



## National Human Rights Commission



## Annual Activity Report 2024

National Human Right Commission

# Annual Activity Report

2024

May 2025

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## ➔ Vision

A Gambia where everyone enjoys their fundamental human rights and freedoms.

## ➔ Mission

To promote and protect the fundamental human rights and freedoms of everyone through law, policy, education and partnership.

## ➔ Core Values

- ◆ Independence
- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Impartiality
- ◆ Equality
- ◆ Inclusivity
- ◆ Confidentiality
- ◆ Accountability
- ◆ Accessibility



# NHRC Commissioners

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**Mr. Emmanuel Daniel Joof**

Chairperson and Commissioner in-charge  
of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and  
the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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**Mrs. Jainaba Johm**

Vice Chairperson & Commissioner in-  
charge of the Rights of Persons in Places of  
Detention and Mental Health Rights

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**Mr. Njundu Drammeh**

Commissioner in-charge of Programmes  
and Children's Rights

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**Mrs. Halimatou Dibba**

Commissioner in-charge of Women's Rights

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**Mr. Imam Baba Muhtarr Leigh**

Commissioner in-charge of Rights of  
Older Persons

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## Foreword



The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) presents its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Activity Report, in compliance with Section 33 (1) of the NHRC Act 2017. This Report highlights key activities undertaken in 2024, strategic partnerships and collaborations, and reflects on the challenges encountered and the lessons learned. Additionally, the report evaluates the impact of our programmes and activities during the year through a Beneficiary Impact Assessments.

2024 was both an eventful and demanding year. Notably, on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2024, the NHRC celebrated five years since becoming operational following the swearing-in of the first Commissioners by H.E. President Adama Barrow. Over the past five years, the Commission

has worked diligently to fulfil its mandate, strengthen human rights protection, and promote a culture of respect for fundamental freedoms in The Gambia.

Through strong partnerships with the Government of The Gambia, CSOs and development partners, along with the steadfast support of the public, the NHRC implemented numerous activities aimed at fostering a culture of human rights. This was achieved through public education initiatives, capacity-building programmes for rule of law actors and CSOs, monitoring and investigating human rights complaints, advising the Government on human rights compliance, and conducting research.

In pursuit of its vision of a Gambia where everyone enjoys their fundamental human rights and freedoms, the Commission investigated human rights violations and issued recommendations to the relevant authorities for redress and remedial actions. Attention was given to protecting vulnerable groups, in particular children, persons with disabilities and migrants, by advocating for policy and legislative reforms.

The NHRC also monitored places of detention, to ensure persons deprived of their liberty are treated with dignity and safeguarded from torture and other ill - treatment. With the support of development partners such as UNDP, OHCHR, UNICEF, IOM, the British High Commission in Banjul, the U.S. Embassy in Banjul, the Delegation of the European Union to The Gambia, ActionAid International The Gambia, International IDEA, the French Embassy in Dakar, IDLO, and ABA, the Commission registered several milestones. These include advocacy against the repeal of the anti-FGM/C law, National Conferences on Mental Health Rights and Rights of Older Persons and the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara Moot Court Competition. Additionally, the Commission enhanced its work on Business and Human Rights, Environmental Rights and human rights-based budgeting.

As part of its contributions to the work of UN human rights mechanisms, the Commission submitted its Stakeholder Report to the Universal Periodic Review Working Group of the Human Rights Council and a Complementary Report on The Gambia's Combined 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Periodic Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Guided by its founding Act, governance policies and Revised Strategic Plan 2023-2027, the Commission continues to strengthen its cooperation with the Government and build alliances with national and international human rights organisations. These partnerships are anchored on the belief that only through collective efforts and a shared vision can a lasting culture of human rights be achieved in the country.

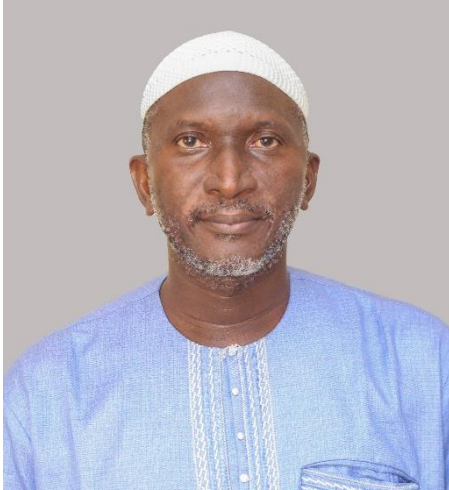
As we continue to monitor the implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC, we are encouraged by the enactment of key legislation, including the Special Accountability Mechanism Act 2024, Special Prosecutor's Office Act 2023 and the Victim Reparation Act 2023, along with the establishment of the Post-TRRC Unit at the Ministry of Justice. We urge the Government to expedite the implementation of the White Paper and to ensure effective participation of victims in all the related processes.

We remain steadfast in upholding our mandate with transparency and accountability in all that we do.



**Emmanuel Daniel Joof**  
**Chairperson**

## Statement by the Executive Secretary



The NHRC is five this year. It has over the years, strengthened its institutional foundation and operational efficiency, built on the gains registered through learning and sharing with partners and stakeholders, and remained focused in its pursuit of a Gambia where everyone enjoys their fundamental human rights and freedoms.

The consistent monthly cash allocation based on our approved 2024 budget from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and the timely support of numerous partners, has enabled the Commission to implement most of its planned activities in line with the revised NHRC Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025.

The Commission will continue to strengthen existing partnership and explore new avenues for resource mobilization. activities was the work conducted on the study on the prevalence of hate speech in the country, the first of its kind in the country, is instrumental in helping the Commission and its partners identify the magnitude, drivers, perpetrators, victims, and identified strategies and tools to employ to effectively address and mitigate the impact of hate speech. It is expected that the result of the study will guide our interventions to ensure hate speech is appropriately addressed and routed out of our communities whilst not infringing on individuals' key freedoms namely speech, expression, assembly and religion.

Similarly, as part of our human rights education mandate during the year under review, the NHRC in partnership with the Curriculum Research Evaluation Development Directorate (CREDD) of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE), with support from the European Union through International IDEA, conducted the review and adoption of a textbook on Civic Education integrating



principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms, rule of law and good governance for Upper Basic Schools (Grades 7-9) and development of a teacher's guide to facilitate high-quality teaching of the textbook to students.

Similarly, in 2024, as part of the NHRC's contribution to Security Sector Reform (SSR), the Commission with support from the Government Local Fund (GLF) developed modules on international human rights law, international humanitarian law and the handling of SGBV cases for the security sector with particular focus on the Gambia armed Forces. Development of these materials was predicated on recommendations of the TRRC which tasked the Commission to review and integrate or and update where available human rights into the curricula of the GAF; As part of the NHRC human rights education mandate and contribution to Security Sector Reform, a key highlight of the year 2024 was the NHRC training on human rights for the Gambia Prison Service (GPS) supported by the UNDP to enhance the human rights knowledge and compliance of prison officials to mainstream

human rights into the operations of the prisons system ensuring that human rights standards accepted by state such as the Mandela Rules (or the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners) and the Bangkok Rules ( or United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners) are institutionalised to enhance international standards and the enjoyment of human rights within the Gambian prison system.

One of the key highlights of the year was the NHRC National Convergence on the Draft Constitution 2024 which highlighted the urgent need for 'people-centred' Constitution. We enhanced public discussion on the Draft Constitution, forged consensus on the sticking issues and adopted a Declaration which called on the National Assembly to adopt a Constitution that adequately reflects the wishes and aspirations of the Gambian people.

As we proceed into 2025, the Commission again reiterates its appreciation to all its partners for their continuous support of the work of the Commission. I also extend my appreciation to the

Commission for their guidance to the Secretariat and to the staff of the Secretariat, thank you for your unwavering support and dedication in fulfilling the mandate of the Commission despite the many challenges encountered during the year in particular the profound loss of a key member of our team, Ms. Metta Mboob, our Logistics Assistant. Her untimely passing truly shocked us all but again brought us together as we exchanged many of the wonderful experiences and contributions shared with Metta. We pray for her continued eternal rest in peace and undertake to continue her

work to enhance the lives of persons with disabilities.

I wish to convey our profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to the public for their continued trust and collaboration with the Commission. Going into 2025, we hope to build on this trust to promote the attainment of our collective vision that everyone in The Gambia enjoys their fundamental rights and freedoms as protected under the 1997 Constitution.



**Dr. Saikou Kawsu Gassama**  
**Executive Secretary**



## Acknowledgements

As we marked 5 years of our existence, we wish to extend our profound gratitude to the Government of The Gambia and all our partners, past and present, who have contributed in no small way to the many successes we have registered over the years. We also appreciate their commitment to our vision of “A Gambia where everyone enjoys their fundamental human rights and freedoms”.

We extend our gratitude to the Government of The Gambia for its continued financial support and recognition of our work in promoting and protecting the rights of all persons in The Gambia. We are immensely grateful to the National Assembly, particularly the Standing Committee on Human Rights and Constitutional Matters, for its continued support and commitment to the work of the Commission.

The accomplishments registered in our programme implementation could not have been possible without the technical and financial support of the development partners. Our profound appreciation to UNDP, UNICEF, OHCHR-WARO, UNESCO, UN-PBF, UNFPA, the British High Commission in The Gambia, the Delegation of the European Union in The Gambia, the U.S. Embassy in Banjul, the Swiss

Embassy in Dakar, International IDEA, IDLO, the ABA, ActionAid International The Gambia, GANHRI, NANHRI and NANHRI-WA. Their support has contributed immensely to strengthening the capacity of the NHRC.

We acknowledge the support and collaboration of all State institutions, in particular the Ministry of Justice and its satellite agencies, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, the Ministry of Interior, National Council for Civic Education and the Office of National Security. We also extend our appreciation to TANGO, all Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Local Government Authorities, communities and grassroots organisations. Through these partnerships, we have been able to implement numerous activities and successfully interface with the public.

We recognise and appreciate the dedication, tireless efforts and immense contributions of our Commissioners and Staff to the work of the Commission. Without their commitment and passion, delivering our mandate would have been an uphill task.

## Acronyms

<b>ACERWC</b>	-	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
<b>ACHPR</b>	-	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
<b>ACRWC</b>	-	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
<b>ANEKED</b>	-	African Network Against Extra-Judicial and Enforced Disappearances
<b>AU</b>	-	African Union
<b>CEDAW</b>	-	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CREDD</b>	-	Curriculum, Research, Evaluation and Development Directorate
<b>CRR</b>	-	Central River Region
<b>CSO</b>	-	Civil Society Organisations
<b>DP</b>	-	Development Partners
<b>ICESCR</b>	-	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<b>IDLO</b>	-	International Development Law Organization
<b>HRE</b>	-	Human Rights Education
<b>GANHRI</b>	-	Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
<b>GBA</b>	-	Gambia Bar Association
<b>GCVHRV</b>	-	Gambia Centre for Victims of Human Rights Violations
<b>GID</b>	-	Gambia Immigration Department
<b>GPF</b>	-	Gambia Police Force
<b>GPS</b>	-	Gambia Prison Services
<b>GRTS</b>	-	Gambia Radio and Television Services
<b>IEC</b>	-	Independent Electoral Commission
<b>IDEA</b>	-	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
<b>KMC</b>	-	Kanifing Municipal Council
<b>LRR</b>	-	Lower River Region
<b>MoBSE</b>	-	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
<b>MoI</b>	-	Ministry of Interior
<b>MoJ</b>	-	Ministry of Justice
<b>MoU</b>	-	Memorandum of Understanding

<b>NALA</b>	-	National Agency for Legal Aid
<b>NANHRI</b>	-	Network of African National Human Rights Institutions
<b>NANHRI-WA</b>	-	Network of National Human Rights Institutions in West Africa
<b>NBR</b>	-	North Bank Region
<b>NCCE</b>	-	National Council for Civic Education
<b>NGOs</b>	-	Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>NHRC</b>	-	National Human Rights Commission
<b>NHRI</b>	-	National Human Rights Institution
<b>OHCHR-WARO</b>	-	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights West Africa Regional Office
<b>OIF</b>	-	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
<b>OSF</b>	-	Open Society Foundation
<b>PBF</b>	-	Peace Building Fund
<b>PBSO</b>	-	Peace Building Support Office
<b>PRM</b>	-	Programme and Resource Mobilisation
<b>RMC</b>	-	Resource Mobilisation Committee
<b>SO</b>	-	Strategic Objective
<b>TANGO</b>	-	The Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>TRRC</b>	-	Truth, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission
<b>UN</b>	-	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	-	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNICEF</b>	-	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNODC</b>	-	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UTG</b>	-	University of The Gambia
<b>UPR</b>	-	Universal Periodic Review
<b>URR</b>	-	Upper River Region
<b>WC</b>	-	West Coast



## Executive Summary

In 2024, we began the implementation of our revised Strategic Plan 2023-2027. Its four (4) Strategic Objectives guided the work of the Commission and defined the activities that were implemented in the year.

To ensure impact in the implementation of our promotional and protection mandate, the following strategies were employed: awareness creation and public education; capacity building, networking and partnership building; advocacy; investigation and monitoring; institutional strengthening and complaints handling. These strategies also determined the activities we implemented and the stakeholders we targeted.

Forty-four (44) awareness creation activities were carried out through sensitisation programmes, radio programmes, publication of a quarterly newsletter, and nationwide stakeholder consultations. The positive feedback and general interest shown by the public in the work of the NHRC continue to motivate the innovation of multiple approaches for greater engagement and effective connection with the public.

Ten (10) training workshops were conducted to enhance the capacity of both State and Non-State Actors in various aspects of human rights, International Humanitarian Law and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Specific training workshops were also facilitated for the Commissioners and staff to enhance their capacity in project management and protection of key populations.

The NHRC continues to advocate for the effective enforcement and implementation of laws and policies, ratification and domestication of human rights treaties, submission of reports to the various human rights mechanisms and the implementation of Concluding Observations and Recommendations to enhance the enjoyment of human rights in the country.

