferred option used by at least half of the Gambian emigrants to travel to their destinations, followed by road (42%). Migration by sea is the option least explored by emigrants (see figure 25).

**Figure 25: Gambians abroad by main mode of transportation to emigrate**

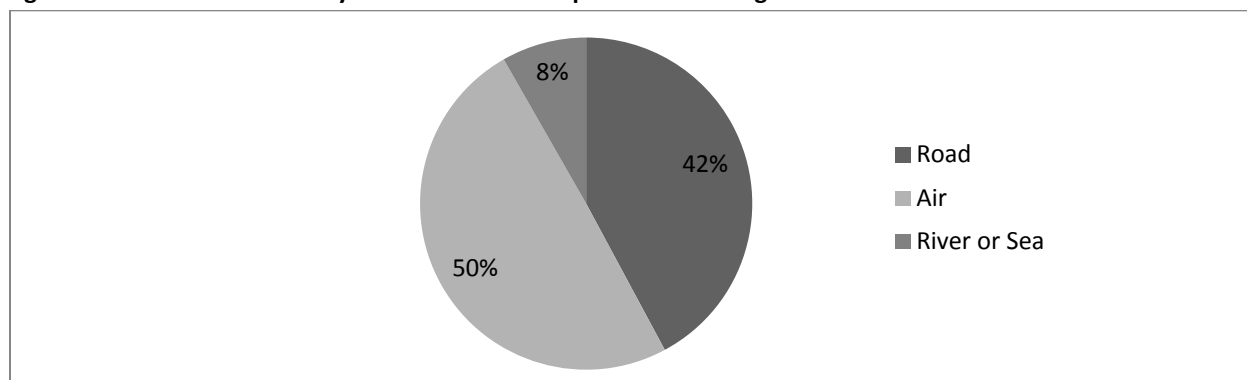
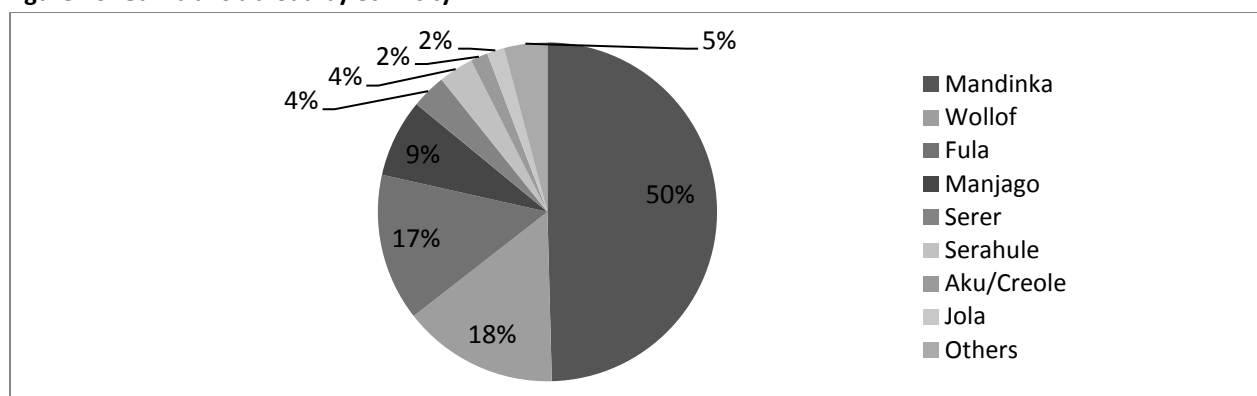


Figure 26 shows that the ethnic group Mandinka accounts for 50% of all Gambians abroad. Most of the migrants who used road as their mode of transportation are found to be Manjago and Fula, with a proportion of 67% and 65% respectively.

**Figure 26: Gambians abroad by ethnicity**



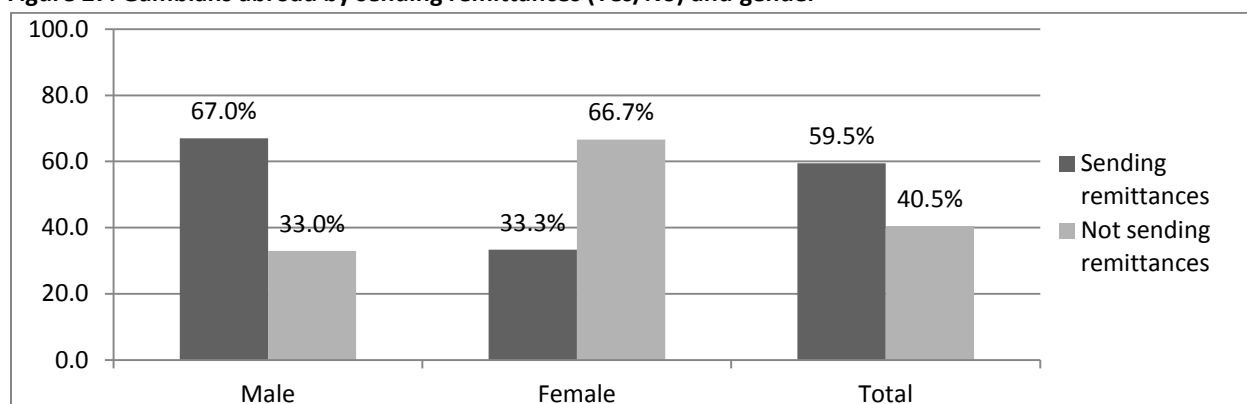
The findings indicate that 57% left in search of work or to improve their income, 21.5% for education and studying purposes and 9.9% for visiting and leisure. Data by gender indicates that for female emigrants, marriage is the third most important reason (14.8%) for leaving The Gambia (see Table 6).

