



NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2025



National Human Right Commission

Annual Activity Report

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

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Foreword



The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) presents its 6th Annual Activity Report in compliance with Section 33 (1) of

the NHRC Act 2017. This Report highlights the key activities carried out during the year, including our partnerships and collaborations, while also reflecting on the challenges faced and the lessons learned. The report also assesses the impact of NHRC's work through a Beneficiary Impact Survey.

Since its establishment, the NHRC has remained committed to educating the public on human rights, strengthening the capacities of Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) and duty bearers, including Local Government Authorities (LGAs) and law enforcement agencies, to influence policy development and implementation. The NHRC continues to make recommendations to the Government on how to better promote and protect human rights, receive and investigate human rights complaints and monitor human rights across the country and in all sectors to foster a stronger culture of respect for human rights in The Gambia.

In 2025, the NHRC placed particular focus on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ESCR) and Environmental Rights. Engagements were held on Business and Human Rights, realisation of the Right to Food, Climate Change and Human Rights, Corruption and Human Rights and Human Rights-based Budgeting.

Recognising the growing concern around hate speech in the country, the NHRC conducted follow-up research on hate speech and organised a National Interfaith Dialogue on addressing hate speech to identify practical strategies for strengthening religious tolerance, understanding, and social harmony. A series of workshops were also held with key stakeholders to advance the rights of persons with disabilities.

As the NHRC continues to monitor the implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC, the NHRC is encouraged by the establishment of the Reparations Commission and commends the great efforts of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Post-TRRC Unit. The NHRC urges the Government to expedite the implementation of the White Paper and to ensure the meaningful participation of victims in all the related processes. The NHRC also strengthened its cooperation and alliances with national and international human rights organisations. Notably, the NHRC participated in the review of the State's reports by the Universal Periodic Review Working Group of the Human Rights Council, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

As the NHRC continues its work to nurture a strong culture of human rights in the country, it remains guided by its mandate and the need to maintain its credibility, independence, and the trust and confidence of the people it serves.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emmanuel Daniel Joof', written over a dotted line.

Emmanuel Daniel Joof
CHAIRPERSON

Statement by the Executive Secretary



It is with great honour and pleasure that I present the 6th Annual Activity Report of the National Human Rights

Commission (NHRC) for the year 2025. This report reflects the collective efforts, resilience, and unwavering commitment of the NHRC in fulfilling its mandate to promote and protect human rights throughout The Gambia.

The year 2025 marked a critical period of consolidation and growth for the NHRC. Building on the gains made since our establishment, we strengthened institutional structures, deepened strategic partnerships, and expanded national outreach and engagement. Guided by our vision for a Gambia where the rights and dignity of every person are upheld, the NHRC continued to broaden its influence and impact across multiple thematic human rights areas.

A major milestone during the year under review was the completion of a consultative review of the Revised NHRC 2023–2025 Strategic Plan (SP). This exercise enabled us to reflect on our achievements, identify areas for improvement, and reposition the institution for the future. The insights gained have laid a solid foundation for the development of the new (second) NHRC Strategic Plan (2026–2030), which is aligned to the Recovery-Focused National Development Plan 2023-2027

(Yiriwaa), and will guide the Commission’s operational, programmatic, and institutional priorities over the next five years.

Throughout 2025, the NHRC implemented a wide range of initiatives aimed at building national capacity, enhancing awareness of human rights, and monitoring the human rights situation across the country. These efforts underscore our commitment to inclusivity, accountability, and the promotion of a culture of respect for human rights across various institutions, with particular focus on law enforcement agencies. The NHRC conducted training for Prison Officials on International Human Rights Law (IHRL), International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), and training for staff of the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and key stakeholders on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWD’s) in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

The NHRC engagement with the civil society was deepened through the CSO Dialogue Platform meetings, joint implementation of programmes such as Capacity building for Rural Women Assembly and female members of District Tribunals on the District Tribunals Act, Human Rights and laws protecting the rights of women in The Gambia as well as Town Hall Meetings between Duty Bearers and Right Holders on Inclusive and Participatory Development and Governance.