Faced with the real threat of the repeal of the Women (Amendment) Act 2015, the Commission joined CSOs and engaged the National Assembly and relevant Government Ministries for the retention of the 2015 law. Conferences were also held to advocate for the adoption of laws, policies and implementation of services to advance mental health rights and the rights of older persons.

A CRPD Compliant Budgeting Guidelines has been developed to support the State with the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2021 and ensure compliance of the Government budget with national commitment to disability inclusion and guiding principles. Similarly, Training Modules on Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence have been developed for the security sector. Since June, one hundred and ten ((110) Officers from the Gambia Police Force, Gambia Armed Forces and the Gambia Prison Services have been trained on the Modules.

Investigations of human rights violations and monitoring of prisons and detention centres were carried out by the Commission, and recommendations were issued to the relevant institutions for implementation. Additionally, advocacy is ongoing for the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism in the country.

On the handling of complaints during the year under review, the NHRC considered a total number of fifty-five (55) complaints, of which forty (40) were investigated and appropriately addressed, while 15 are in progress.

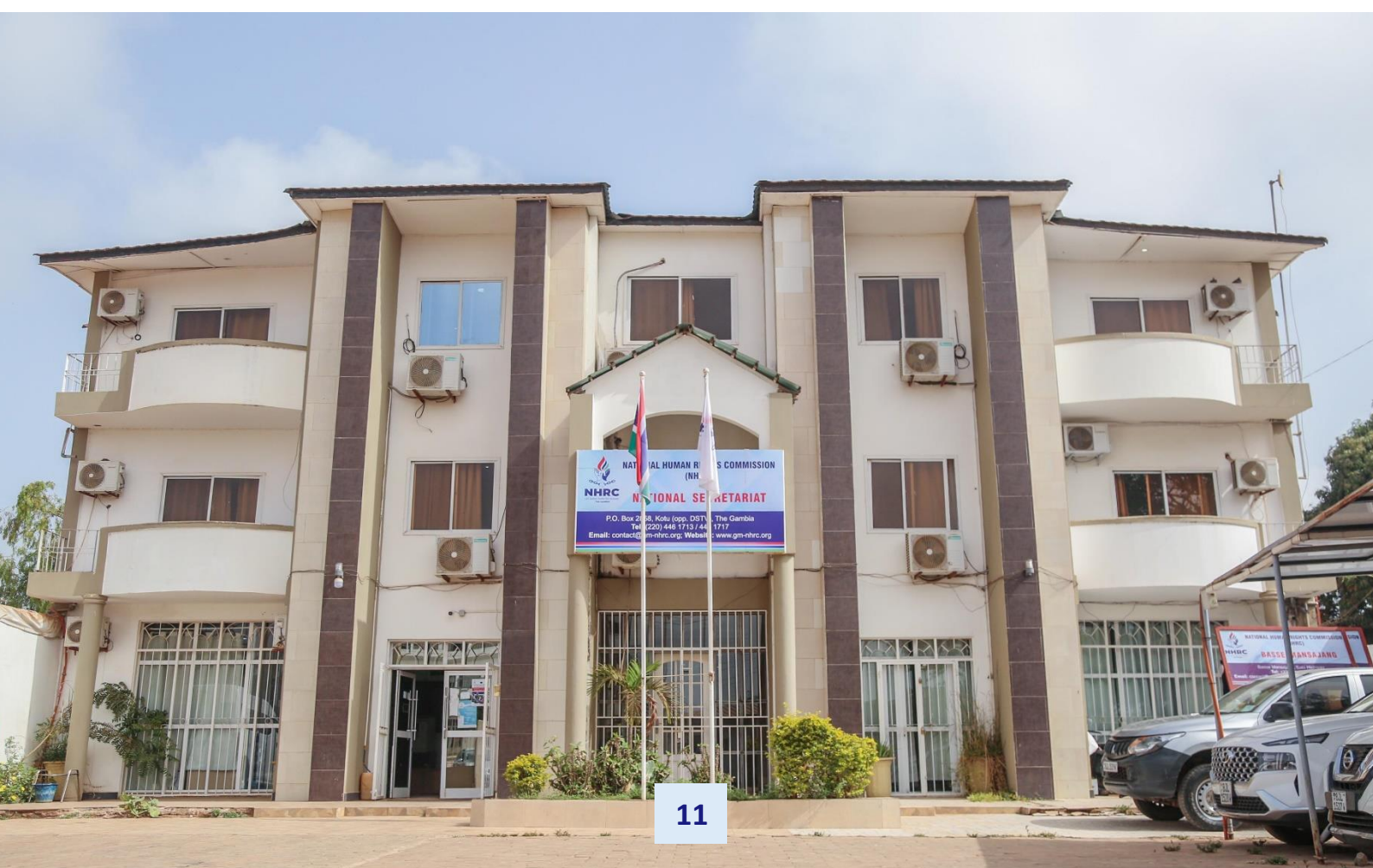
As an independent State institution with a mandate to promote and protect human rights in the country, engaging human rights mechanisms provides the NHRC with a unique opportunity to advocate for the effective protection of human rights in the country. Consequently, in July 2024, the Commission prepared and submitted a Stakeholder Report to the UPR Working Group on the status of implementation of the 2019 UPR recommendation made to The Gambia following its review under the third cycle. Furthermore, the NHRC also submitted its first Complementary Report on The Gambia's Combined 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Periodic Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The report included specific recommendations for the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the rights of children by the Government.

Through collaboration with the Curriculum, Research, Evaluation and Development Directorate (CREDD) of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE), the NHRC is supporting the integration of human rights education into the syllabus of the Upper Basic School and Lower Basic School.

In this vein, the NHRC has supported the development of the following for both the Lower and Upper Basic Schools: Civil Education Pupil's Textbook and Teachers' Guide, and procured textbooks for the piloting of the Civic Education Modules.

This Annual Report is divided into Six Chapters which focus on various thematic areas.

Chapter 1 provides a synopsis of the NHRC as it commemorates five (5) years of existence, Chapter 2 focuses on the achievements of the NHRC under the four Strategic Objectives of the Strategic Plan 2023-2027. Chapter 3 provides data on the Complaints mechanism. Chapter 4 contains the assessment of NHRC-implemented activities while Chapter 5 outlines the lessons learned, the challenges faced and surmounted. Chapter 6 provides a breakdown of the funds received from the State and other development partners.



## Chapter 1 - NHRC @ Five (5)



The Commission was created by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Act 2017 as amended as part of the Transitional Justice process to create a culture of human rights in the country. It became operational in February 2019 when the five (5) Commissioners were sworn into office.

Since becoming operational, the Commission has grown in both status and stature. Its human resource base has grown exponentially, with a fully-fledged Secretariat and Regional Offices

established in NBR and URR which are overseeing LRR and CRR respectively. In March 2022, GANHRI accredited the NHRC as an A-status NHRI, an affirmation of its compliance with the UN Paris Principles. The NHRC has also been granted Affiliate Status by both the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) and is a full member of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) and Network of African National Human Rights Institutions – West Africa (NANHRI-WA).



Over the years, the Commission has addressed numerous issues of human rights, including allegations of torture and inhumane treatment by security officers, caste and decent-based discrimination, environmental degradation by fishmeal factories and sand mining companies, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, land conflicts, human trafficking and child abuse. During this period, the Commission also monitored elections, public assemblies and places of detention.

Recommendations for respect and protection of human rights by the Government and other duty-bearers have been made through reports, Advisory Notes, Press Statements and closed-door meetings with relevant State actors.

The Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Moot Court Competition, organised in partnership with the University of The Gambia, and the Mobile Legal Aid Clinic continue to be our annual flagship activities. Partnerships have been built with the Security Sector, enhancing their capacity on all aspects of human rights and International Humanitarian Laws. A Code of Conduct and Guidelines for the Policing of Public Assemblies has also been developed for the Gambia Police Force while Training Modules on International Human

Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law & Sexual and Gender-Based Violence have been prepared for the Security Sector.

In its bid to have evidence-based data for its advocacy and programming, the NHRC has undertaken and published numerous research documents, including on Caste and Decent-Based Discrimination, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, and Hate Speech.

As part of its advisory role to the Government, the NHRC has developed and published Advisory Notes on pertinent issues such as the Right to Food, Abolition of the Death Penalty, Mental Health Rights, Environmental Rights and Caste and Descent Based Discrimination. In collaboration with CREDD under the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, the Commission is working to ensure human rights are incorporated into the education curriculum and the necessary guides developed to facilitate this process.

The NHRC has built and nurtured strategic partnerships with partners nationally, regionally and internationally, including the Government, CSOs, NGOs, Embassies, UN Agencies, and other international organisations whose support and partnership



have been invaluable to the success of the NHRC.

While we are proud of these achievements for ourselves and the country, we remain mindful of our mandate, and the need to

always maintain our credibility, independence, and people's trust and faith in our work. We will continue our drive to create a culture of human rights in the country.



**Raising The Gambia and NHRC flags**



**Commissioners, staff and guests at the launch of the State of Human Rights Report 2023 and the commemoration of the Commission's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

## Chapter 2 - Activity Report

During the period under review, numerous activities were implemented by the NHRC. They included activities relating to awareness creation and public education, capacity building,

community engagement, partnership strengthening, radio talk shows, advocacy, monitoring of human rights and development of Advisory Notes.

### Key Highlights & Achievements in 2024

1

#### **NHRC online monitoring Dashboard to monitor implementation of the TRRC White Paper**

In May 2024, the Commission's online Monitoring Dashboard for the implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC went live. This system enables stakeholders to

track the implementation of the TRRC White Paper by going on the NHRC website to ascertain the status of implementation for each of the thematic areas of the White Paper.

2

#### **Submission of the Status Report on the Implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC – May 2023 to May 2024**

In fulfilment of its reporting obligation to the National Assembly, the Commission submitted its second Status Report which detailed the progress of implementation of the White Paper covering the period May 2023 to May 2024. The Report also sets out the challenges and

recommendations to enhance the implementation process. It also indicated that for the reporting period only 16 recommendations were fully implemented, 192 recommendations being implemented at varying stages and 55 recommendations yet to be implemented.



### **Establishment of a Multi-Sectoral SGBV Working Group for the Implementation, Enforcement, and Monitoring of SGBV Laws and Policies.**

As one of the recommendations assigned to it in the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC, the NHRC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, established the 'Multi-Sectoral SGBV Working Group for the Implementation, Enforcement, and Monitoring of SGBV Laws and Policies' to support the

Government in effectively addressing SGBV in the country. The members of the Committee include representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, CSOs and NGOs. The Committee is chaired by a Commissioner.



### **5th Edition of the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Human Rights Moot Court Competition**

The National Human Rights Commission, in partnership with the Faculty of Law of the University of The Gambia, organised the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Human Rights Moot Court Competition under the theme "Protecting the Fundamental Human Rights of Migrants and their Families".

Six universities from across Africa, including two from The Gambia, participated in the Competition which was won by the University of Calabar, Nigeria. Through the Competition, the students enhanced their skills in legal advocacy, research and public speaking, and their interest in the African Human Rights System and jurisprudence.

## 5

### **Submission of the NHRC Stakeholder Reports (UPR and CRC) and Participation in the UPR Pre-Session 48 and 99<sup>th</sup> CRC Pre-Session**

As part of its contribution to the work of UN human rights mechanisms, the Commission prepared and submitted its Stakeholder Report to the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council. Additionally, the Commission also submitted a Complementary Report on the Gambia's Combined 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Periodic Report on the CRC to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. These Reports provided the two bodies with comprehensive overviews of the state of human rights and children's rights in the country. They included recommendations aimed at improving the protection and enjoyment of human rights in the country.

The Commission also participated in the 48<sup>th</sup> UPR pre-session in Geneva during which it advocated for the inclusion of its recommendations in the Report of the UPR Working Group to be presented to The Gambia after the January 2025 constructive dialogue. Furthermore, in preparation for the constructive dialogue with the State in January 2025, the Commission also participated in the 99<sup>th</sup> pre-session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and engaged the Committee on the content of its report and the state of children's rights in the country.

## 6

### **Stakeholder Forum on the Promotion of the Rights of Older Persons in the Gambia**

In September, a one-day forum was organised in collaboration with actors engaged in promoting the rights of older persons. It was attended by over 30 participants, including retirees and policymakers, who discussed the challenges older persons face in the country such as the absence of adequate services.

Also discussed was the need for the development of strategies and programmes by the Government to harness the contributions of older persons in national development. The Government was urged to develop a National Policy for older persons and domesticate the AU Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa.

## 7

### **Integrating human rights in the curricula of the Upper Basic School (UBS) and the Lower Basic School (LBS)**

The Commission collaborated with the Curriculum, Research, Evaluation and Development Directorate (CREDD) of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE) to develop a Civic Education Pupil's Textbook for the Lower Basic School (Grades 4, 5 and 6), and a Civic Education Teachers' Guide for the LBS. A similar exercise was undertaken for the UBS (Grades 7-9) for the

development of a teachers' guide, the review and adaptation of a textbook on Civic Education and the procurement of textbooks for the piloting of the Module.

This collaboration with CREDD aims to mainstream human rights in the school curriculum to contribute towards inculcating a culture of human rights and civil responsibilities at an early age.

## 8

### **Enhancing Capacity of Duty Bearers for Respect and Protection of Human Rights**

Building a culture of human rights and the rule of law requires continuous engagement with and capacity building for duty bearers. In this regard, the Commission conducted 16 capacity-building programmes for law enforcers,

Local Government Authorities and officials on human rights, national and international legal frameworks, access to justice, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, social accountability and good governance.



## Strategic Objective 1

**To strengthen state institutions, civil society organisations, communities, and leadership for the promotion and protection of human rights.**

### Activities Implemented

#### **Development of CRPD – Budgeting Compliant Guidelines**

The Persons with Disabilities Act 2021 was enacted to guarantee and make justiciable the fundamental human rights of persons with disabilities as provided in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which the State acceded to in 2015.