**Table 6: Gambians abroad by reason for emigration and gender**

Reason for emigration	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
In search of work/money	63.8	33.3	57.0
Educational pursuit	24.5	11.1	21.5
Medical reasons	1.1	3.7	1.7
To join spouse	1.1	14.8	4.1
Visiting/leisure	6.4	22.2	9.9
Others	3.2	14.8	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

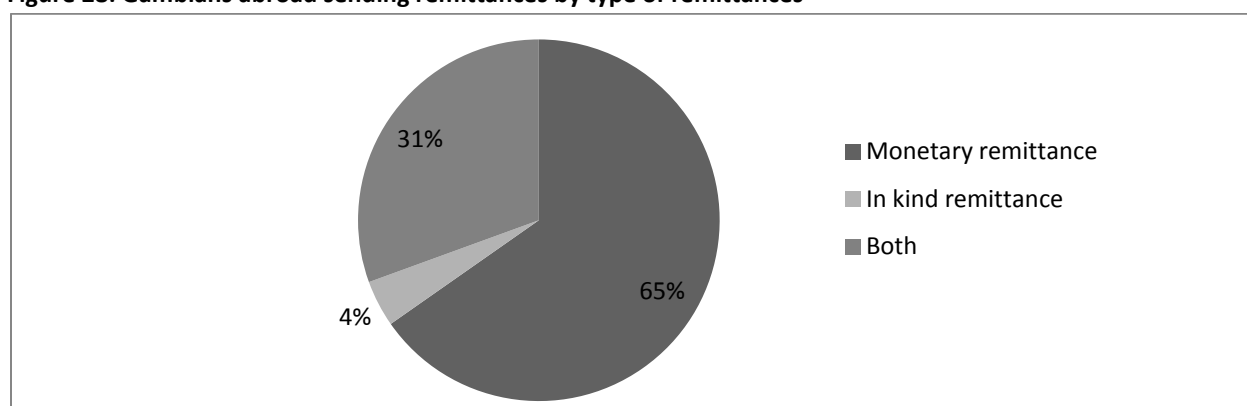
Figure 27 shows that 67% of all male Gambians abroad send remittances, against 33.3% only for females.

**Figure 27: Gambians abroad by sending remittances (Yes/No) and gender**



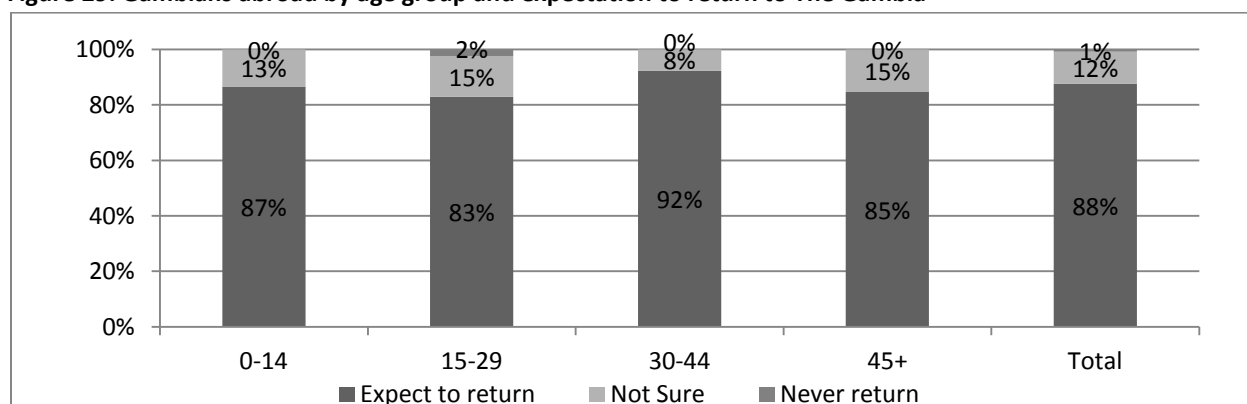
Monetary remittances have the largest share (65%). Remittances in kind account for only a small fraction (4%). However, about one-third of the remittances sent by migrants living abroad are both in cash and kind (figure 28).

**Figure 28: Gambians abroad sending remittances by type of remittances**



The figure below shows that most households expect that the family member living abroad will return to The Gambia (88%). The highest percentage of Gambians abroad who never plan to return to their country of origin can be found in the age group 15-29 (2%).

**Figure 29: Gambians abroad by age group and expectation to return to The Gambia**



## 6. Internal Migration

This chapter provides information on household members aged 15 years and above who changed their usual residence from one city, town or village to another within the Gambia at least once in their lives.

2,539 persons were involved in the process of internal migration (more than 40% of eligible household members interviewed). Surprisingly women account for 57% of all internal migrants, not confirming the theory of male dominance in migration in The Gambia. Males as breadwinners in most Gambian families do not migrate more than their female counterparts in search for better income earning opportunities to support their households and extended families back home. Regarding the age distribution of persons who changed their places of residence within The Gambia, 44.8% of them fall in the age group (15-29 years), 31.1% in the age group (30-44 years) and 24.1% in the age group (45 years and above) (see table 7).

**Table 7: Internal migrants by age group and gender**

Age group	M	F	Total
15-29	17.5%	27.8%	45.5%
30-44	13.3%	17.8%	31.3%
45+	12.3%	8.4%	24.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.1%</b>	<b>56.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>

More than half of these internal migrants originate from Kanifing (27.2%), Brikama (19.9%) and Kerewan (13.2%) LGAs. The lowest proportion was found in Kuntaur Local Government Area accounting for only 5.3% of the total internal migrants. Nearly 78.7% of all internal migrants were destined for Kanifing and Brikama due to a myriad of socio-economic factors, whereas only 1.1% of all internal migrants moved to the Banjul LGA.

Net-migration was positive only for Kanifing and Brikama. This implies that these Local Government Areas receive more and send out less internal migrants. On the other hand, net migration in Banjul and the five highly rural Local Government Areas were negative.