During the year, the NHRC strengthened its partnership with civil society, development partners, security institutions, and other key stakeholders

to drive meaningful social change through national dialogues and forums to promote inclusion and social cohesion such as Interfaith Dialogue to Combat Hate Speech, National Conference on the Right to Food and Disability Rights Monitoring in The Gambia organised for members of the National Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities (NACPWD) in partnership with Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare.

As part of NHRC's advocacy and human rights education initiative, the European Union (EU), through International IDEA, supported the piloting of the newly developed Civic Education module for Upper Basic Schools, whilst the British High Commission supported the development and pilot of civic education modules for Lower Basic Schools. The British High Commission also supported capacity building for security and law enforcement officers, and popularisation of the Government White Paper on TRRC Recommendation. The year 2025 witnessed a deepening engagement with schools through school-based human rights clubs and other programmes, such as commemoration of 2025 open school visits to the NHRC Secretariat.

The NHRC successfully concluded the 6th Edition of the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Human Rights Moot Court Competition, on "Climate Change and Human Rights in Africa", with an unprecedented participation of 26 Universities from across Africa, which was won by the Africa Nazarene University in Kenya, with the University of Benin in Nigeria as runner-up. In sustaining its international cooperation and partnership building the NHRC hosted the 8th Forum of the Network of

African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI); actively participated in the annual conference of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI); and in the 2025 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, specifically for the 4th cycle review of The Gambia held on January 21, 2025. Such engagements facilitated learning and sharing with peer NHRIs on emerging issues in human rights. We remain committed to nurturing these partnerships and exploring new avenues of collaboration to ensure the Commission continues to receive the support necessary to deliver effectively on its mandate.

The progress achieved in 2025 would not have been possible without the strong commitment and dedication of our Staff, the strategic guidance of our Commissioners and the invaluable support of our partners. Their collective contributions significantly enhanced national capacities for the prevention of violations, the protection of rights, and an effective response to human rights concerns.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2025 with strengthened partnerships and renewed strategic direction, we reaffirm our commitment to remain steadfast in our mission to safeguard the dignity and rights of all persons in The Gambia. We are confident that the work of the Commission will yield an even greater impact over the years ahead.



Dr. Saikou Kawsu Gassama

Acknowledgements

The NHRC extends its profound gratitude to all its partners for their continued support and commitment towards building a culture of human rights in The Gambia.

The NHRC commends the Government for its financial support and recognition of its work in promoting and protecting human rights. We also extend our appreciation to the National Assembly (NA), particularly the Standing Committee on Human Rights and Constitutional Matters, for its encouragement and continued commitment to the partnership. The NHRC appreciates the invaluable support of its partners, including UNDP, UNICEF, OHCHR, UNESCO, UN-PBF, UNFPA, UNODC, FAO, the British High Commission in The Gambia, the Delegation of the European Union in The Gambia, Embassy of the United States of America, Danish Institute for Human Rights, International IDEA, DECAF, Fundacion de Anthropologia Forense de Guatemala (FAFG), ActionAid International, The Gambia, Child Fund International, GANHRI, NANHRI and NANHRI-WA. Their support has contributed immensely to strengthening the capacity of the NHRC to effectively carry out its functions.

The NHRC acknowledges the support and collaboration of the Government of The Gambia, in particular the Ministry of Justice and its satellite agencies, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Ministry of Interior, National Council for Civic Education, Office of National Security, Security Agencies, and local Government Authorities. NHRC also extends its appreciation to TANGO, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), communities and grassroots organisations. Through these partnerships, the NHRC has been able to implement numerous activities and successfully interface with the public.

We recognise and appreciate the dedication, hard work and commitment of the Commissioners and Staff of the NHRC in the quest to realise our vision of “A Gambia where every individual enjoys their fundamental human rights and freedoms”.