A CRPD-compliant Budgeting Guidelines, developed with support from UNICEF through

the UNPRPD, provides a framework for central Government and Local Government Authorities to guide programming and appropriate budgetary allocations for the implementation of the Act.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities-Compliant Budgeting Guidelines to Support the Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2021

June 2024



#### **Tackling Hate Speech in The Gambia**

In line with its mandate to influence policy, the NHRC with support from UNESCO under the 'Strengthening the National Infrastructure for Peace to Promote Social Cohesion' Project, conducted national research on the prevalence of hate speech (online and offline) in The Gambia.

This study identified the trends, drivers, perpetrators and victims and also strategies and tools to employ to effectively address and mitigate the impact of hate speech.

The findings of the report were validated in August 2024.

In a similar vein, the Commission organised two separate training for officials of the Independent Elections Commission (IEC), WANEP-The Gambia, Gambia Press Union, Inter-Party Committee (IPC), and National Council for Civic Education (NCCE) on hate speech and strategies to mainstream and effectively address hate speech in The Gambia.

## Training and Quiz on Basic Human Rights Principles for Senior Secondary Schools



**Resource person and participants of the training**

With support from UNICEF through UNPRPD, the Commission organised a training for 10 Teacher Coordinators and 50 Students from 10 Senior Secondary Schools in the Greater Banjul Area and West Coast Region, including schools for children with disabilities. They were engaged on the functions and powers of the Commission, children and human rights, rights of persons with disabilities, and child protection. With enhanced knowledge and skills, the teachers

and students were adequately prepared to serve as advocates for children's rights and to work with school authorities for a more enabling and non-discriminatory classroom and school environment for children with disabilities.

The Quiz, organised amongst the participating schools, focused on the topics that the students were engaged in. The competition was won by Masroor Senior Secondary School.

**Preparation of the NHRC  
Complementary Report on the  
Convention on the Rights of the  
Child (CRC): 12<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

Together with a multi-sectoral Working Group drawn from relevant Government Ministries and CSOs, the Commission, with support from UNICEF, prepared and submitted its Complementary Report on The Gambia's Combined 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> periodic report on the CRC. The Complementary Report provided the Committee on the Rights of the Child a comprehensive overview of the state of children's rights in the

country, the compliance of the State with the CRC, challenges hampering the enjoyment of these rights, and measures and strategies the Government should put in place to ensure children enjoy to the maximum extent possible the rights contained in the CRC. The constructive dialogue between the State and the Committee on the Rights of the Child is slated for 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 in Geneva. It is hoped that the recommendations of the NHRC will guide the Committee in formulating appropriate Concluding Observations to enhance children's enjoyment of their rights in the country.

**Development of Civic Education Module, and Teacher's Guide and Pupil's Book for the Lower Basic School (LBS)**

In collaboration with the Curriculum, Research, Evaluation and Development Directorate (CREDD) of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE), the Commission with support from the British High Commission supported the development of a Civic Education Module, and Teacher's Guide for

the Lower Basic School (LBS) (Grades 4, 5 and 6). All the teaching materials, which have been validated, will facilitate the smooth mainstreaming of human rights in the school curriculum. It is envisaged that in 2025, the Civic Education Module for the Lower Basic Schools will be piloted in preparation for its rolling out.



## Training of Law Enforcement Officers on the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2023: 12 – 13 December 2024



**Group photo of participants**

Through funding from the British High Commission in Banjul, thirty (30) officers of the Gambia Police Force from the Police Intervention Unit, Special Investigation Unit, Anti-Crime Unit and the Gender and Child Welfare Unit were trained on the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2023, the UN Convention Against Torture and the Principles on the Effective Interviewing for Investigations and

Information Gathering (Mendez Principles). Discussions focused on the role of the Gambia Police Force in combating torture, and the mandate of the Commission to monitor prisons and other detention facilities across the country. The participants committed to upholding torture-free law enforcement practices and observance of best practice standards when interviewing suspects.



## Sensitisation of communities in URR, NBR, LRR and CRR on Human Rights and TRRC White Paper: 18 – 21 November 2024



### Community Sensitization in NBR

Facilitated by the NHRC Regional Offices in NBR and URR, with support from the British High Commission in Banjul, three hundred and twenty (320) people from 16 communities in NBR, LRR, CRR North and South and URR were sensitised on human rights and legal frameworks, obligations of the State, redress mechanisms, reporting procedures for human rights violations and abuse, and the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC and progress of implementation.

The workshops were attended by local authorities, women leaders, youth leaders, persons with disabilities and traditional communicators.

The participants during the activity shared their views on the situation of human rights in the country and what the Government should do to enhance their enjoyment, the implementation of the White Paper, the high cost of living, access to justice and its challenges, irregular migration or 'backway' to Europe and the rate of violence in the country.

## Quarterly Meetings of the NHRC Multi-Stakeholder Committee to Support the Monitoring of the Implementation of Recommendations of



### Community engagement in URR

The Multi-stakeholder Monitoring Support Committee on the Implementation of the White Paper on the Report of the TRRC formed in 2023 to support the Commission monitor the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC, with support from the PBF through OHCHR and UNDP, held its quarterly meetings during the year. During the meetings, implementing agencies provided updates on the actions they have taken to implement the recommendations

in the White Paper, the challenges encountered and how the Commission could support their work. This platform supported the NHRC to collect information on the status of implementation of the White Paper by the respective agencies and NGOs and also provides an avenue to raise the concerns of victims and victim-focused organisations regarding the level of implementation of the White Paper.



### **Development of a Monitoring Guide for the NHRC for effective monitoring of the implementation of the White Paper**

For the effective monitoring of the implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC, a Monitoring Guide on the process was developed by the Commission. The Guide, developed with support from PBF

through OHCHR and UNDP, provides a comprehensive framework of how the Commission will conduct its monitoring role. It will also effectively ease stakeholder understanding of the monitoring process by the Commission.

### **Stakeholder Forum to Review Progress in the Implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC and Validation of the 2024 Status Report: 26 September 2024**

A Stakeholder Forum, attended by representatives of various Government Ministries and non – governmental institutions, was organised to review progress in the implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC and validate the 2024 Status Report of the NHRC on the Implementation of White Paper. The Forum, organised with support from PBF through OHCHR and

UNDP, enabled stakeholders to discuss concerns about the pace of implementation, inadequate funding and delays experienced by the NHRC in receiving information from the implementing institutions. Strategies to overcome the challenges were discussed. The Status Report has been published and submitted to the National Assembly and shared with stakeholders.



**Participants on a group work**

## **Establishment of a Multi-Sectoral SGBV Working Group for the Implementation, Enforcement, and Monitoring of SGBV Laws and Policies**

As per a recommendation in the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC, in November 2024 the Commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, established the “Multi-Sectoral SGBV Working Group for the Implementation, Enforcement, and Monitoring of SGBV Laws and Policies”, to support the

Government in effectively addressing SGBV in the country, including the protection of victims and witnesses. The Committee comprises representatives of Government and Non-Government stakeholders working on issues of SGBV. The meetings of the technical working group were organised with support from PBF through OHCHR and UNDP.

## **Capacity Building for The Gambia Prison Service on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights: 30 September – 5 October 2024**



**Resource person and participants of the training**

The Commission with support from the EU through UNDP organised two training workshops for 25 Senior Management Officers and 25 Junior Officers of the Gambia

Prisons Service as part of efforts to mainstream and integrate human rights into prison management. . The participants were trained on International Human Rights

Law, International Humanitarian Law, the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2023, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the handling of SGBV cases.

The participants were also trained on safeguarding the rights of vulnerable prisoners, including

women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and non-Gambians. Discussions were held on the current conditions of the prisons and prisoners, the working conditions and the safety of Prison Officers. The participants expressed their commitment to transforming the prison services in line with international best practices and standards.

### **Sensitisation of Community and Religious Leaders on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV): 19 – 22 August 2024**

Together with ICTJ, the Commission sensitised sixty-one (61) participants, mainly women and persons with disabilities from the communities of Jappineh (Lower River Region) and Kampassa (West Coast Region), on SGBV and its impact, referral and reporting mechanisms for SGBV and human rights violation cases, and the

functions of institutions such as the NHRC, Police Child Welfare Unit, Ministries of Justice and Gender, Children and Social Welfare and NALA. Participants included representatives of Village Development Committees, Village Support Groups, women, youth groups, persons with disabilities, and traditional and religious leaders.





## Mobile Legal Aid Clinic & Popularization of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2023: 27 October – 6 November 2024



**Different activities of the Legal Aid Clinic – Community outreach, ‘ataya’ session, night film show and visit to women vegetable gardens.**

With support from IDLO, the Commission organised Legal Aid Clinics in ten (10) communities in the North Bank Region and West Coast Region. During the exercise, complaints of human rights violations and abuse were received from community members and appropriate legal advice were given. Other complaints were referred to the appropriate agencies for redress and action. Over One thousand (1000) participants, comprising women, children, persons with disabilities, traditional and religious leaders, law enforcement officers and

representatives of Village Development Committees, Village Support Groups, and women and youth groups were sensitised on relevant national laws, including the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2023, Women’s (Amendment) Act 2015 and Children’s (Amendment) Act 2016, and the functions of various institutions and agencies that provide access to justice-related services in the country. They were also given legal advice on complaints of human rights violations as well as information on how to seek legal assistance or redress.

**Community engagements with diverse groups of religious leaders, traditional rulers, and other opinion leaders to discuss human rights issues & culture, tradition & religion**

Eight hundred and three (803) participants, comprising six hundred (600) women and two hundred and three (203) men, from communities in URR, CRR, LRR and NBR were sensitised on the effects of FGM/C on the rights and wellbeing of women and girls, Islamic teachings on SGBV, FGM/C and the rights of women and girls. During the discussions, religious

scholars made a delink between FGM/C and Islam and also expounded on the rights of women and girls in Islam. The Women's (Amendment) Act 2015 and the Children's (Amendment) Act 2016 were also extensively discussed. Resources Persons included Lady Councilors, women social mobilizers, nurses and midwives from the communities.





## **Radio Panel Discussion on Female Genital Mutilation/ Circumcision and Other Traditional Harmful Traditional Practices**

Faced with the imminent threat of the possible repeal of the anti FGM law, the Commission, in partnership with stakeholders, organised nationwide radio programmes on the harmful effects of FGM/C and child marriage which are prohibited in the country.

26 phone-in talk shows were held at Community Radios Stations in NBR, LRR, CRR and WCR, and on GRTS – Basse and West Coast FM Radio Station.

The panelists included medical officers, women rights defenders, religious leaders, law enforcers and staff of the NHRC and Ministries of Justice and Gender, Children and Social Welfare. The discussions focused on FGM/C and its effects on women and girls, the legislation that protects women and girls from FGM/C and child marriage, Islam's position on FGM and SGBV, and the Women's (Amendment) Bill 2024 and why it should not be passed by the National Assembly.

## **Documentary on FGM/C in The Gambia**

Using the stories of survivors and former practitioners of FGM/C, the Commission developed a documentary illustrating the harmful effects of FGM/C. This will be shown on three (3) national TV Stations.



**Actors in the documentary film on FGM**



## Development and Adoption of the Civic Education Textbook for Upper Basic Schools (UBS) and the Development of a Teacher's Guide



In collaboration with the Curriculum, Research, Evaluation and Development Directorate (CREDD) of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, the Commission, with support from EU through International IDEA, facilitated the development of a syllabus and Teacher's Guide for the Civic Education Module of the UBS, reviewed and adopted a Civic Education textbook for the Upper Basic Schools (Grades 7-9). A Technical Task Force comprising representatives from the NHRC, National Council for Civic Education (NCCE), Gambia College, relevant Directorates and Units of MoBSE and serving teachers supported this process.



Participants on a group work



## Training of Trainers of Law Enforcement Officers on the Right to Access to Justice for Migrants in The Gambia: 23 – 26 July 2024

Twenty-eight (28) officers from the training schools of the Gambia Police Force, Gambia Immigrations Department, Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Gambia Prison Service, Gambia Armed Forces, and State Intelligence Service were trained on access to justice for migrant workers and their families, human rights of migrants and the role of law enforcement agencies in the

protection of the rights of migrants. The training, organised with support from OHCHR, strengthened participants' understanding of the rights of migrants under Chapter 4 of the 1997 Constitution of The Gambia, the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and other domestic and international legal instruments.



Participants and resource persons



**Capacity Building and Support to Faculty of Law Legal Aid Clinic  
(enhance referrals to appropriate services): 23-27 September 2024**



Twenty-eight (28) members of the Law Clinic of the Faculty of Law of the University of The Gambia were trained on access to justice for migrant workers and their families. The training, organised

with support from OHCHR equipped the students with skills to better advocate for the protection of the rights of migrants and how to support migrants through their law clinic.



**Participants of the training**



**Community Outreach to Migrant Communities in WCR and KMC to raise awareness on existing structures/institutions on access to justice in The Gambia: 21 – 25 October 2024.**



**Community outreach on access to justice for migrants held in Tanje Village**

With support from OHCHR, one hundred and forty-four (144) community members including migrants from the communities of Tanji, Brikama, Gunjur, Bundung and Bakau were sensitized on migrants' rights to access to justice in the country. Community members were informed of the functions of State institutions involved in access to justice and how such services can be accessed. Migrants shared

challenges they faced at the hands of law enforcers and when accessing justice. They were urged to report complaints to the Commission for redress. Advocacy is progressing for the domestication of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW) which the Gambia ratified in September 2018.



**Engagement with the National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights and Constitutional Matters on enhancing access to Justice for Migrants: 20 – 21 September 2024.**



**Group photo of participants during the engagement with NAMs on Access to Justice for Migrants**

Eighteen (18) Members and staff of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights and Constitutional Matters were sensitised on migrants' rights to access to justice. The challenges migrants face in accessing justice, the obligations of The Gambia under the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) and the role of the National Assembly to protect the human rights of

migrants were extensively discussed. The Members were urged to encourage the Government to expedite the domestication of the ICRMW, develop comprehensive migration policies aligned with regional and international standards and facilitate access to justice and legal aid services for migrants. The NHRC and NAMs agreed to collaborate on the protection of migrants in the country. The engagement was organised with support from OHCHR.