**Table 8: Internal migrants by LGA of origin and destination**

LGA of Origin	LGA of destination								Total
	Banjul	Kanifing	Brikama	Mansa Konko	Kerewan	Kuntaur	Jangjang bureh	Basse	
Banjul	8	237	38	0	1	0	0	3	286
Kanifing	2	391	256	12	13	0	4	12	690
Brikama	5	227	230	10	16	10	4	7	506
Mansa Konko	1	80	68	20	10	0	6	7	192
Kerewan	10	145	90	20	53	2	11	4	335
Kuntaur	0	14	27	3	5	37	39	8	135
JangJang bureh	1	48	33	25	6	11	81	13	217
Basse	1	63	39	7	1	2	30	33	177
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1207</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2539</b>

Except for households members based in Kanifing, most internal migrants moved between different LGAs (long distance migration). In total, 66% of internal migrants were long distance migrants, 25% moved within the same district and only 9% between districts of the same LGA.

**Figure 30: Internal migrants by type of migration (short/medium/long distance)**

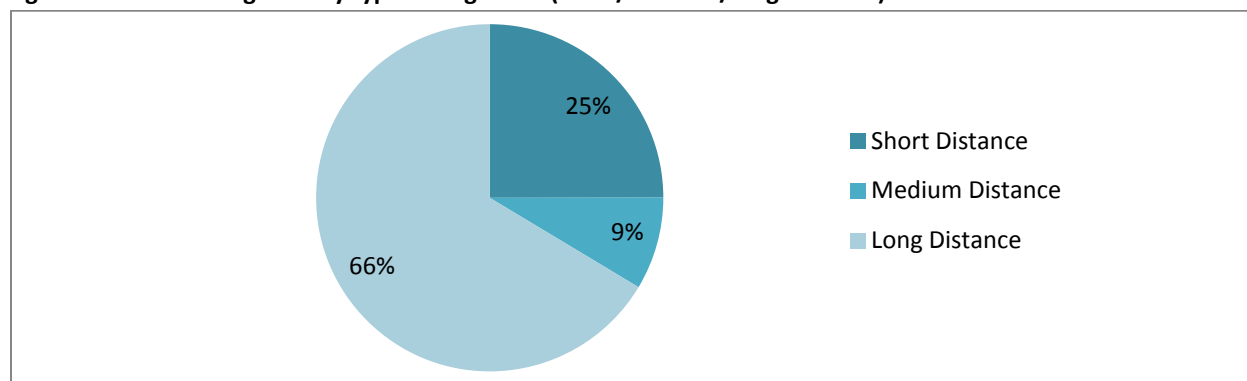
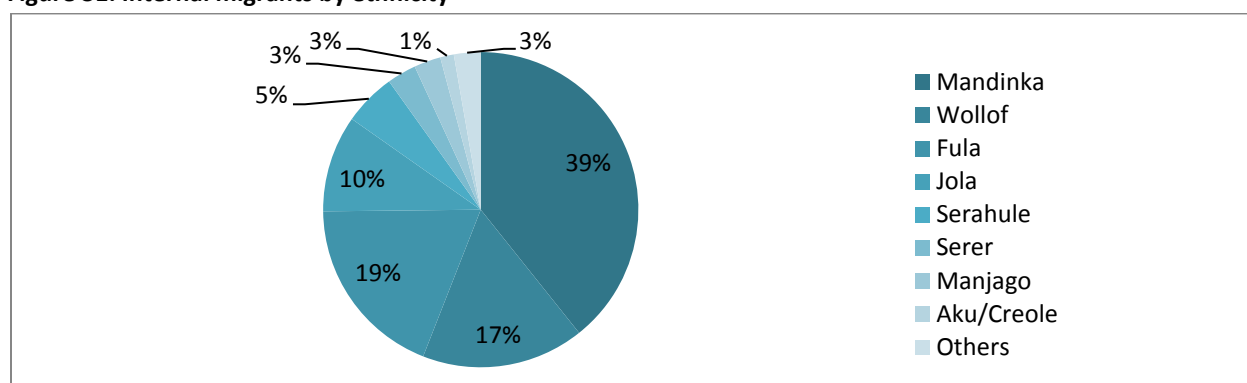


Figure 31 shows that the ethnic groups Mandinka, Wollof and Fula account for 75% of all internal migrants.

**Figure 31: Internal migrants by ethnicity**



The main reasons for migrating internally are marriage/divorce/widowhood and work/employment (36.4% and 19.8% respectively). Given the recent gains in female enrolment in the formal school system, it is not surprising that internal movement for higher education in particular to bigger villages and towns is the second most important reason for females to migrate.

**Table 9: Internal migrants by main reason for most recent migration and gender**

Main reason for most recent migration	Male	Female	Total
Education	178	122	299
Health	15	31	46
Work/employment	400	103	504
Apprenticeship	37	1	38
Retired	5	2	7
Marriage/divorce/widowhood	60	864	924
Others (specify)	342	280	621
Do not know	54	46	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1090</b>	<b>1449</b>	<b>2539</b>



Table 10 shows the difference in the economic situation of internal migrants before and after migrating. It demonstrates that most internal migrants are involved in an economic activity before migrating (58.0%). This is largely true for males (64.3%) and slightly less for females (53.3%). Migration had a positive effect on the economic activity of the household members interviewed. The great majority of internal migrants are involved in an economic activity after migrating (61.2%). This is especially relevant for men (69.7%) and much less for women (54.9%). While a relatively small percentage of males did not have any economic activity either before or after migrating (18.3%), a more significant percentage of females face this situation (29.1%).