Abbreviations & Acronyms

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| ACHRP | - | African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights |
| AU | - | African Union |
| CEDAW | - | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women |
| CREDD | - | Curriculum, Research, Evaluation and Development Directorate |
| CRR | - | Central River Region |
| CSO | - | Civil Society Organisation |
| DLEAG | - | Drug Law Enforcement Agency |
| FAO | - | Food and Agriculture Organisation |
| ICESCR | - | International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights |
| International IDEA | - | International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance |
| HRE | - | Human Rights Education |
| GAF | - | Gambia Armed Forces |
| GANHRI | - | Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions |
| GCVHRV | - | Gambia Centre for Victims of Human Rights Violation |
| GID | - | Gambia Immigration Department |
| GPF | - | Gambia Police Force |
| GPS | - | Gambia Prison Services |
| IDEA | - | Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance |
| KMC | - | Kanifing Municipal Council |
| LRR | - | Lower River Region |
| MoBSE | - | Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education |
| MoGCSW | - | Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare |
| MoI | - | Ministry of Interior |
| MoJ | - | Ministry of Justice |
| MoU | - | Memorandum of Understanding |
| NANHRI | - | Network of African National Human Rights Institutions |
| NANHRI-WA | - | Network of National Human Rights Institutions, West Africa |
| NACPWD | - | National Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities |

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| NBR | - | North Bank Region |
| NCCE | - | National Council for Civic Education |
| NGOs | - | Non-Governmental Organisations |
| NHRC | - | National Human Rights Commission |
| NHRI | - | National Human Rights Institution |
| OHCHR | - | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| PBF | - | Peace Building Fund |
| PBSO | - | Peace Building Support Office |
| SP | - | Strategic Plan |
| SO | - | Strategic Objective |
| TANGO | - | The Association of Non-Governmental Organisations |
| TRRC | - | Truth, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission |
| UN | - | United Nations |
| UNDP | - | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNICEF | - | United Nations Children’s Fund |
| UNODC | - | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| UTG | - | University of The Gambia |
| UPR | - | Universal Periodic Review |
| URR | - | Upper River Region |

Executive Summary

In 2025, the NHRC continued the implementation of the revised Strategic Plan (SP) 2023-2027. Its four (4) Strategic Objectives guided the work of the NHRC and defined the activities that were implemented during the year.

Human rights protection is a core pillar in the work of the NHRC. In the course of the year, the NHRC received Sixty (60) complaints of alleged human rights violations, thirty (30) of which were against security officers, namely the Gambia Police Force (GPF), Gambia Armed Forces (GAF) the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (DLEAG) Gambia Prison Services (GPS) and the Gambia Immigration Department (GID). Out of the total number of complaints received, thirty (30) complaints were resolved, with recommendations issued for redress or remedial actions.

A nationwide monitoring of places of detention was undertaken during the year, which saw visits to the three (3) main prisons - Mile II, Jeshwang and Janjangbureh Prisons-and twenty-eight (28) Police Stations to assess their compliance with the Mandela Rules and national legislation regarding the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty. During the visits, interviews were held with detainees, prisoners, and officers. This monitoring was guided by a standard checklist developed in accordance with international human rights standards.

The NHRC continues to monitor the status of implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC. In fulfilment of its reporting obligation, the Commission published

the Third Status Report to update the National Assembly on the progress of implementation.

On the promotional mandate, the NHRC organised conferences, outreach activities and campaigns to enhance the understanding of both State and Non-State Actors, including communities, on human rights. In its continued efforts to build a culture of human rights, thirteen (13) awareness-raising activities were carried out. Additionally, the publication and dissemination of the NHRC Quarterly Newsletter, media programmes and the airing of documentaries on key human rights issues on selected TV Stations also significantly contributed to enhancing public knowledge about human rights and the work of the NHRC.

Twenty (20) training sessions were conducted to enhance the capacity of both State and Non-State Actors in various aspects of human rights, including International Humanitarian Law, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, women's political participation, hate speech, climate change, and business and human rights. Specific training on Human Rights Based Budgeting was conducted for Councillors in the LGAs to mainstream human rights in their budgeting processes.

The capacity building of NHRC Commissioners and Staff, especially on emerging human rights issues, continues to be a priority. To this end, specific training workshops were organised for Commissioners and Staff on thematic areas such as the Right to Food, Corruption and Human Rights, Budgeting for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and Climate Change and Human Rights.