## **Stakeholder Forum on the Promotion of the Rights of Older Persons in The Gambia: 28 August 2024.**



**Group photo of participants**

A day-long Stakeholder Forum, attended by 30 participants including advocates for the rights of older persons and other stakeholders, was organised to discuss the rights of older persons in The Gambia, the challenges they face in their communities and what strategies and mechanisms should be in place to harness their expertise and experience in national and community development initiatives and decision-making. The participants called on the Government to develop a National Policy on Older Persons, domesticate the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa and develop strategies to actively engage older persons in national development

initiatives and discourses. They also called for the effective implementation of the National Social Protection Policy and improvement in the services at the Bakoteh Home for the Elderly to cater for the needs of older persons staying there.



**The Minister of Gender, Children and Social Welfare at the opening of the Forum**



**National Stakeholders Dialogue on Mental Health Rights in The Gambia: 26 – 27 November 2024.**



**Group photo of participants**

One hundred and twenty (120) stakeholders, including Government officials, Civil Society representatives, traditional healers and mental health experts, were convened to discuss mental health rights and the state of mental health services in The Gambia. The National Dialogue recommended for the repealing of the Lunatic Detention Act 1917, expediting the enactment of the Mental Health Bill, implementing the recommendations of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in the Purohit and Moore vs The Gambia case, accelerating the decision to transform Tanka Tanka into an

independent, well-functioning mental hospital, and the establishment of a specialised mental health rehabilitation centre for substance abuse patients. The gathering also called for the integration of mental health education in the education curriculum, continuous monitoring and assessment of the state of the mental well-being of prisoners and individuals held on remand and sustained public awareness of mental health in the community. The Dialogue was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Health with support from WHO, UNICEF, and ActionAid The Gambia.



**Participants of the Forum**



**Executive Director of ActionAid  
International The Gambia**



**Vice President of the Republic of  
The Gambia**

### **Radio Programmes on Mental Health Rights in The Gambia.**

As part of the commemoration of World Mental Health Day 2024, eight live one-hour radio programmes were held on radio stations in Brikamaba, Farafenni, Brikama, Radio Gambia and West Coast Radio. Through these radio programmes, the Commission

raised awareness of communities on mental health rights in The Gambia and available mental health support services. Callers urged for sustained media programmes on mental health rights and the need for marked improvement in mental health services in the country.



## **Popularisation of the TRRC Recommendations on Enforced Disappearances: 19 – 22 August 2024.**

The Commission with support from the Global Forensic Academy in partnership with the Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala organised a popularisation campaign on enforced disappearances in the Lower River Region and Central River Region enhancing the capacity of 60 family members of victims of human rights violations and local actors. Participants were

introduced to the UN Convention against Enforced Disappearances, the role of family members in the search and identification of missing persons and the obligation of the State to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of enforced disappearances. Discussions also centred on the role of law enforcement in preventing enforced disappearances and how such practices can undermine the rule of law and social cohesion.



**Development of Training Modules on International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law, and Handling of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) for the Security Sector.**



**Participants from the GAF**

The Commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Office of National Security (ONS), facilitated the development of training modules on Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, and the handling of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence for the security sector through a consultancy. This initiative responds to a recommendation of the TRRC which tasks the Commission to ensure regular training on human rights for

officials of the security sector; take necessary steps to review and integrate or review and update where available human rights into the Curricula of the GAF; and design a course on human rights and the role of the military in a democratic society. Following the development of the modules, several security officials have been trained on them while efforts are being made to integrate the modules into the curriculum of the training schools of the various security institutions.



**Training of Trainers for Security Officers on Human Rights,  
International Humanitarian Law and Handling of Sexual and Gender-  
Based Violence: 16 – 18 May 2024.**



The Gambia continues to grapple with the legacy of past human rights violations, underscoring the importance of transitional justice, accountability and security sector reform. In this context, security sector actors play a crucial role in fostering a democratic society by upholding international human rights standards in their daily

operations. In recognition of this, the Commission conducted a three (3) day pilot training of trainers for 30 law enforcement officers from the various law enforcement training schools. The training provided a platform for trainers from these training schools to review the developed modules to ensure they are appropriate for their institutions.



**Participants of the training**



## Training for Officers of The Gambia Armed Forces on Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, and the Handling of SGBV Cases



In line with the ongoing Security Sector Reform and efforts to promote human rights, accountability and the rule of law, the Commission, with support from the British High Commission, conducted training for 30 officers of The Gambia Armed Forces (GAF), on Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, SGBV and the role of the military in a democratic society. The training marked a significant step towards strengthening the capacity of GAF to mainstream human rights in their operations. It also reaffirmed the important role of GAF in sustaining the Gambia's democratic gains and respect for the rule of law. The training strengthened the capacity of the officials to integrate humanitarian law, gender and human rights in their operations.



**Participants and resource persons of the training**



**Launch of the Training Modules on International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law & Sexual and Gender-Based Violence for the Security Forces of The Gambia.**



The Commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Office of National Security, officially launch the Training Modules on Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law and Handling of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at Bakadaji Hotel. The activity was attended by representatives of the various commands of the security institutions in the country. The Training Modules were subsequently distributed among the various law enforcement agencies to contribute to building a

more professional and accountable security sector that is responsive to the needs of the Gambian people and upholds the rights and dignity of all individuals.



## Strategic Objective 2

**To ensure improved compliance from the State on matters of human rights, rule of law and access to Justice.**

### Activities Implemented

#### **NHRC Interventions on the Proposed Repeal of the Women's (Amendment) Act 2015 prohibiting FGM/C.**

Following the tabling of the Women's (Amendment) Bill 2004 which sought to repeal the Women's (Amendment) Act 2015, the law that prohibits FGM/C in the country, the Commission embarked on a series of activities to ensure the retention of the Women's (Amendment) Act 2015. It issued Press Statements urging the National Assembly not to pass the Women's (Amendment) Bill 2024 and also reminded the Government of its obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of women and girls and to enforce the Women's (Amendments) Act 2015 effectively.

Utilising its function as stipulated under Section 12 (j) (iii) of the National Human Rights Commission Act 2017, the Commission submitted a Position Paper to the National Assembly Select Committee on Gender and Health in which it elaborated on The Gambia's obligations to



protect women and girls from FGM/C, the effects of FGM/C on the fundamental rights of women and girls and the role of the Assembly in the protection of human rights. The Position Paper urged the Assembly not to repeal the Women's (Amendment) Act 2015 and proffered recommendations for the continuous prohibition of female circumcision in The Gambia.

To galvanise efforts for the retention of the 2015 law, the Commission, in partnership with non-governmental stakeholders identified a collaborative strategy to engage the government against the repeal of the law. Additionally, community sensitisation activities were also conducted across the country to engage the public on the need for the continued retention of the law.

## Submission of Stakeholder Report under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)



In May 2024, the Commission held a Stakeholder Engagement on The Gambia's Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. The event brought together representatives from Government, Civil Society Organizations and the security, under the theme: **'Upholding International Human Rights Standards: A Pathway to a More Democratic Governance in The Gambia'**.



**Participants of the UPR stakeholder engagement**

To contribute to the January 2025 review of the country's human rights record by the UPR Working Group, the Commission, with funding from the

European Union through International IDEA, prepared and submitted a Stakeholder Report for consideration by the Working Group. It provided information about the state of human rights in the country since the last review of The Gambia in November 2019 and made appropriate recommendations to enhance the enjoyment of human rights.

The Stakeholder Report was prepared with the support of a task force comprised of representatives from Civil Society and the Government.

Additionally, two staff members of the Commission participated in the UPR pre-session in November 2024. During this meeting, the NHRC officials briefed representatives of Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva about the human rights situation in the country and urged them to adopt the recommendation in its Stakeholder Report.



### **Publication of the NHRC Status Report on the Implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC from May 2023 to May 2024**

As part of its monitoring role of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC, the Commission in November submitted the second edition of the TRRC Status Monitoring Report to the National Assembly. The Report detailed the progress of the implementation of the White Paper from May 2023 to May 2024, the

challenges encountered by implementing institutions and recommendations to the Government for the effective and timely implementation of the White Paper. The publication was supported by the OHCHR – UNDP through the PBF.

### **Training of Local Government Councilors and Staff on Human Rights, Human Rights-Based Budgeting (HRBB). Social Accountability and Governance: 13-18 May 2024.**

With support from the American Embassy, one hundred and eight Councillors and key staff of Basse, Kerewan, Mansa Konko, Kuntaur and Janjangbureh Area Councils were trained on Human Rights-Based Budgeting, and the Local Government Act 2002 as amended. Discussions focused on child-friendly, gender and disability-compliant budgeting, the importance of community participation and consultation, and the role of Area Councils in the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of the people within their area. Councillors called for the development of a new Local Government Bill as the current legal framework governing their work greatly limits their roles and contains provisions which are not

in line with the 1997 Constitution. They also lamented the failure of the Central Government to make the necessary contribution to their budget. Participants were also given copies of the Primer of the Local Government Act 2002 as amended which many found useful.



**Participants of the HRBB Training**

**Interface between Community-Based Organisations and Local Government Authorities in NBR, LRR, and URR: 28 August & 3 September 2024**



**Community engagement in Upper River Region (URR)**

Three interactive workshops were organised between representatives of Community-Based Organisations and Councilors of Kerewan, Mansa Konko and Basse Area Councils with support from the American Embassy. Participants discussed issues affecting community members in their areas, the Council budgets

and development plans and how Councils should engage their communities. Strategies for regular engagement between Councillors and their Wards were also discussed, including information sharing and involvement in budget preparation and implementation. 100 participants, including 46 females, attended these workshops.

## National Conference on the Draft Constitution 2024 “Advancing National Consensus on the Draft Constitution 2024”: 28 – 29 November 2024



**Participants of the Convergence**

In August 2024, the Government published the Draft Constitution 2024. It was received with mixed reactions from the public, political parties, and civil society organisations (CSOs) who argued that the Government did not consult stakeholders on the contents before its gazetting. It was further stated that the Draft contained weak or limited provisions on good governance, accountability, transparency and the rule of law, while some called for its rejected by the National Assembly.

To bring about a consensus on the Draft Constitution 2024, the Commission with support from the EU through UNDP organised a two-

day National Conference attended by representatives of political parties, CSOs, Government institutions, and a cross-section of the society and the media. During the Conference, participants shared their views on the Draft Constitution, identified the sticking points and suggested amendments to it. At the end of the Conference, participants adopted a Communique which called on the National Assembly to adopt a draft Constitution that adequately reflects the wishes and aspirations of the Gambian people. The Communique was sent to the National Assembly, the Executive, all political parties and stakeholders.



## Strategic Objective 3

To develop NHRC's capacity to advance human rights in the country.

### Activities Implemented

#### **Training of Commissioners and Staff on the Protection of Key Populations: 8 – 10 May 2024**

To enhance the capacity of the Commission on non-discrimination, a three-day training on the rights of key populations was organised by OHCHR for the Commissioners and staff of the Secretariat. The training, supported by International IDEA, looked at the rights of key

populations as guaranteed by national and international law, the role of the State and NHRIs in protecting the rights of key populations, challenges members of key populations face when seeking protection and access to justice, effective remedies for victims of human rights violations, and measures to combat prejudice, stereotypes, stigma and hate speech that members of key populations face.



## Strategic Objective 4

**Strategic objective 4: To advance the Realisation of Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights**

### Activities Implemented

#### **2025 Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Human Rights Moot Court Competition**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Human Rights Moot Court Competition was organised in partnership with the Faculty of Law of the University of The Gambia with support from UNICEF, IOM and OHCHR. Six Universities - University of The Gambia (The Gambia), International Open University (The Gambia), Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria), University of Calabar (Nigeria), University of Lagos (Nigeria) and Makerere University (Uganda) - participated in the Competition which was conducted under the theme **“Protecting the Fundamental Human Rights of Migrants and their Families”**. The Final of the Moot Competition was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 as part of commemorations of International Human Rights Day. The competition was won by the University of Calabar, while the University of The Gambia was the runner-up.



**Winners of the Moot Competition from the University of Calabar, Nigeria**



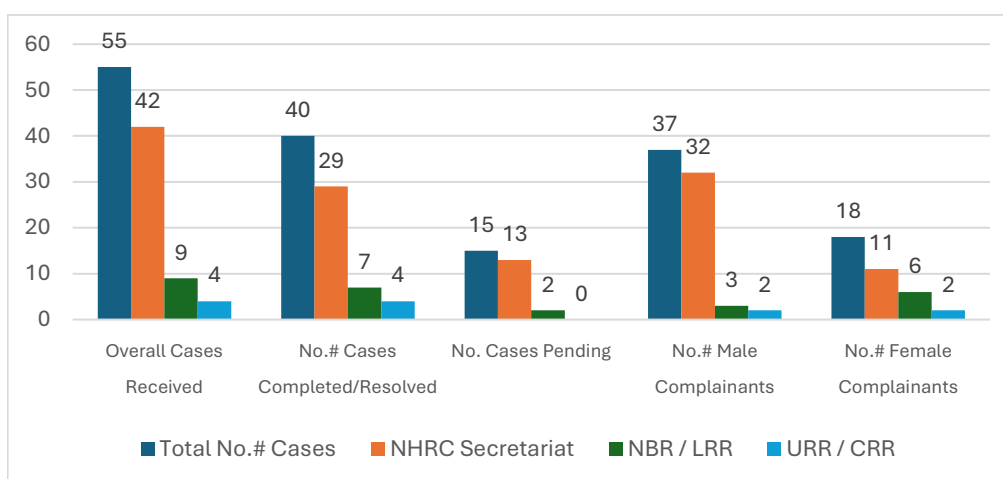
**Runner Up – University of The Gambia**

## Chapter 3 - Complaints mechanism –

### Case Management System

The Commission, as per its Act, receives complaints of human rights abuses from victims and individuals aware of a violation that may have occurred or is occurring. In 2024, the NHRC received a total of fifty-five (55) complaints - forty (40) cases were completed and resolved, and fifteen (15) cases are in progress. Sixteen (16) of the complaints received were against officers of The Gambia Police Force,

Gambia Armed Forces, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency-Gambia, Gambia Revenue Authority and Gambia Immigration Department. Thirty-seven (37) complaints, comprising 67.3% of the cases received, were from male complainants, and eighteen (18) complaints, which is 32.7% of cases reported, were from female complainants.