**Table 10: Internal migrants by economic activity which allows earning money or something for sustenance – Comparison between the current situation and prior to migration**

Prior to migration	Current situation				Current situation		
	Yes	No	Total		Yes	No	Total
Total	absolute numbers				%		
Yes	1109	365	1473		43.7	14.4	58.0
No	446	621	1066		17.6	24.5	42.0
Total	1555	984	2539		61.2	38.8	100.0

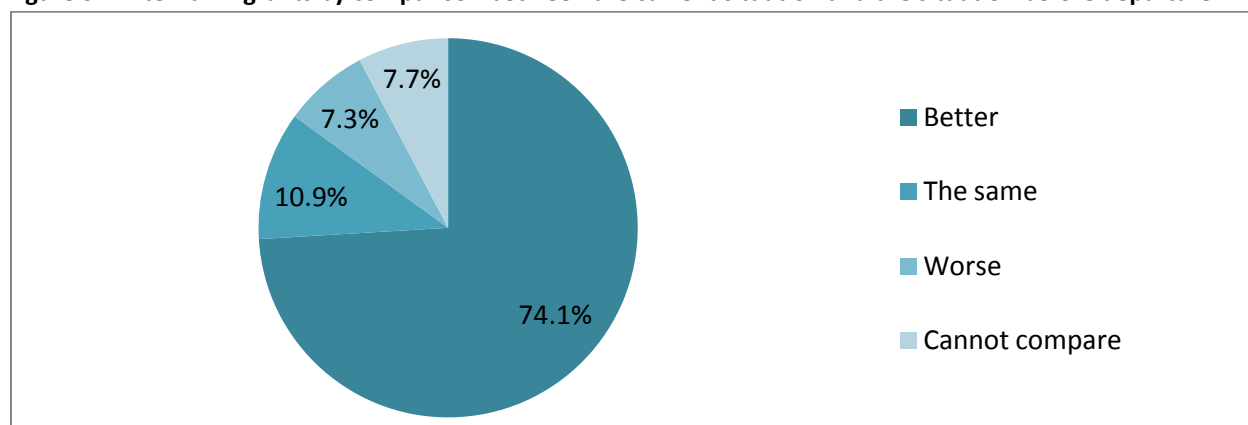
Prior to migration	Current situation				Current situation		
	Yes	No	Total		Yes	No	Total
Male	absolute numbers				%		
Yes	570	131	701		52.3	12.0	64.3
No	190	200	389		17.4	18.3	35.7
Total Male	760	330	1090		69.7	30.3	100.0

Prior to migration	Current situation				Current situation		
	Yes	No	Total		Yes	No	Total
Female	absolute numbers				%		
Yes	539	234	772		37.2	16.1	53.3
No	256	421	677		17.7	29.1	46.7
Total Female	795	654	1449		54.9	45.1	100.0

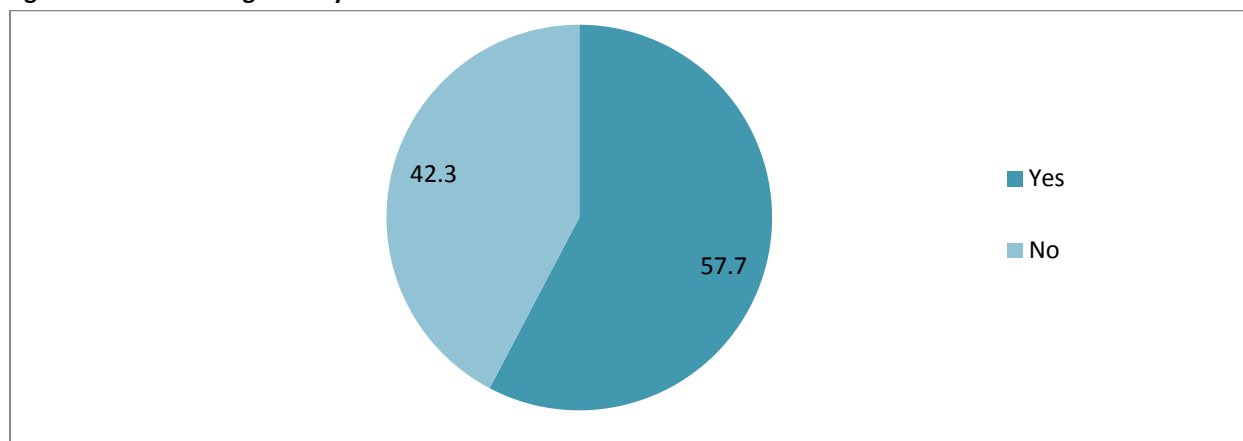
Figure 32 indicates that the current situation, compared to the situation before departure, had improved for more than three quarters of internal migrants. Only 7.3% stated that their situation had worsened.

**Figure 32: Internal migrants by comparison between the current situation and the situation before departure**



However, 42.3% of the internal migrants stated that they cannot satisfy their basic needs through their current economic activity.

**Figure 33: Internal migrants by current satisfaction of basic needs**



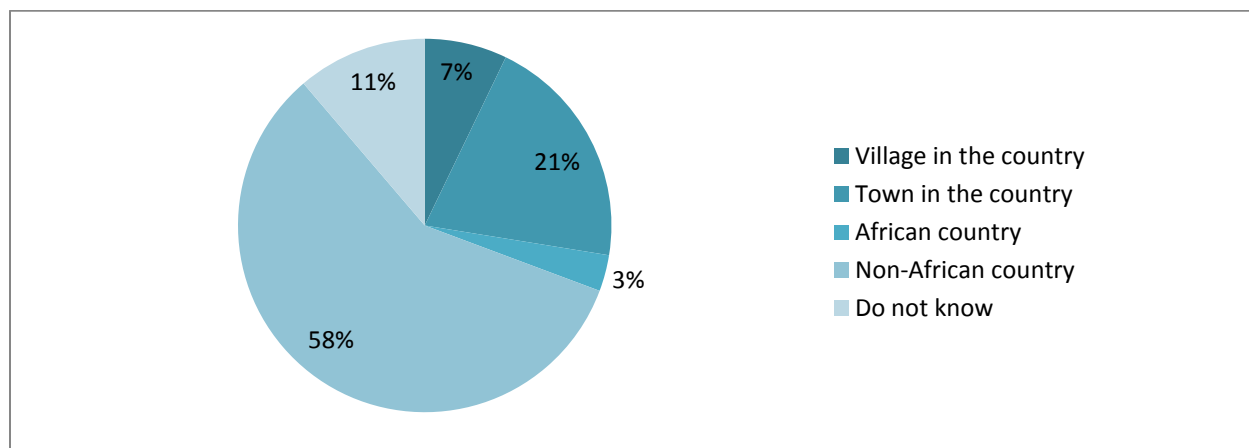
The table below shows that 43% of all internal migrants plan to migrate again (within The Gambia or to another country). The intention to migrate is significantly higher among male immigrants (55%), compared to females (45%).