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 human rights mechanisms and the implementation of Concluding Observations and Recommendations from these mechanisms to enhance the enjoyment of human rights in the country. In particular, the NHRC continues to advocate for the creation of a National Mechanism for Reporting, Implementation and Follow-up, ratification of the OPCAT, and the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) in the country. The NHRC was also actively involved in the advocacy that successfully halted the repeal of the Women's (Amendment) Act 2015. It is now serving as an Amicus Curiae (Friend of the Court) in the case before the Supreme Court that is challenging the Constitutionality of the Women's (Amendment) Act 2015. Engaging with human rights mechanisms provides the NHRC with a unique opportunity to advocate for the effective protection of human rights in the country. Consequently, in January 2025, the NHRC participated in the UPR fourth cycle review of The Gambia and the dialogue sessions with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances. Complementary Reports were also submitted to the mechanisms the State engaged with.

In its efforts to integrate human rights education into the syllabus of the Lower and Upper Basic School levels, the NHRC, through its collaboration with the Curriculum, Research, Evaluation and Development Directorate (CREDD) of the

Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE), supported the piloting of the Civic Education Pupil's Textbooks and the Teachers Guide in selected schools across the country. Similarly, the Commission, along with CREDD, finalised and printed the Civic Education Pupil textbook for the Lower Basic School, along with the teachers' guide and syllabus. Pilot of the module in selected schools across the country has commenced.

As part of its contribution to knowledge development and evidence-based advocacy, the NHRC conducted research on Human Rights and Climate Change, Hate Speech in The Gambia, as well as a Perception Survey of victims and victim – led organisations on the Implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report.

This 2025 Annual Report is divided into Six Chapters, which focus on various thematic areas. Chapter 1 spotlights the NHRC Regional Offices, and Chapter 2 focuses on the achievements of the NHRC under the four Strategic Objectives of the Strategic Plan 2023-2025. Chapter 3 provides data on the Complaints mechanism. Chapter 4 contains the assessment of NHRC's implemented activities. Chapter 5 outlines the lessons learned and the challenges faced and surmounted, and Chapter 6 provides a breakdown of the funds received from the State and other development partners.

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.

CHAPTER 1

SPOTLIGHT ON REGIONAL OFFICES

Introduction

The NHRC is a state institution created by the NHRC Act 2017, as amended in 2020, 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 two Regional Offices established in NBR and URR, which are overseeing LRR and CRR, respectively. Through these offices, the NHRC enhances rural communities' access to its services, including complaint handling, investigations, monitoring, sensitisation, and legal support.



URR Regional office

Each Regional Office has a Regional Administrator, as the head, a Legal Officer and an Investigating Officer. These Offices implement programmes and activities on behalf of the NHRC and

provide legal and other services to the communities. They also undertake monitoring missions to detention facilities, enhance the capacity of duty bearers and right holders, conduct outreaches to schools and communities, and build and nurture strategic partnerships at the regional level with Government institutions, CSOs, NGOs and CBOs, whose support and partnership have been invaluable to the success of the NHRC.



NBR Regional office

Impact of the establishment of Regional Offices

The establishment of the Regional Offices has had a significant impact on the work of the NHRC as it decentralises its services and operation, allowing a better appreciation of local needs, building trust and partnerships with communities and 'on the ground' organisations, and delivering services more effectively. Due to the proximity of these Offices to the communities, the NHRC can act on time when violations, potential or actual, are brought to its attention or reported. This increased responsiveness allowed for immediate,

real-time feedback, enabling the NHRC to adjust programmes to fit local contexts, rather than applying one-size-fits-all solutions from the Secretariat. Furthermore, a physical presence in the communities has fostered stronger relationships between the NHRC and stakeholders in the Regions, encouraging greater participation in advocating for a culture of human rights and empowering communities to demand their rights and hold authorities accountable.

Since their establishment, the Regional Offices have investigated numerous violations of human rights, including allegations of torture and inhumane treatment by security officers, land conflicts, child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and other forms of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Through targeted interventions, the CRR-URR Regional Office has investigated and resolved cases of caste and descent-based discrimination, thereby preventing communal violence.