Breakdown of complaints received	
Complaints	Amount
Protection from deprivation of property	10
Labour rights	9
Right to legal redress	9
Rights of children	6
Protection of Right to personal liberty	6
Protection from inhuman treatment or torture	3
Domestic violence	3
Right to education	2
Right to health	3
Protection from discrimination	3
Protection of the right to life	1



## Chapter 4 - Beneficiary Assessment of NHRC Activities

### 1. Introduction

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) conducts an annual Beneficiary Assessment Survey to evaluate the effectiveness, usefulness, relevance and impact of its programmatic interventions. This survey also assesses the overall quality and responsiveness of services delivered and beneficiary satisfaction and identifies existing gaps and challenges that may hinder the Commission's work.

The feedback from participants who directly benefited from NHRC's interventions and services offer critical insights that will enhance the quality of NHRC's implementation and service delivery. They will ensure that the Commission's programme activities, services and other interventions geared towards the implementation of its mandate and functions align to the needs of the people it seeks to serve and to support evidence-based decision-making.

A mixed-methods approach combining both quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques were employed to ensure comprehensive

analysis. Standardized questionnaires were administered to a representative sample of beneficiaries across selected intervention areas. The survey was designed into two areas:

**Part-1** of the survey focuses on the programme intervention and captures the perspectives and experiences of participants involved in various NHRC-led activities in 2024. The survey had over 64% response rate from a sample size of a total of 471 targeted beneficiaries. A total of 301 interviews were conducted with respondents targeted across the 7 administrative regions. The respondents were from Key Government institutions, Civil Society Organization, Law Enforcement agencies, Victim Focus Organizations, and Communities.

**Part 2** of the survey assessed the effectiveness and accessibility of the NHRC services (Complaint Handling and Inquires) and the overall satisfaction of service users (enquirers and complainants). A total of **24 respondents** were randomly selected through the NHRC complaint mechanism with **100%** response rate received

through the Microsoft form survey link and in-person interviews. This analysis explores the demographic patterns, how service users contacted NHRC, and their perceptions regarding the quality of NHRC's services.

The beneficiaries/participants took part in the following programme focus activities implemented in 2024:

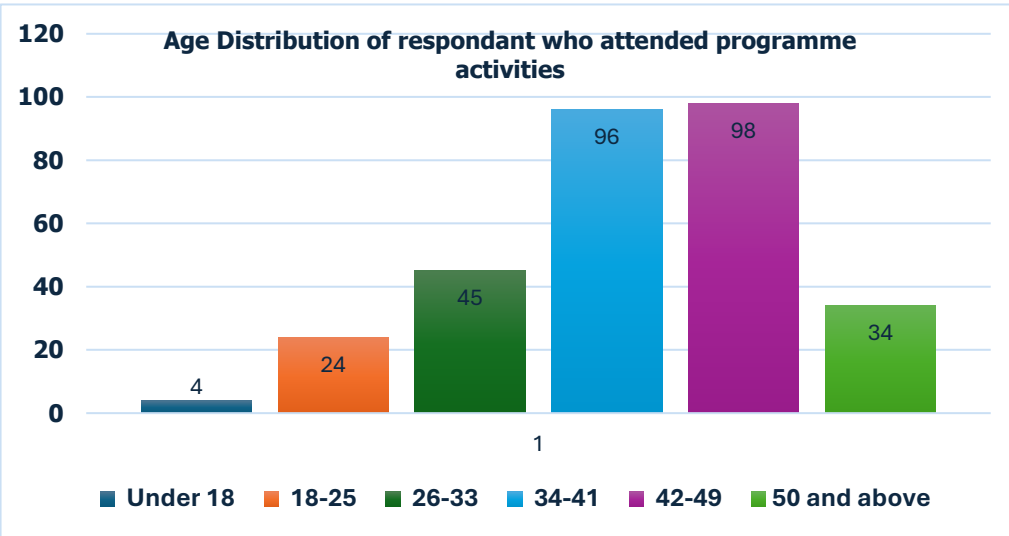
List of Programme Activities/Interventions Beneficiaries attended in 2024		
No:	Thematic Area	Activities /Interventions
1.	<b>Training</b>	
	Training on Human Rights and Quiz Competition for Senior Secondary Schools	
	Capacity Building for The Gambia Prison Service on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights	
	Training of Law Enforcement Officers on the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2024	
	Training of Trainers of Law Enforcement Officers on the Right to Access to Justice for Migrants in The Gambia	
	Training of Local Government Councilors and Staff on Human Rights	
	Training for officers of The Gambia Armed Forces on Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, and the Handling of SGBV Cases	
	Human Rights-Based Budgeting, Social Accountability, and Governance	
	Capacity Building and Support to Faculty of Law Legal Aid Clinic	



2.	Sensitization
	<p>Sensitizations of Community and Religious leaders on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)</p> <p>Mobile Legal Aid Clinic &amp; Popularization of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2023</p> <p>Community engagements with diverse groups of religious leaders, traditional rulers, and other opinion leaders to discuss human rights issues &amp; culture, tradition &amp; religion</p> <p>Sensitization of rural communities in URR and NBR on Human Rights and TRRC White Paper</p> <p>Community Outreach to Migrant Communities in WCR and KMC to raise awareness on existing structures/institutions on access to justice in The Gambia</p> <p>Interface between Community-Based Organizations and Local Government Authorities</p> <p>Popularization of CRPD-compliant Budgeting Guideline</p>

<b>3.</b>	<b>National level Forum/conference/competitions</b>
	<p>National Stakeholders Dialogue on Mental Health Rights in The Gambia</p> <p>5th Edition of the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Human Rights Moot Court Competition</p> <p>Stakeholder Forum on the Promotion of the Rights of Older Persons in The Gambia</p> <p>Stakeholders Forum to Review Progress in the implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC and Validation of the 2024 Status Report</p> <p>Engagement with the National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights and Constitutional Matters on enhancing access to Justice for Migrants</p> <p>National Conference on the Draft Constitution 2024 “Advancing National Consensus on the Draft Constitution 2024</p> <p>Quarterly Meetings of the NHRC Multi-Stakeholder Committee to Support the Monitoring of the Implementation of Recommendations of the TRRC</p> <p>Engagement with Communities to Discuss Human Rights and Culture, Tradition, and Religion</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Development of Educational/advocacy materials</b>
	<p>Development and Adoption of the Civic Education Textbook for the Upper Basic Schools (UBS), and Teacher’s Guides</p> <p>Development of Civic Education Module, and Teacher's Guide and Pupil's Book for the Lower Basic School (LBS</p>

## 2.0. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

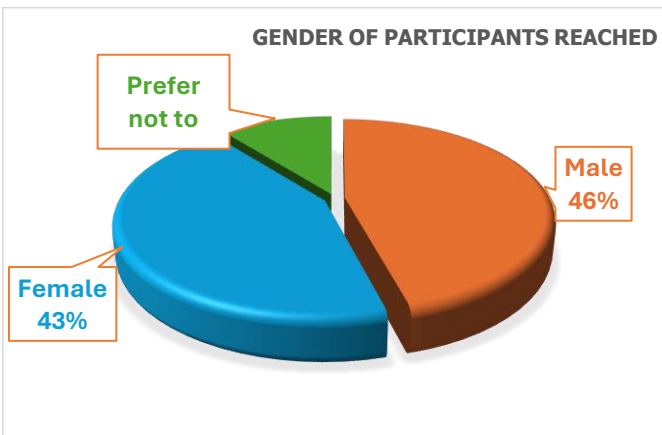


The age distribution of respondents in the beneficiary survey was categorized into six groups: under 18 years, 18–25 years, 26–33 years, 34–41 years, 42–49 years, and 50 years and above. The data shows the following proportions across the age groups: Under 18 years: 4%;

18–25 years: 24%; 26–33 years: 45%; 34–41 years: 96%; 42–49 years: 98%; and 50 years and above, 34%. In terms of age distribution of respondents, the results of the findings reveal that participants who are 34–41 years (96%) and those 42–49 years (98%) are the highest reached as shown on the bar-chart.

## 3.0 SEX/ Gender

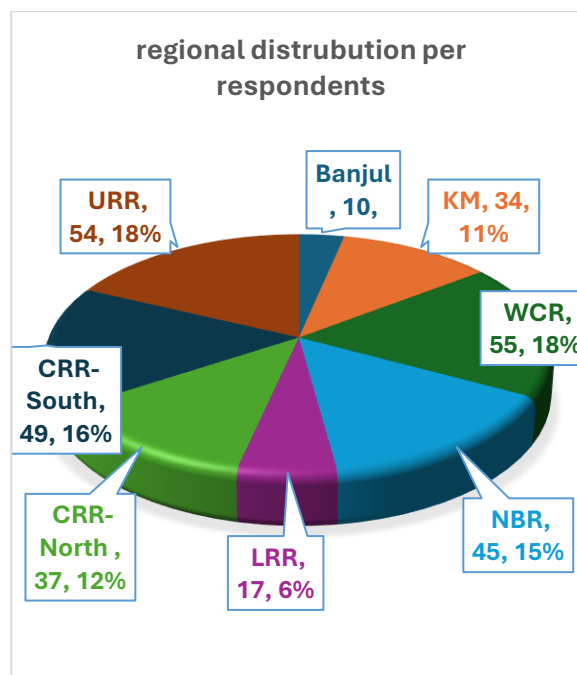
The gender/sex representation of respondents reached are 46% males, 43% are female and 11% of respondents prefer not to indicate.



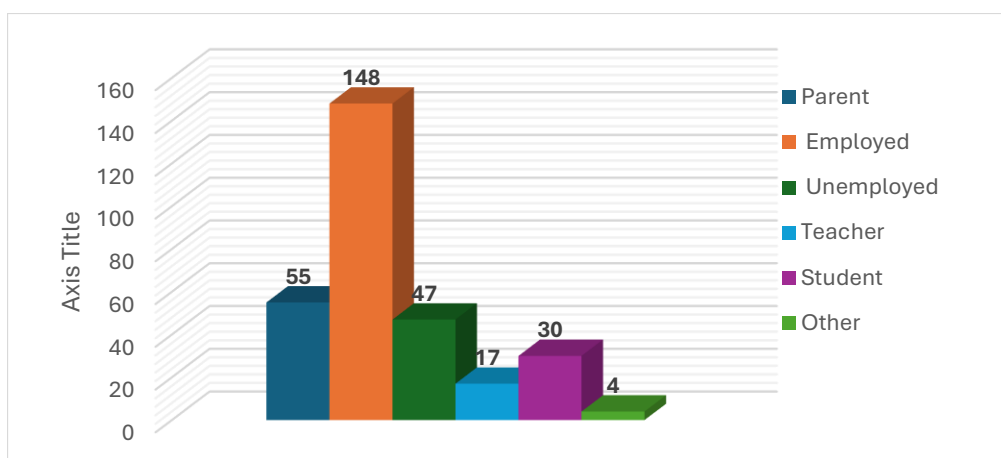


## 4.0. Regional distribution

The regional distribution of respondents compares the proportion of respondents from each region. West Coast (18%) and URR (18%) had the highest number of respondents, followed by CRR-South (16%), NBR (15%), CRR-North (12%) and KM (11%). The lowest number of respondents were from LRR (6%) and Banjul (4%).



## 5.0. Occupation of Respondents

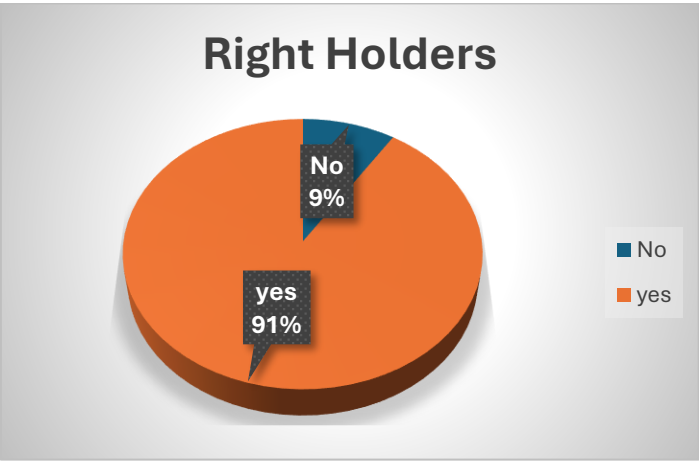


The occupational distribution of the respondents in NHRC activities shows that those in **employment** were the most engaged (148 **individuals**) while the unemployed are 47 respondents. The other category of respondents classified as **Parents** (55) could either be

employed or unemployed whereas 30 of respondents are **students**. **Teachers** (17) and those categorized as “**Others**” are (4) had the lowest representation. This indicates a fair level of inclusion across diverse socioeconomic categories.

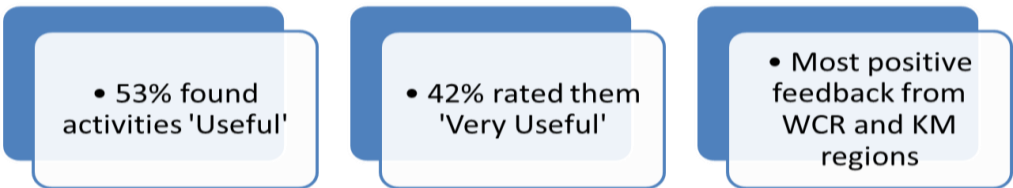
### 5.1 Representation of Right Holders

To the question “are you a **right holder**?” a significant majority, **91%**, responded “**Yes**”, while only **9%** responded “**No**”. This response reflects a strong level of rights awareness among grassroots participants that are targeted by NHRC interventions.