**Table 11: Internal migrants by intention to migrate (Yes/No) and gender**

Intention to migrate	Male	Female	Total
Yes	55%	45%	100%
No	32%	68%	100%
Total	43%	57%	100%

Figure 34 shows internal migrants with the intention to migrate again and their possible destinations. 45% of all internal migrants plan to migrate again. While only 28% intend to migrate within The Gambia, 61% plan to emigrate (58% to a non-African country and 3% to another African country).

**Figure 34: Internal migrants with intention to migrate again by possible destination**



The main reason for intending to migrate again is the search for work (36%). Other important reasons are family or social issues and retirement (24.4% and 19.7% respectively). With the exception of searching for work, all other reasons are more frequent for female than for male internal migrants (see figure 19).

**Table 12: Internal migrants with intention to migrate by reason and gender**

Reason for intention to migrate	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Work	47.3	22.3	36.0
Other family/social reasons	23.5	25.6	24.4
Retired	17.7	22.1	19.7
Marriage/divorce, widowhood	5.3	16.3	10.3
Education	4.3	11.0	7.3
Others	1.9	2.7	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>



## 7. Non-migrants

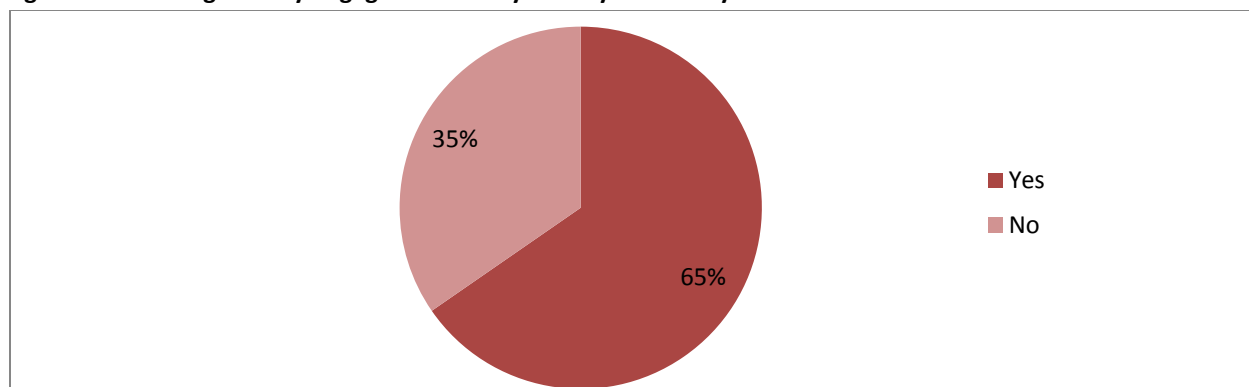
A total number of 3,185 household members have decided not to migrate either within The Gambia or abroad (more than 50% of all eligible household members interviewed aged 15 years and above). Family responsibility is the most important reason for not having migrated (47.1%). This reason is especially relevant for rural areas (52.5%) and much less for urban areas (36.0%). The second most important reason is the lack of resources (25%) (see table 13).

**Table 13: Non-migrants by most important reason for not having migrated**

Main reason	Urban	Rural	Total
Family responsibility	36.0	52.5	47.1
No means (money/resources)	28.1	23.1	25.0
Do not have the necessary skills/education	13.1	9.7	10.9
Don not like displacements	7.1	5.8	6.2
Other	15.9	8.3	9.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

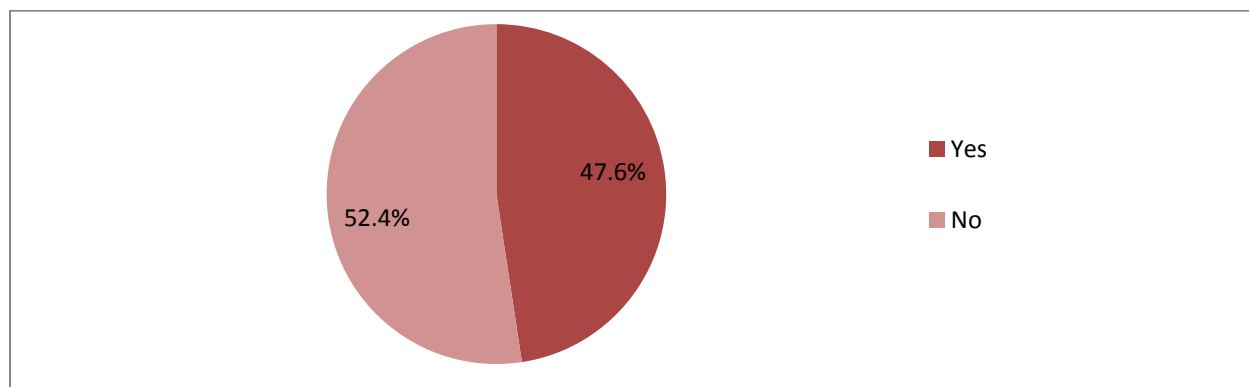
The figure below shows that a large share of non-migrants is economically active (65%).