The Regional Offices have carried out numerous engagements in the communities they operate. These engagements provided platforms for

dialogue on civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights, while strengthening community understanding of the NHRC's mandate, functions and powers. They have also conducted radio talk shows on themes such as women and children's rights, hate speech, migrants' rights, harmful practices, and peaceful coexistence, thus reaching a wider audience across URR, CRR, NBR, and LRR.

Conclusion

The NHRC Regional Offices play a critical role in the work of the NHRC, ensuring inclusivity, visibility, and accessibility of human rights services nationwide. Through sustained community engagement, investigation and monitoring of human rights violations and complaints, public education, building the capacity of local human rights actors and forging partnerships with critical stakeholders, the Regional Offices significantly contributed to the promotion and protection of human rights in 2025. The NHRC remains committed to strengthening these Offices to further deepen its impact and fulfil its constitutional and statutory mandate.



CHAPTER 2

ACHIEVEMENTS

During the period under review, numerous activities were implemented by the NHRC. They included awareness creation and public education, capacity building, community engagements, partnership strengthening, radio talk shows, advocacy meetings, investigation and monitoring of human rights, studies on key human rights issues and development of Advisory Notes.

Key Highlights

1

National Interfaith Dialogue to Combat Hate Speech



To address the rising tide of hate speech and promote unity and religious tolerance, the NHRC, with support from UNESCO through the UN Peace Building Fund Project 'Infrastructure for Peace', convened a one-day National Interfaith Dialogue at the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Centre under the theme: 'Fostering Social Cohesion Through Interfaith Dialogue and Action'. The dialogue brought together religious and traditional leaders and scholars from across the country and different faiths to

discuss and identify strategies to promote religious tolerance and understanding, mutual respect, and social cohesion and harmony.

This dialogue increased recognition among religious leaders of their influence in addressing hate speech and discrimination, strengthened interfaith collaboration and solidarity.

2

Town Hall Meetings between Duty Bearers and Rights Holders on Inclusive and Participatory Development and Governance.



In collaboration with TANGO, and with support from the European Union (EU) funded United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) GREAT Project, Nationwide Town Hall meetings were held between rights holders and duty bearers, including Local Councillors, Parliamentarians and Government officials, in all the Local Government Authorities of the country. The interface, which kicked off in Banjul, promoted citizen participation in the country's development and reform agendas. The discussions centred on several priority issues, including the transitional justice process, particularly the implementation

of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC, the Recovery-Focused National Development Plan 2023-2027, Security Sector Reform, legal and institutional reform, and the state of human rights and human security in the country. These sessions also explored how to improve the services of the LGAs, promote community participation in development initiatives, and ensure active inclusion of the youth and persons with disabilities in the work of the Authority.

3

Establishment of the National Human Rights Commission Child Rights Monitoring Unit



With support from UNICEF and in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare (MoGCSW), a Child Rights Monitoring Unit was created within the Directorate of Legal and Investigation (DLI) of the Commission. The Unit's functions include data generation and reporting on children's issues, monitoring the rights of children across all sectors, building the capacity of child rights actors and promoting child participation in the work of the NHRC.

4

Regional Workshop on Human Rights-Based Approach to Anti-Corruption.



A two-day Regional Workshop on Human Rights-Based Approach to Anti-Corruption was held under the aegis of the Commission from 23rd to 24th April 2025. The activity brought together stakeholders from across Africa, including representatives of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI's), Civil Society Organisations (CSO's), and international partners, to discuss the linkage between corruption and human rights, the impact of corruption on human rights and how to use the United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms to address corruption. The workshop was organised in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR).



5

Stakeholder meeting to advocate for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) and the establishment of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) in The Gambia



With support from the British High Commission in The Gambia, a stakeholder meeting was convened to advocate for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) and the establishment of an NPM in The Gambia. This advocacy meeting was part of the NHRC’s broader efforts to encourage the State to implement the UPR recommendations relating to the ratification of OPCAT, enhance stakeholder awareness about the importance of NPMs, and learn best practices regarding the structure, operation, and challenges of NPMs across Africa.