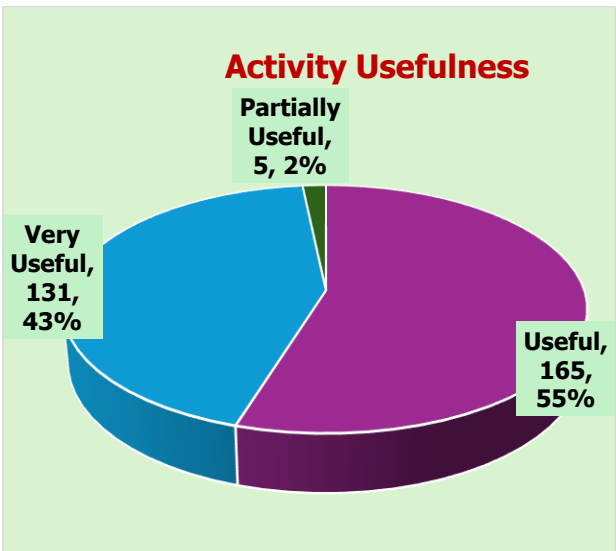
### 5.2. Summary of Key Findings

Approximately the survey results indicate:

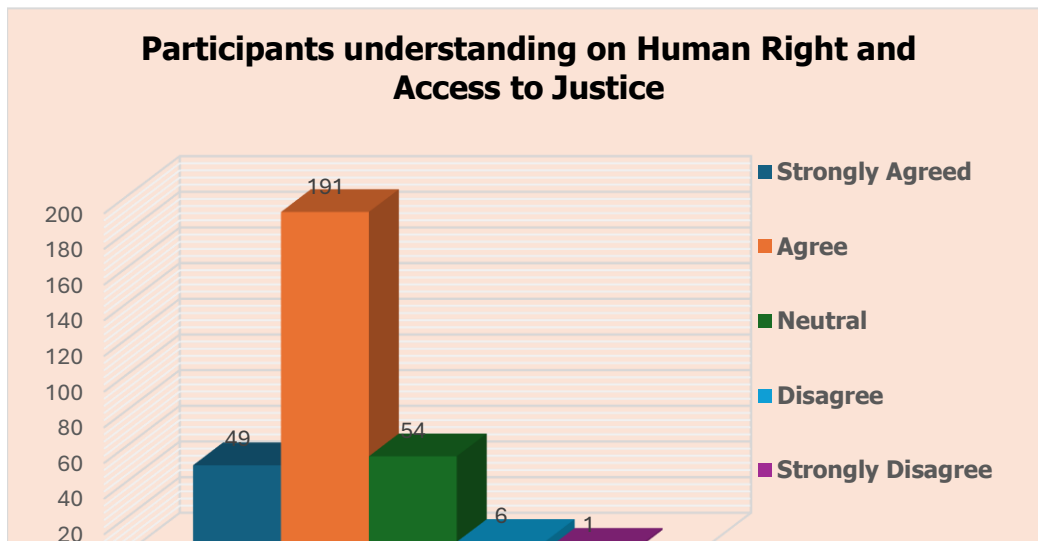


### 5.3. Usefulness of Activities

Approximately 55% of participants rated the activities as 'Useful', while 43% found them 'Very Useful'. Only a minimal percentage (2%) rated them as 'Partially Useful'. This indicates that NHRC activities have been found to be rich in content, educative and interactive.



## 5. 4 Understanding of Human Rights and Access to Justice

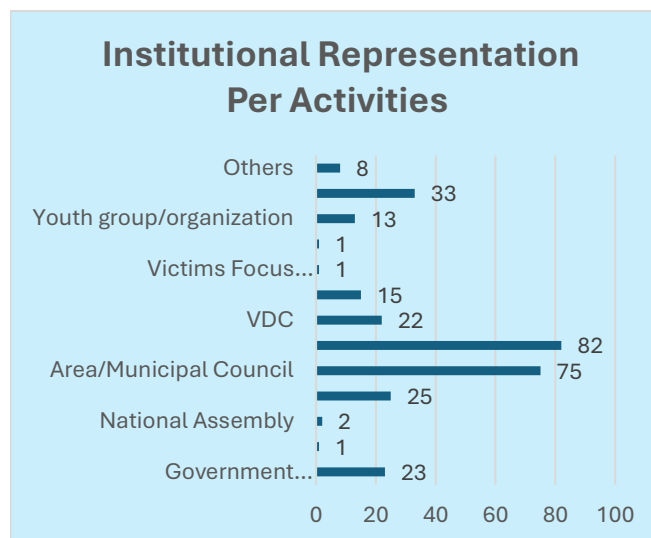


Majority of the respondents (191) “Agree” that the activities they attended enhanced their understanding of human rights and access to justice, followed by

(49) ‘Strongly Agree’, and (54) being Neutral. Those who ‘Disagree’ or ‘Strongly Disagree’ were (6) and (1) respectively.

## 5.8 Institutional Representation of Respondents

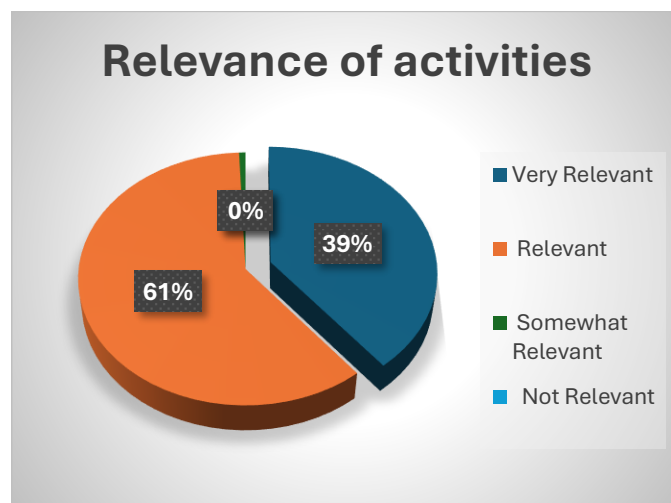
The highest or most representative in the NHRC activities were **community members (82)** and **Area/Municipal Councils (75)**, indicating strong grassroots and local government involvement. Educational institutions also showed significant participation with **33 representatives**, reflecting NHRC’s focus on promoting human rights education and awareness.





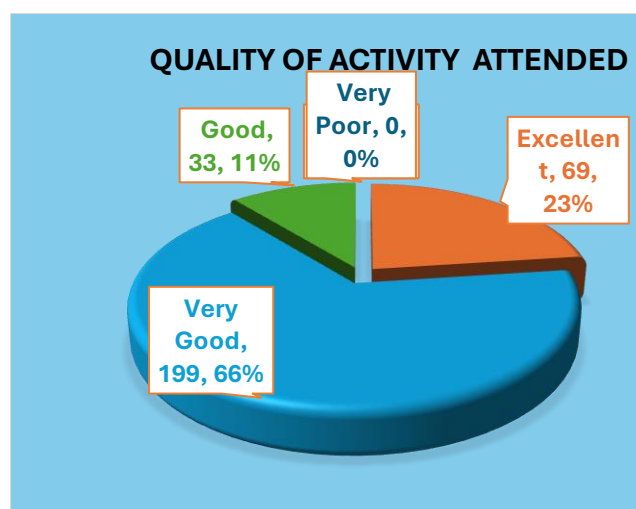
## 6.0 Relevance of the activities attended:

From the pie chart 61% of respondents found the activities 'Relevant', while 39% rated them as 'Very Relevant'. And No participants select 'Somewhat relevant'.



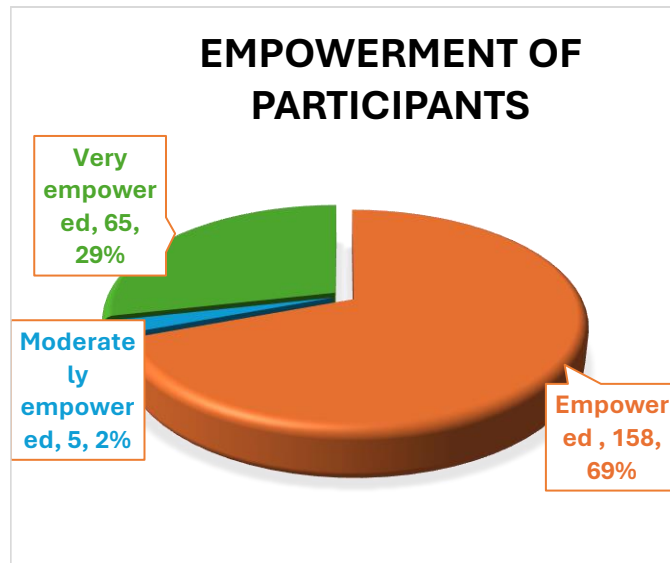
## 6.1 Quality of Activity Attended:

About 23% of respondents rated that the sessions and topics covered in the activities they attended as 'Excellent' while 66% rated them as 'Very Good'. Only 11% rated the activities they attended as of 'good' quality and value to their lives and communities.

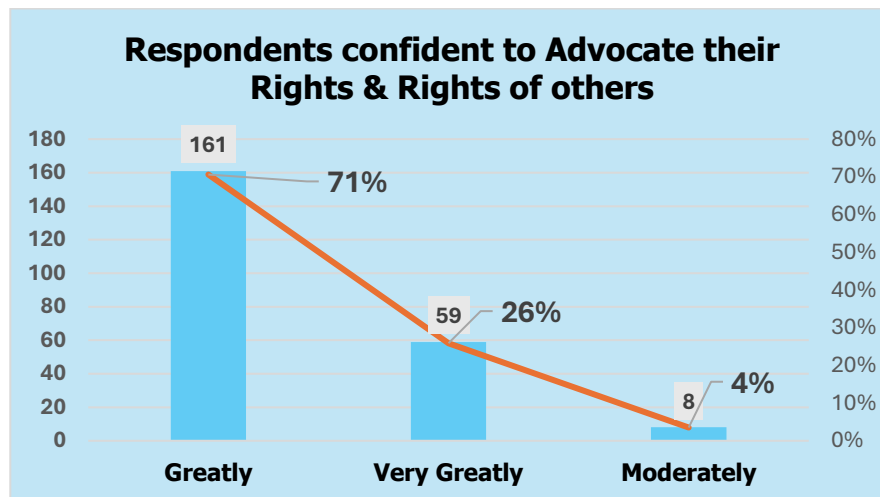


## 7.0 Perceived Impact

158 respondents (69%) reported that the activities have 'empowered' them as they now understand their rights, can claim them and advocate for others and 29% also felt 'Very Empowered' because of their participation in NHRC activities. Only 2% felt they are "Moderately Empowered"



## 8.0 Respondents Confidence to advocate for their and Rights of others:



Majority of the respondents, 71% (161 individuals), felt 'Greatly' confident to advocate for their rights and the rights of others. 26% of the respondents (59) reported

'Very Greatly' confident while only 4% (8 individuals) indicated "Moderately" confident to advocate for their rights and that of others.

## 9.0 Summary of key Findings

Participants aged 34–49 made up the majority, showing strong affirmation of activity quality with  
Employed individuals and students showed the highest positive responses

Over 55% felt 'Empowered' to exercise their rights

Above 58% noted increased ability to advocate for rights

Strongest empowerment rating/scores from participants (students and individuals employed)

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## 10. Recommendations

Expand outreach in Banjul and LRR

Consider strengthening time management and planning as highlighted in open-ended responses

Address gaps in empowerment feedback by strengthening follow-up and community engagement.

Develop tailor-made youth-focused sessions to effectively target the 18–25 age group in NHRC activities

Increase visibility and engagement in underrepresented regions such as LRR and Banjul.



## Part-2 NHRC Services and Complaint Handling Survey Report – 2024:

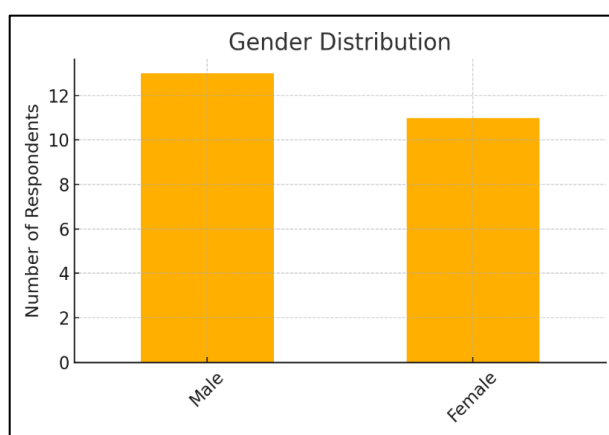
### 1. Introduction

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) conducted a feedback survey to assess the effectiveness and accessibility of its Complaint Handling mechanisms, and overall satisfaction of people who sought information from or lodged complaints to the Commission. A total of **24 respondents** provided feedback via digital and in-person interviews. This analysis explores the demographic patterns, Service users contact methods, and their perceptions regarding the quality of NHRC's services.

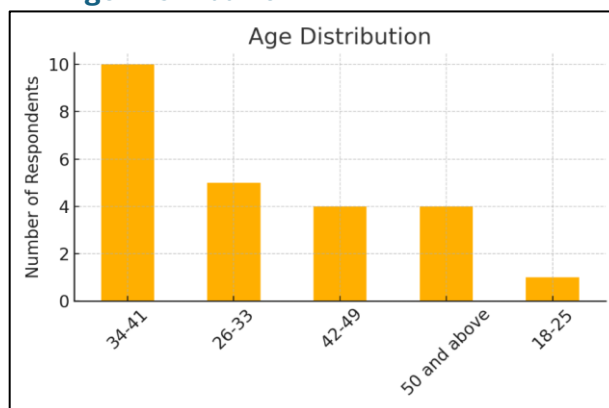
### 2. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

#### 2.1 Gender Balance

The gender distribution was relatively balanced, with **13 males (54%)** and **11 females (46%)** participating in the survey.