**Figure 35: Non-migrants by engagement in any activity for money or sustenance**



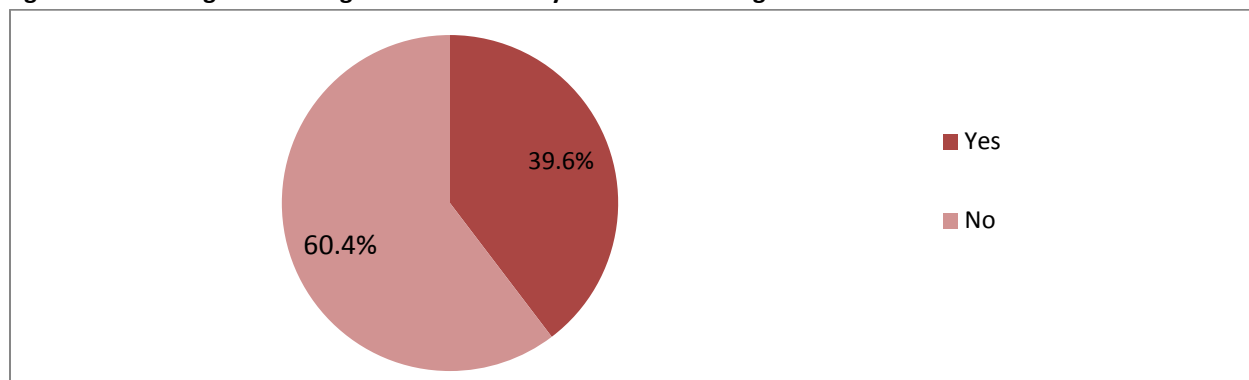
However, 52.4% stated that this economic activity does not provide enough means to meet their basic needs.

**Figure 36: Non-migrants engaged in economic activity by the possibility that it provides enough means to meet their basic needs**



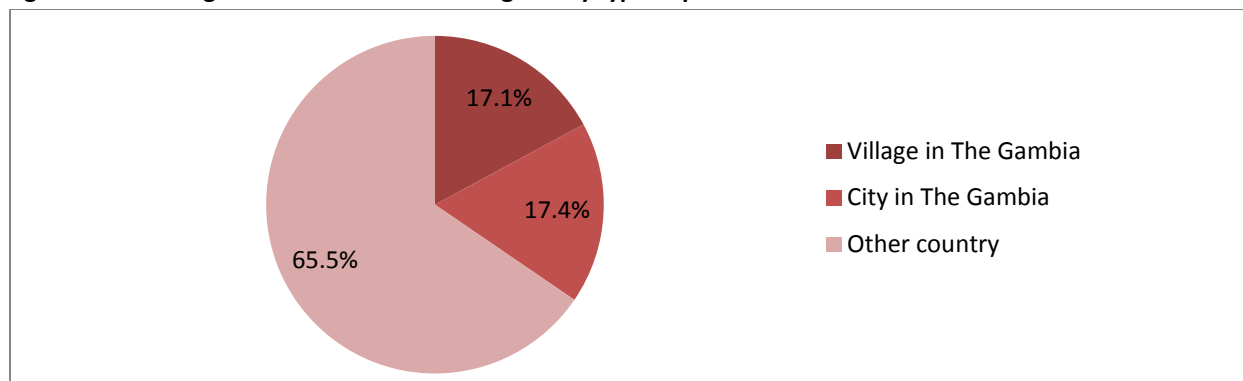
At least one family member of 60.4% of all non-migrants interviewed migrated within The Gambia or to another country (see figure 37).

**Figure 37: Non-migrants having at least one family member who migrated**



Almost half of all non-migrants (43.6%) have the intention to migrate. While only 34.4% intend to migrate within The Gambia (17.4 to another city and 17.1% to another village), 65.5% plan to emigrate (see figure 38).

**Figure 38: Non-migrants with intention to migrate by type of possible destination**



The highest migration intention of non-migrants can be observed in urban areas (56.1%), compared to 43.9% for their rural counterparts. Non-migrants living in urban areas are more likely to have the intention to migrate (56.1%) than their rural counterparts (43.9%) (see figure 39).

**Figure 39: Non-migrants by intention to migrate and type of residence (urban/rural)**

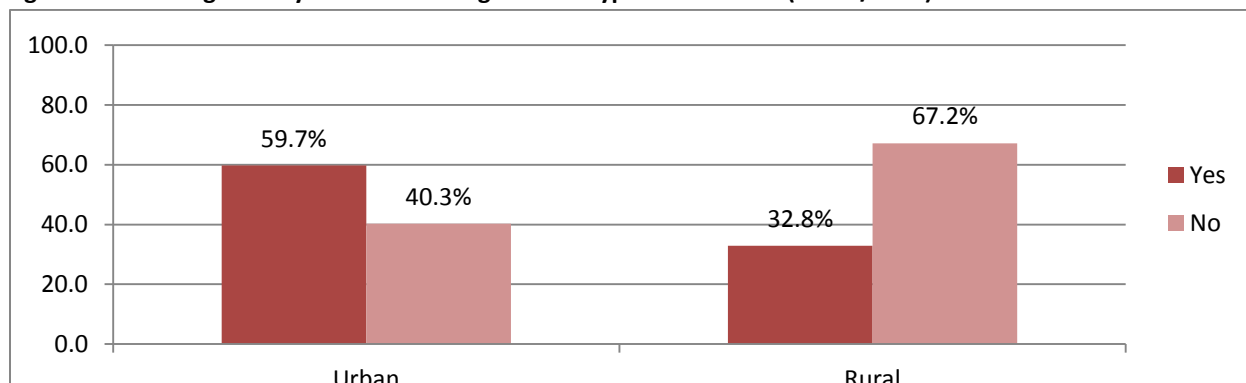


Table 14 shows that the search for a job and the desire to study are by far the two most important reasons for migrating, both for urban (85.4%) and rural non-migrants (81%). While the search for a job is the major reason for rural non-migrants (61.5%), only 49% of urban non-migrants mentioned it as their main reason for migrating. However, 36.4% of urban non-migrants would do so for the purpose of studying against 19.5% of rural non-migrants. To engage in business (5.1%) and to join the family (2.9%) were other reasons mentioned by non-migrants intending to migrate.

**Table 14: Non-migrants with intention to migrate by main reason and type of residence**

Main reason for migration	Urban		Rural		Total	
	<i>Absolute numbers</i>	%	<i>Absolute numbers</i>	%	<i>Absolute numbers</i>	%
To look for a job	374	49.0	385	61.5	759	54.6
To study	278	36.4	122	19.5	400	28.9
To engage in business	26	3.4	47	7.5	72	5.1
To join family	15	2.0	25	4.0	40	2.9
Other(specify)	67	9.5	35	7.7	119	8.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1390</b>	<b>100</b>

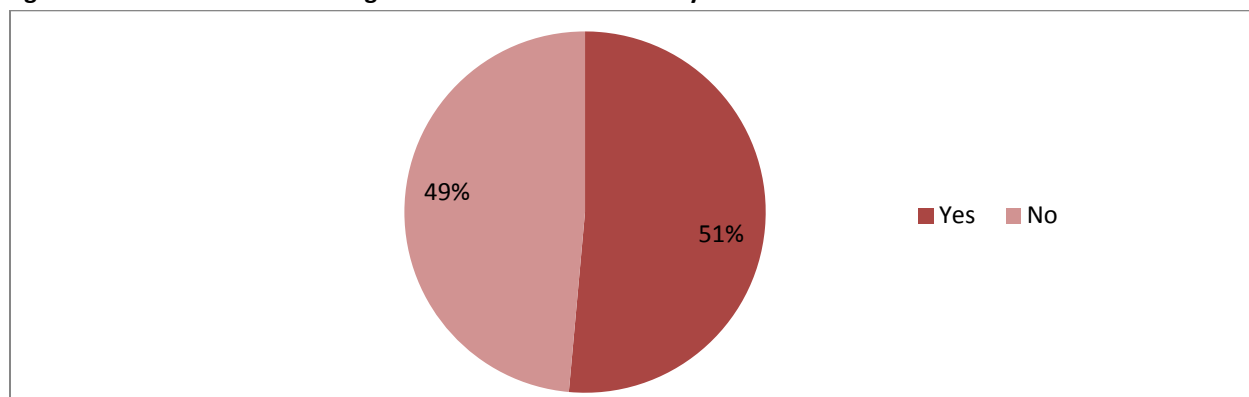
Table 15 shows the opinion of non-migrants regarding the Government's involvement in internal and external migration flows. Most non-migrants seem to be in favour of Government actions which would promote migration, be it internal or external. Indeed, 50.7% of non-migrants would like to see the Government promoting migration between The Gambia and other countries, while only 9.4% would like to see it prohibited. The gap seems to be less important when it comes to internal migration. Only 37.4% of non-migrants would like to see the Government promote internal migration and 20.3% of non-migrants would favour a more prohibitive approach.

**Table 15: Non-migrants by their opinion on the type of involvement of the Government with regard to internal and international migration**

Opinion on the type of governmental involvement with regard to migration	Migration within the country			Migration between The Gambia and other country	
	<i>Absolute numbers</i>	%		<i>Absolute numbers</i>	%
Promote it	1191	37.4		1615	50.7
Prohibit it	646	20.3		299	9.4
Not involve itself	215	6.8		118	3.7
Donnot know	1133	35.6		1153	36.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3185</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>3185</b>	<b>100</b>

Figure 40 indicates that more than half of the households of non-migrants have at least one family member who receives remittances.

**Figure 40: Households of non-migrants with at least one family member who receives remittances**





## **8. Conclusions**

The lack of reliable and timely data on migration is one of the main obstacles to managing migration effectively. So far, comprehensive and, in particular, continuous migration data gathering and the analysis of all aspects of migration have been challenges in The Gambia.

The results of the Migration and Urbanisation Survey 2009 are an important step towards a better understanding of the migration situation in the country. The results of more than 12,000 household members interviewed showed a diverse picture of the migration situation. The Gambia is a source, transit and destination country. However, further research should be done to deepen comprehension and to fully understand the dynamic migration situation in The Gambia. A key to this research would be to identify and bridge existing information gaps. The exact magnitude and diverse impact of migratory flows need to be investigated. Therefore, a systematic data collection and analysis system should be established to provide detailed data on migration for policy making. Data collected should include information on Gambian nationals living abroad in order to explore the impact of emigration on The Gambia. Furthermore, continuous migration data collection needs to be conducted.

As the numbers of cross-border and internal movements increase, migration has become a phenomenon at the forefront of The Gambia's political agenda. The data provided in this report aims to support the planned development of a National Migration Policy, which is an important step to managing migration in order to maximise its positive potential and minimise its negative effects.