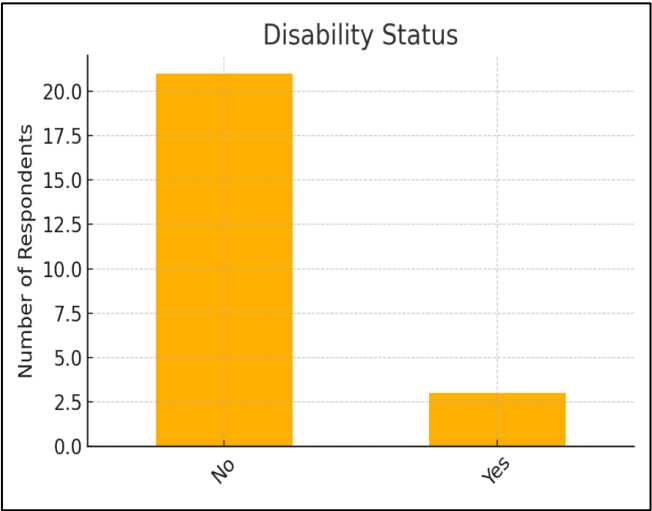
#### 2.2 Age Distribution



The age profile of respondents reveals that **34–41 age group** represented the largest proportion (**42%**), followed by the **26–33 age group (21%)**, and the age groups **42–49 years** and **50+ years** both at **17%** each. Only **1 respondent** was within the 18–25 age bracket.

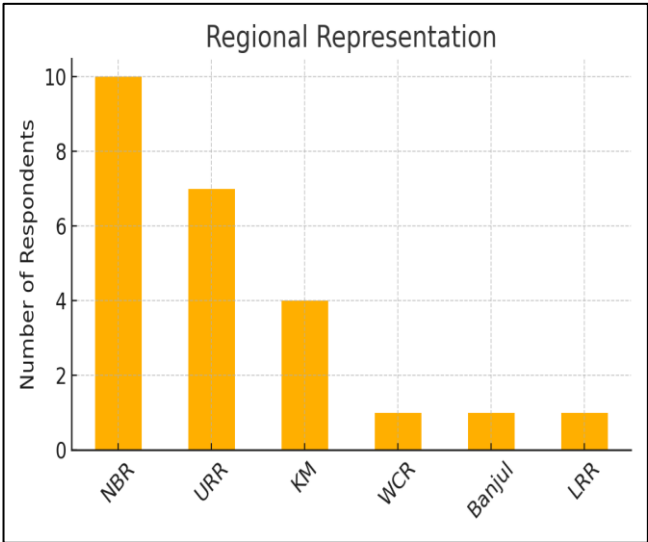
2.3 Disability Inclusion

Out of 24 respondents, only 3 individuals (12.5%) identified as persons with disabilities. this shows NHRC’s services is access or reached by few members of the disabled community more targeted engagement strategies may be needed to ensure equal access to NHRC by persons with disability.

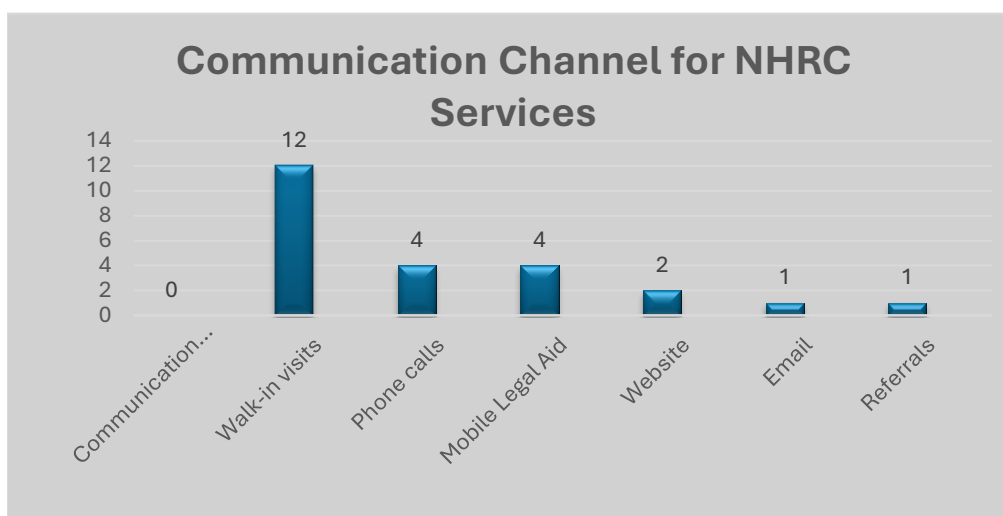


3. Geographical Reach and Regional Representation

**NBR (North Bank Region)** had the highest representation (**10 respondents 42%**), followed by **URR (Upper River Region)** with **7 respondents (29%)**. **KM (Kanifing Municipality)** accounted for **4 respondents**. **WCR, Banjul, and LRR** each had only **one respondent each** raise questions about the NHRC’s **visibility and accessibility** in those areas mentioned above.



#### 4. Medium/Channels Used to Access to NHRC Services:



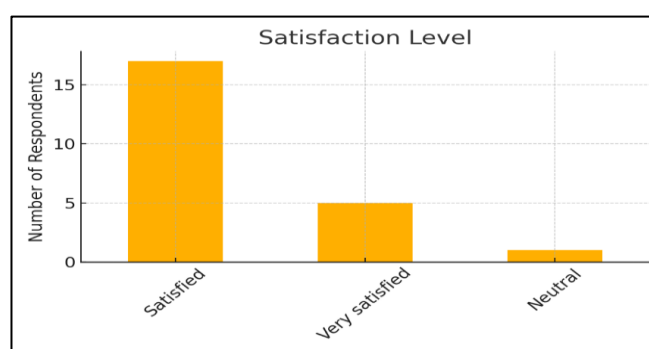
**Walk-in visits (12 responses; 50%) is the primary mode through which the respondents accessed the services of the Commission. 4 respondents each (17%) used**

**Phone calls and NHRC Mobile Legal Aid services.** Less frequently used channels included the **NHRC website, email, and referrals from interns/staff.**

#### 5. Quality and Responsiveness of Services

##### 5.1 Satisfaction with NHRC Services

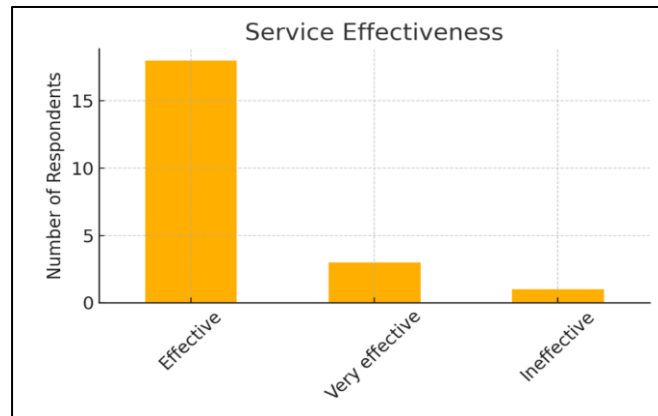
Satisfaction level on NHRC services and complaint handling, **17 respondents (71%)** reported being **“Satisfied”, followed by 5 respondents (21%)** who were **“Very satisfied”**, only 1 was **“Neutral”**, and 1 response was blank. This indicates that **92% of users were satisfied or very satisfied**, which reflects positively on the Commission’s performance.





## 5.2 Effectiveness of Complaint Handling

Perceptions of service effectiveness were encouraging as **18 respondents (75%)** rated the services as **“Effective”**, followed by **3 respondents (12.5%)** found them **“Very effective”**, Only **1 respondent** described the services as **“Ineffective”**.

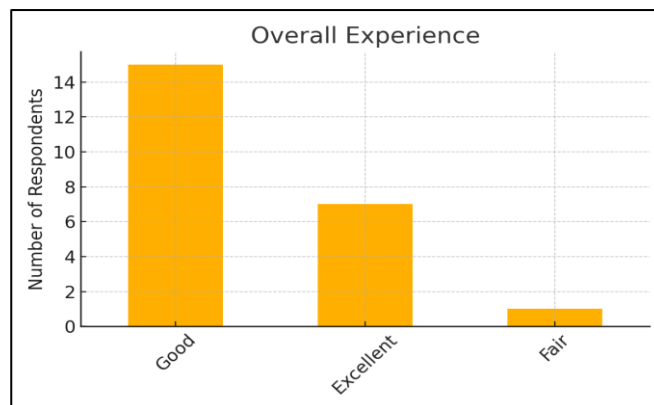


## 5.3 Professionalism and Responsiveness

- On responsiveness, majority of respondents selected **“Agree”** or **“Strongly Agree”**.
- Similarly, most respondents rated staff professionalism as **“Agree”**, reflecting trust and confidence in NHRC personnel.

## 6.0 Overall Experience

The overall service experience was rated as **“Good”** by **15 respondents (62.5%)**, followed by **“Excellent”** by **7 respondents (29%)**, with only **1 respondent (4%)** rated the experience as **“Fair”**.



## 7.0 Summary of key findings:

The survey highlights the following key findings about service delivery and complaint handling.



## **7. Recommendations / Suggestions:**

Several comments and suggestions were received on the qualitative open-ended responses which offered critical recommendations and validation of the NHRC's efforts in service delivery.

- Expedite the decentralization of human rights services through the establishment of regional offices in all the Regions of the country.
- Improve digital service and diversify user friendly digital platforms (website, mobile apps, social media) to allow remote access to services.
- Ensure proactive communication with complainants
- Ensure proactive handling of complaints with greater urgency
- Expand visibility and outreach in WCR, LRR, and Banjul.

- Improve follow-up mechanisms for unresolved or delayed cases.
- Promote NHRC services to youth and persons with disabilities through targeted campaigns.
- Institutionalize a feedback system for continuous learning and improvement.

## **10.0. Conclusion**

The NHRC 2024 program activities were positively received across demographic groups. Strong indications of usefulness, relevance, and empowerment demonstrate the value of the Commission's work. Similarly, the result of NHRC service delivery also was commendable with high satisfaction and professionalism ratings. However, strategic enhancements can further optimize the inclusivity and scope of the services provided by NHRC, with attention to these areas, NHRC will continue to be positioned well to deepen its human rights impact in The Gambia.



## Chapter 5 - Lessons learned & Challenges

### Lessons Learned

During the year under review, the NHRC learned valuable lessons that will enhance its effectiveness and efficiency in serving the public. Key lessons learned include:

#### **1. Managing Partnerships and**

**Collaboration:** Building and maintaining strategic partnerships is continuous, especially at the grassroots level and in remote communities.

#### **2. Addressing entrenched**

**discriminatory practices:** Tackling entrenched discriminatory practices requires sustained advocacy as ‘attitudinal change’ is a slow process that requires patience, tact and continuous engagement with duty-bearers and right holders.

#### **3. Further expanding human rights services to regions:**

The establishment of the two regional offices has decentralized the services of NHRC bringing our services to the doorstep of nearly all people in the country. However, the Commission recognises that there is a great need to ensure its presence in all the regions to make its services easily accessible to remote communities and vulnerable members of society.

#### **4. Maintaining Public Trust:**

Continuous evaluation and gauging of public trust is an effective strategy to maintain support in the work of the Commission. Additionally, the Commission recognises that with this comes the need to manage public expectations of the work of the Commission because despite the numerous milestones registered the Commission is still relatively young since it commenced operations and the expectations of those who seek our services can sometimes be beyond what the Commission can render.

#### **5. Strategic partnerships with**

**CSOs:** harnessing the support and power of CSOs will greatly enhance the work of the Commission since the Commission is yet to be fully operational in all communities in the country. Therefore, leveraging on the partnership with CSOs could see the impact of both actors enhanced.

#### **6. Community Involvement and**

**Participation:** Community engagements and social mobilization have shown that the abandonment or eradication of traditional harmful practices and SGBV can be accelerated when community members are not only informed about and motivated for the efforts but are also actively involved in the activity implementation.

**7. Partnership with Local Power Brokers and Gate Keepers:** When embarking on activities that deal with sensitive human rights issues, it is essential to work with both the power brokers in the areas as well as local leaders to gain access to a community and earn its trust.

**8. Targeting Instructors of Training Schools of Security Services:** All officers of the various Security institutions must pass through the training schools. Therefore, targeting instructors as trainers on child rights and working with them to incorporate these principles into their training curriculum will help ensure that officers are familiar with the principles of child rights by the time they are sent to their duty posts.

## Challenges

Despite the many successes registered since its operation, the Commission continues to be faced with numerous challenges which hamper the effective implementation of its mandate. The main challenges are as follows:

**1.** Insufficient annual budgetary allocation from the Government for programmes continues to negatively impacts the implementation of the NHRC 5-year Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

This leaves the Commission with funding gaps to implement key programmes and activities.

**2.** Continuous building of In-house technical capacity on emerging human rights issues such as Business and Human Rights, environment, climate change, protection of key populations and post-ante evaluation of policies.

**3.** Lack of a National Witness Protection Act to provide adequate protection to the Commission's complainants, witnesses, and respondents.

**4.** Inadequate financial support to continue the decentralisation of the NHRC in the remaining regions of the country.

**5.** The lack of a permanent infrastructure for the Secretariat and Regional Offices compromises the independence of the Commission as per the Paris Principles with the high cost of rents heavily denting the already limited financial allocation from the Government.

**6.** Delay in the timely receipt of information requested from stakeholders also negatively impact the Commission's ability to meet deadlines to meet deadlines for submission of its statutory reports.

# Chapter 6 - Financial Report

## Overview of the NHRC 2024 Financial Statement

### Introduction

During the planning phase for the 2024 programme of activities, it was determined that a total budget of one hundred and thirteen million, nine hundred and nine thousand, five hundred and thirty-nine Dalasi (GMD 113.9m) would be required to implement all the activities identified for the period. This also included activities rolled over that were not implemented in the previous periods.