## Annex

Figure 41: Administrative map of The Gambia

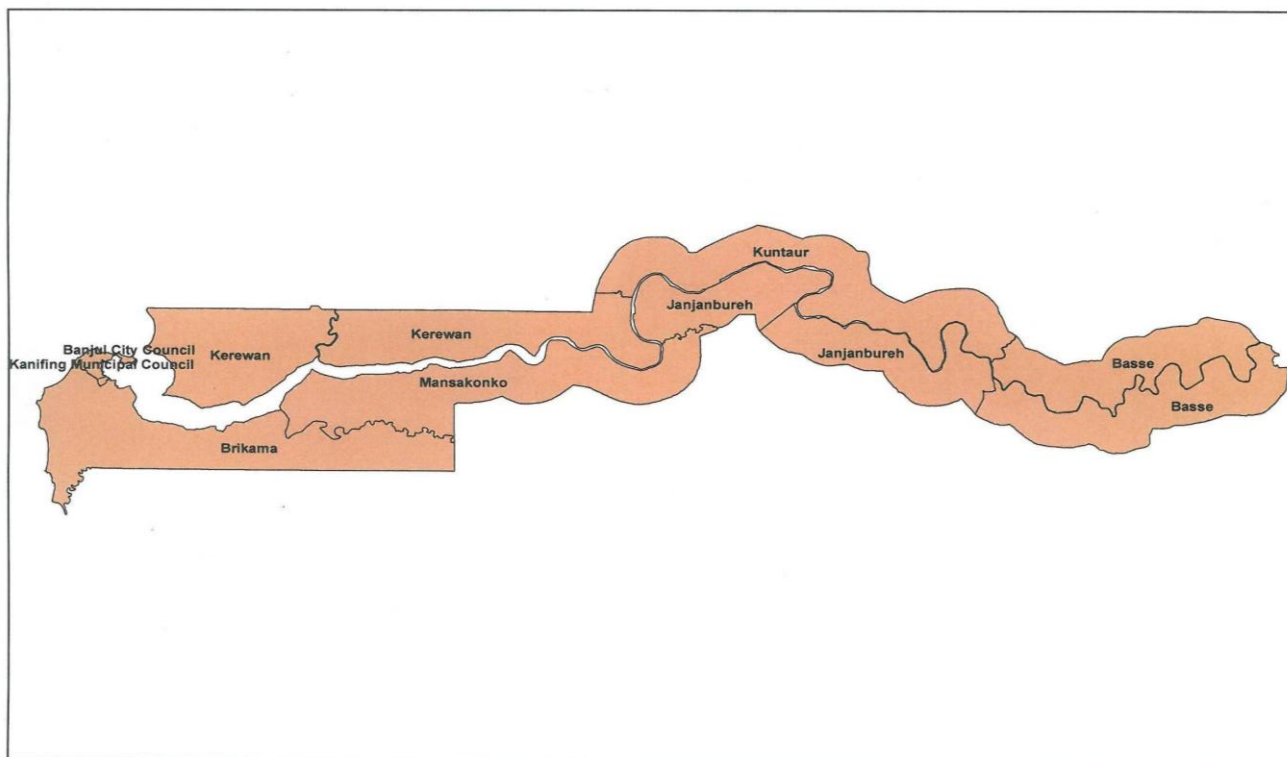


Table 16: List of urban settlements by local government area, district and size of population according to the Population and Housing Census of the Gambia 2003

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	NAME OF DISTRICT	NAME OF SETTLEMENT	2003 TOTAL POPULATION
BANJUL	BANJUL CENTRAL	BANJUL CENTRAL	9,094
BANJUL	BANJUL NORTH	BANJUL NORTH	17,514
BANJUL	BANJUL SOUTH	BANJUL SOUTH	8,453
KANIFING	KANIFING	ABUKO	8,958
KANIFING	KANIFING	WASUNLUN KUNDA	1,312
KANIFING	KANIFING	BAKAU NEW TOWN	31,600
KANIFING	KANIFING	BAKOTEH	17,161
KANIFING	KANIFING	BUNDUNKA KUNDA	51,869
KANIFING	KANIFING	DIPPA KUNDA	14,965
KANIFING	KANIFING	EBOU TOWN	18,363
KANIFING	KANIFING	FAGI KUNDA	23,969
KANIFING	KANIFING	KOLOLI	5,498
KANIFING	KANIFING	KOTU	11,844
KANIFING	KANIFING	LATRI KUNDA GERMAN	24,045
KANIFING	KANIFING	LATRI KUNDA SABIJI	14,939
KANIFING	KANIFING	MANJAI KUNDA	14,372
KANIFING	KANIFING	NEW JESHWANG	17,023
KANIFING	KANIFING	OLD JESHWANG	13,319
KANIFING	KANIFING	SERE KUNDA	19,292
KANIFING	KANIFING	TALLINDING	34,206
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	BANJULUNDING	4,461

BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	BIJILO	2,981
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	BRUFUT	12,052
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	BRUFUT BEACH	12
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	BRUFUT MADINA	178
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	BRUSUBI	826
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	DARANKA	1,054
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	KEREWAN	2,262
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	KERR SERGNE N'JAGA	7,984
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	KOLOLI BEACH	98
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	KUNKUJANG KEITA	8,027
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	LAMIN	17,033
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	NEMA KUNKU	21,106
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	SINCHU ALHAGIE	5,073
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	SINCHU BALIA	3,642
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	SINCHU SORIE	2,547
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	SUKUTA	21,169
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	SUKUTA SANCHABA	7,384
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	TRANKILL	490
BRIKAMA	KOMBO NORTH	WELLINGARA	17,668
BRIKAMA	KOMBO CENTRAL	BRIKAMA	57,556
BRIKAMA	KOMBO CENTRAL	BRIKAMA WELLINGARA	2,473
BRIKAMA	KOMBO CENTRAL	MEDINA SALANDING	525
BRIKAMA	KOMBO SOUTH	GUNJURR	13,934
BRIKAMA	KOMBO SOUTH	SANYANG	6,900
BRIKAMA	KOMBO SOUTH	TANJEH	8,210
BRIKAMA	FONI BINTANG	SIBANORR	3,023
BRIKAMA	FONI KANSALA	BWIAM	2,263
MANSA KONKO	JARRA WEST	MANSA KONKO	215
MANSA KONKO	JARRA WEST	SOMA	11,050
MANSA KONKO	JARRA WEST	PAKALINDING	2,037
KEREWAN	LOWER NIUMI	BARRA	4,470
KEREWAN	LOWER NIUMI	ESSAU	6,689
KEREWAN	LOWER BADDIBU	KEREWAN	3,989
KEREWAN	UPPER BADDIBU	FARAFENNI & JIGIMARR	20,035
KUNTAUR	LOWER SALOUM	KAUR JANNEH KUNDA	1,402
KUNTAUR	LOWER SALOUM	KAUR TOURAY KUNDA	1,623
KUNTAUR	LOWER SALOUM	KAUR WHARF TOWN	2,015
JANJANBUREH	FULADU WEST	BANSANG & H/QUARTER	7,204
JANJANBUREH	FULADU WEST	BRIKAMA BA	4,168
JANJANBUREH	FULADU WEST	BRIKANDING	1,095
JANJANBUREH	FULADU WEST	DARSILAMEH	1,146
JANJANBUREH	JANJANBUREH	JANJANBUREH	3,223
BASSE	FULADU EAST	ALLUNKHAREH	4,190
BASSE	FULADU EAST	BASSE SANTO-SU	10,948
BASSE	FULADU EAST	BASSENDING	766
BASSE	FULADU EAST	GIROBA KUNDA	545
BASSE	FULADU EAST	KABA KAMA	2,330
BASSE	FULADU EAST	KOBA KUNDA	1,042
BASSE	FULADU EAST	MANNEH KUNDA	1,559
BASSE	FULADU EAST	MANSAJANG KUNDA	2,029
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>687,435</b>

All settlements not included in this list are defined as rural settlements.