### Income

Following NHRC bilateral consultations with both the Ministry of Finance and the National Assembly respectively, a total budget of seventy-four million five hundred and thirty-seven thousand, seven hundred and twenty-two Dalasi (GMD 74.5m) was approved for the NHRC for the year 2024. This comprised both Personal Emoluments (PE), budgeted at forty- eight million, one hundred and two thousand, six hundred and forty-one Dalasi (GMD 48.1m), and Other Charges (OC) budgeted at twenty-six million, four hundred and thirty-five thousand, and eighty-one Dalasi (GMD 26.4m).

The approved budget from the State represents 65.4% of the NHRC's total budgetary requirements for the year. The Ministry of Finance had some activities to be implemented by the NHRC as part of the indicators that had to be fulfilled for the government to qualify for EU budget support. In this regard, an additional one million six hundred and fifty-six thousand dalasi (D1,656,000) was added to the NHRC budget to enable it to implement these activities. This brought the total GLF budget for the NHRC to seventy-six million one hundred and ninety-three thousand seven hundred and twenty-two Dalasi (GMD 76.2m).

From 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, the amount of seventy-one million six hundred and fifty-three thousand, seven hundred and twenty-two dalasi (GMD 71.7m) was allocated to the NHRC by the Ministry of Finance, as shown in the following table. This amount represents 94.1% of the total 2024 NHRC budget from the government.

Resource mobilization efforts resulted in development partner funding for some of the 2024 programmes and activities.



Budgets were approved for the NHRC amounting to an aggregate total of seventeen million three hundred and thirty thousand, and sixty-seven Dalasi (GMD 17.3m). This represents 15.2% of the total budgetary requirements for 2024. From these approved budgets, a total of sixteen million and fifty-six thousand, five hundred and forty-seven dalasi (GMD 16.1m), also shown in the table below, was received from development partners.

In total therefore, the NHRC secured budgets for 80.6% of its overall requirements but funding obtained amounted to 77.1% of its overall budgetary requirements for 2024.

*2024 funds received from government and development partners*

<b>Period</b>	<b>GLF Fund Actual Funds Received (GMD)</b>	<b>Donor Funds Actual Funds Received (GMD)</b>	<b>Total (GMD)</b>
January	5,791,418		5,791,418
February	5,791,418	2,691,850	8,483,268
March	5,791,418	1,071,330	6,862,748
April	5,791,419	631,070	6,422,489
May	7,547,418	-	7,547,418
June	5,791,419	-	5,791,419
July	5,791,418	4,651,382	10,442,800
August	5,791,418	1,184,075	6,975,493
September	5,791,418	1,002,364	6,793,782
October	5,791,418	3,107,860	8,899,278
November	6,591,419	556,000	7,147,419
December	5,392,121	1,160,616	6,552,737
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,653,722</b>	<b>16,056,547</b>	<b>87,710,268</b>

The following table shows a breakdown of the support from development partners and the activities for which the funds were utilised.

Development Partner	Project Name	Activity	Budget (GMD)	Funds Received (GMD)
American Bar Association		Support to the Witness and Victims' protection Program	125,600	125,600
Action Aid International		Support to the National Stakeholder Dialogue on Mental Health and Rights in The Gambia	496,500	496,500
British High Commission	Bringing human rights services closer to all individuals in The Gambia	Development of Civic Education Module and Teacher's Guide for Lower Basic School	3,037,860	3,037,860
		Training of Law Enforcement Officers on the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2023		
		Sensitisation on human rights and TRRC White Paper for rural communities in URR and NBR		
		Procurement of equipment for the Commission, enhance visibility for the Commission Create and roll out an accessible anonymous portal for reporting human rights violations and access to justice issues		
Fundacion de Anthropologia Forense de Guatemala (FAFG)	Popularisation of the Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission Recommendations on Enforced Disappearance	Two-day community Outreach programme in the form of townhall meeting to a selected town in the Lower River Region	340,100	340,100
		Two days community Outreach programme in the form of townhall meeting to a selected town in the Central River Region		
		Interface/dialogue between families of victims of enforced disappearances and the Task Force on Enforced Disappearances.	345,650	345,650
		Popularization of the TRRC recommendations on enforced disappearances and capacity building for 30 Law Enforcement Officers on the prohibition of Enforced Disappearances and torture.		
French Embassy in Dakar		Community engagement with diverse groups to discuss human rights and culture, tradition and religion in CRR North	369,549	369,549
IDLO	Improving access to justice for the people of The Gambia	Mobile legal aid clinic and Popularisation of the Prevention of Torture Act with Law Enforcement and prison officials and communities	2,009,850	1,005,000
		Printing and Dissemination of Prison Monitoring Report		
		Community sensitizations on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) with community and religious leaders		
		Training of Magistrates and panels of the Children's Courts on Child Justice Administration		
OHCHR	Strengthening the rights of migrants to Access Justice in The Gambia	Training of Trainers of Law enforcement Officers on the Right to Access to Justice for Migrants in the Gambia	1,340,000	1,071,330
		Community Outreach to Migrant Communities in WCR and KMC to raise awareness on existing structures/institutions on access to justice in The		
		Capacity Building and Support to Faculty of Law Legal Aid Clinic (enhance referrals to appropriate services)		
		Engagement with the National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights and Constitutional Matters on enhancing access to Justice for Migrants		

Development Partner	Project Name	Activity	Budget (GMD)	Funds Received (GMD)
PBF/UNDP/OHCHR	Support the implementation and monitoring of the TRRC Recommendations	Train justice and security personnel on the illegality of enforced disappearances Organise a Stakeholders forum to review progress in the implementation of the Government White Paper on the TRRC recommendations and validation of the 2024 status report Training of support monitoring stakeholders on the use of the monitoring matrix Workshop with National Assembly members on accountability for violations of grievous human rights violations Popularise the NHRC Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Policy and accelerate its adoption and enforcement by both private and public institutions. Development of a Communication Strategy on the implementation of the White Paper on the TRRC Report Support the NHRC with equipment for the effective monitoring of the White Paper Support the effective operationalisation of the NHRC Multisectoral Stakeholder Monitoring Committee of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC Development of a comprehensive monitoring plan to guide the NHRC in effectively monitoring the implementation of the White Paper Set up and lead the effective functioning of a multi-sectoral SGBV working group for the implementation, enforcement, and monitoring of SGBV laws and policies.	3,306,282	3,306,282
UNESCO	Countering Hate Speech in The Gambia	National research on the prevalence of hate speech (online and offline) in The Gambia Capacity Building For NHRC, IEC, IPC and NCCE on Mainstreaming Hate Speech	1,999,040	1,999,040
UNICEF		Develop CRPD-compliant budgeting guidelines to support implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act Training on Human Rights and Quiz Competition for Senior Secondary Schools (8 schools) Consultancy to Develop a Political and Power Analysis in The Gambia	3,197,320	3,197,320
		Support to organise a national dialogue on mental health in The Gambia Preparation and drafting of the NHRC complementary report on the CRC Support to 2024 Moot Court competition	556,000	556,000
United States Embassy in The Gambia	Strengthening Local Capacity for Greater Accountability and Respect for Human Rights in The Gambia	Training of newly elected Councilors; Development of Primer; Development of Human Rights based Budgeting Guide; Train Community based structures and organisations on human rights and social accountability; Interface' between the councillors and members of the LGA; Training of trainers - <b>Balance of support received in 2023</b>	136,315	136,315
WHO		Support to a National Stakeholder Dialogue on Mental Health in The Gambia	70,000	70,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>17,330,067</b>	<b>16,056,547</b>

## Expenditure From State Funding (GLF)

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, the total expenditure against the NHRC budget approved by the National Assembly amounted to GMD 70.4m. This amount represents a total absorption rate of 98% and 92% of the total funds allocated to the NHRC and the budget for the 2024 fiscal year respectively.

Expenditure on personal emoluments (PE) as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 was GMD 43.2m against a total allocation and budget of GMD 43.6m and GMD 48.1 respectively.

This represents a 99% absorption rate against allocations and 90% against budget. 91% of the PE budget was allocated to the NHRC.

Other recurrent expenditure or other charges (OC) expenditure as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 amounted to GMD 27.2m against a total allocation and budget of GMD 28.1m respectively. This represents a 97% absorption rate against both allocations and budget. The entire Other Charges budget (100%) was allocated to the NHRC.

The following table shows a summary of expenditure against budget and allocations as at end of December 2024.

	Budget	Total Allocations	Total Expenditure	Absorption Rate Expenditure against Allocations	Absorption Rate Expenditure against Budget	Allocations against Budget
	GMD	GMD	GMD			
PE	48,102,641	43,562,641	43,176,377	99%	90%	91%
OC	28,091,081	28,091,081	27,178,734	97%	97%	100%
TOTAL	76,193,722	71,653,722	70,355,111	98%	92%	94%



Budget and expenditure lines are as shown in the following table:

Expenditure Type	Budget	Expenditure	Variance	Variance
	GMD	GMD	GMD	%
Travel Expense	2,862,450.00	2,820,883.00	41,567.00	1.5%
Telecommunication Expenses	1,085,000.00	1,084,478.83	521.17	0.0%
Electricity, water & sewage	1,250,000.00	1,249,966.39	33.61	0.0%
Rents and Rates	1,816,000.00	1,814,000.00	2,000.00	0.1%
Purchase of fuel and lubricants	5,124,400.00	4,765,800.00	358,600.00	7.0%
Maintenance of Vehicles	710,000.00	638,857.22	71,142.78	10.0%
Maintenance of Building and Facilities	450,000.00	450,000.00	-	0.0%
Maintenance of Equipment	150,000.00	144,025.00	5,975.00	4.0%
Conferences, Workshops and Seminars	2,416,262.00	2,330,675.00	85,587.00	3.5%
Stationery	432,060.00	414,573.00	17,487.00	4.0%
Miscellaneous Office Expenses	500,000.00	500,000.00	-	0.0%
Official Entertainment & Hotel Accommodation	50,000.00	43,300.00	6,700.00	13.4%
Printing Expenses	867,000.00	824,250.00	42,750.00	4.9%
Advertisements and Publications	428,400.00	393,937.50	34,462.50	8.0%
Consultancy	3,256,000.00	3,197,633.30	58,366.70	1.8%
Uniforms and Protective clothing	200,000.00	196,750.00	3,250.00	1.6%
Postage, Stamps and Courier Services	20,000.00	1,500.00	18,500.00	92.5%
Training	60,000.00	36,745.43	23,254.57	38.8%
Insurance (Vehicle)	350,000.00	285,231.79	64,768.21	18.5%
Motor Vehicles	2,800,000.00	2,799,134.00	866.00	0.0%
Contribution to Intl Org	675,000.00	672,075.00	2,925.00	0.4%
Gratuities	804,271.00	804,270.85	0.15	0.0%
Office Equipment	245,000.00	244,543.00	457.00	0.2%
Furniture & Fittings	26,000.00	26,000.00	-	0.0%
Application Software Systems and Licenses	690,738.00	690,104.35	633.65	0.1%
Expenses of Committees	22,500.00	-	22,500.00	100.0%
Land levelling and Fencing	800,000	750,000	50,000.00	6.3%
Salaries and Allowances	48,102,641	43,176,377	4,926,263.85	10.2%
TOTAL	76,193,722	70,355,111	5,838,611.19	7.7%

### ***Expenditure From Donor Funding***

As indicated above, the NHRC was also supported by development partners during 2024 to fund some activities in the NHRC annual work plan. The total amount received from development partners to fund the Commission's activities and/or programmes in 2024 was GMD 16.1m. Actual spending, as shown below, was GMD 14m:

<b>Development Partner</b>	<b>Funds Received GMD</b>	<b>Actual Spending in 2024 GMD</b>
American Bar Association	125,600	125,600
Action Aid International	496,500	496,500
British High Commission	3,037,860	2,355,370
Fundacion de Anthropologia Forense de Guatemala (FAFG)	685,750	340,100
French Embassy in Dakar	369,549	355,099
IDLO	1,005,000	1,016,725
OHCHR	1,071,330	1,276,114
PBF/UNDP/OHCHR	3,306,282	1,623,522
UNESCO	1,999,040	2,883,129
UNICEF	3,753,320	3,487,520
United States Embassy in The Gambia	136,315	-
WHO	70,000	70,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,056,547</b>	<b>14,029,680</b>

## Conclusion

In our 2023 Annual Activity Report, we pledged to intensify our efforts in promoting and protecting human rights by proactively monitoring violations and seeking redress for complainants and victims. Our achievements in 2024 demonstrated significant progress in fostering discussions on human rights, traditional practices, sexual and gender-based violence, and the Government White Paper on the TRRC Report both within communities and among duty bearers. We also strengthened the capacity of law enforcement and rule-of-law actors by conducting a series of training and reviewing and developing their training manuals on human rights and related matters, contributed to the work of UN treaty bodies and Special Mechanisms through report submissions and presentations, supported the integration of human rights into the Civic Education syllabus, and forged meaningful partnerships to create a Gambia where fundamental rights and freedoms are upheld for all.

Over the past five years, our experiences have reaffirmed that cultivating a culture of human rights requires sustained advocacy with the State, challenging harmful traditional practices with a view to

changing attitudes and beliefs, demanding the enforcement of human rights laws and policies, and strengthening institutional mechanisms at both the community and national levels.

As we move forward, we remain committed to working alongside the Government, civil society, the media, multilateral and bilateral partners, and local communities to promote and safeguard civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights ensuring that no one is left behind. We have the strong conviction that true progress will only be achieved through collective action, unity, and unwavering dedication to justice and equality.

As we march into 2025, we do so with resolve, undeterred by the challenges ahead. We stand ready to be held accountable for the high standards we set and the impact we strive to achieve. With tireless dedication, we will continue working towards a future where human rights are not just protected but deeply embedded in the fabric of Gambian society.

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