6

Submission of the Third Status Report on the Implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC – May 2024 to May 2025



In fulfilment of its reporting obligation to the National Assembly (NA), the Commission submitted its Third Status Report on the Implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC. Covering the period May 2024 to May 2025, the Report indicated that 60 activities were fully implemented, with 143 activities ongoing at varying stages and 101 activities yet to be implemented. The report also sets out the challenges and offered recommendations to enhance the implementation process.

7

National Dialogue on the Right to Food in The Gambia



In collaboration with the OHCHR and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), a National Dialogue for one hundred stakeholders was convened in September to discuss the state of food security in The Gambia and the structural barriers to realising the right to food. The participants examined international and regional human rights standards and the right to food normative framework, including under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the FAO Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, and resolutions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, and how these can be domesticated into national legal and policy frameworks. The Dialogue strengthened partnerships, identified actionable strategies, and built consensus on ensuring food availability, accessibility, adequacy, and sustainability for all at all times. The recommendations of the Dialogue are expected to contribute to enhancing food security in The Gambia.

8 → **Submission of NHRC Complementary Report to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances.**



In consideration of the List of Issues on the Initial Report submitted by The Gambia under Article 29 (1) of the Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the NHRC prepared and submitted a Complementary Report to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances. This Report provided the Committee with an overview of efforts by the State towards the implementation of the Convention, highlighted key concerns and challenges affecting implementation and suggested recommendations for the effective implementation of the provisions in the Convention in The Gambia. The Committee’s Concluding Observations, issued in March 2025, included many of the suggested recommendations made in the NHRC report.

9 → **Public Consultation on the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs) on Business and Human Rights**



A two-day Public Consultation on the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs) on Business and Human Rights was held with support from the EU through International IDEA, to raise awareness of the UNGPs and promote advocacy for the development of a

comprehensive National Action Plan for The Gambia. This consultation addressed critical human rights challenges in the business sector and urged intensive popularisation of the UNGPs and the expeditious development of the National Action Plan.

10

The 6th Edition of the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Human Rights Moot Court Competition



The 6th 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 (UTG), with support from the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR) under the West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program (WACA) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The theme of the Competition was “Climate Change and Human Rights in Africa”. Twenty-six (26) Universities from across Africa, including from The Gambia, participated in the competition, which was won by the Africa Nazarene University in Kenya, with the University

of Benin in Nigeria as runner-up. 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.

11

Integration of Human Rights in the Curricula of the Lower Basic School (LBS) and Upper Basic School (UBS)



In 2025, the NHRC continued its collaboration with the CREDD of MoBSE to mainstream human rights in the basic education curriculum. Towards these efforts, a Civic Education Teachers Guide and Pupils Textbook were developed for the LBS (Grades 4, 5 and 6) and UBS (Grades 7-9). The curriculum has been piloted in sixteen (16) schools across the country. Plans are now afoot to Roll out the modules nationwide

12

Enhancing the Capacity of Duty Bearers for Respect and Protection of Human Rights

Building a culture of human rights and respect for the rule of law requires continuous engagement with and capacity building for duty bearers. In this

regard, the NHRC conducted twenty-one (21) 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. In total, approximately seven hundred and seventy-seven (777) participants were trained, comprising four hundred and seventy-one (471) male and three hundred and six (306) female.



11

Studies on Key Human Rights Matters



In 2025, the NHRC undertook studies on key human rights matters, including a Follow-up Study on hate speech, which complemented the 2024 Study and also addressed some of its limitations. These studies include an Assessment on Human

Rights and Climate Change to enhance the understanding of stakeholders on the impact of climate change on human rights. A Perception Survey on the Implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC to provide the Government with insight into the opinions of victims and victim-led Organisations, and strategies that could be employed to accelerate implementation and improve collaboration and communication between victims and the Government.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:

To Strengthen State Institutions, Civil Society Organisations, Communities, and Leadership for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.



ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

i. CSO Dialogue Platform Meetings



Members of the CSO Platform

During the reporting period, four (4) quarterly meetings of the Civil Society Organisations (CSO) Dialogue Platform were facilitated by the NHRC, during which members, comprising mainly of CSOs dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights across the country, discussed pertinent human rights issues, identified joint activities to implement and developed an Annual Work Plan to guide their work in 2026.



NHRC Commissioners, staff and members of the CSO Platform

This Platform functions as a critical space for engagement, enabling CSOs to coordinate efforts, monitor the Government's implementation of its human rights commitments, and foster

greater cooperation to ensure a unified voice in their advocacy and accountability work. It also serves as a Platform to enhance engagement between the Commission and CSOs in the country.



Members of the CSO Platform

ii. Official Handing over of Civic Education textbooks to MoBSE



Handing over ceremony at the Ministry of Education in Banjul

In a landmark step towards strengthening civic and human rights education in The Gambia, the NHRC officially handed over to the MoBSE printed copies of the Civic Education Textbooks and Teachers' Guide for Upper and Lower Basic Schools. The development of the Textbook and Teachers' Guide was the result of extensive review and consultation with curriculum experts, who convened for a rigorous review throughout the year. The initiative was made possible with support from the EU through International IDEA and the British High Commission in The Gambia.

iii. Engagement with the Gambian Diaspora

The Gambian diaspora, in several ways, plays a crucial role in the development of the country. To enhance dialogue between the diaspora and policymakers, the NHRC, in partnership with TANGO, organised a panel discussion on Kerr Fatou (an online media platform) to discuss the reform programmes and development initiatives of the Government.

Similar to the Town Hall Meetings, the engagement focused on the transitional justice process, especially the implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC, the Recovery-Focused National Development Plan 2023-2027, Security Sector Reform (SSR), legal and institutional reforms, the state of human rights, and human security in the country.

Through this interface, panelists were able to apprise Gambians in the diaspora on the development and reform agenda of the Government, and enabled diasporans to share their views and concerns about the development trajectory of the country and strategies and course-correcting measures policymakers should put in place to ensure effective implementation of national or regional programmes. Diasporans also identified ways the Government could enhance their meaningful participation in the public affairs of the country.

iv. National Forum on Disability Rights in The Gambia



Participants of the Forum

This National Forum was organised in partnership with the Gambia Federation of the Disabled (GFD) to enhance the realisation of the rights of persons with disabilities in the country and to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2021. It brought together representatives from Government



Mr. Muhammed Krubally, President, Gambia Federation of the Disabled (GFD)

Ministries, Departments and Agencies, UN bodies, CSOs, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), and other stakeholders to reflect on and proffer recommendations on issues affecting person with disabilities, including discrimination, unemployment, inadequate access to public services and transportation, non-representation in the Legislature and limited implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2021.



NHRC Chairperson delivering a speech at the opening of the Forum

The Forum urged the MGCSW to gazette, as a matter of urgency, the commencement date of the Act, the Government to ensure the effective functioning of the National Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities (NACPWD) and all political parties to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in their structures and in elected bodies.



Participants of the Forum

v. Capacity Building Workshop on Disability Rights Monitoring



Participants of the workshop

A two-day training on Disability Rights Monitoring was organised for members

of the NACPWD. The training enhanced the capacity of the members to conduct rights-based monitoring, produce evidence-informed reports, and engage in effective advocacy to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in The Gambia. The training forms part of efforts ongoing by the NHRC to build institutional capacity and ensure that human rights mechanisms in The Gambia operate effectively, inclusively, and in alignment with the obligations of the State.

vi. Commemoration of the Day of the African Child



Participants from the Children's National Assembly and School Based Human Rights Clubs

The Day of the African Child 2025 was commemorated on the theme 'Planning and Budgeting for Children's Rights: Progress Since 2010'. The event brought together selected representatives from school-based human rights clubs within the Greater Banjul Area and the West Coast Region (WCR) who shared their perspective on the theme and other issues affecting the enjoyment of their human rights in the country, including violence and exploitation, limited participation in decision-making, and inadequate budgetary allocation to health care and education. The children recommended the inclusion of children

in national planning and budgetary processes, making schools safe, enforcing the legislation against child marriage and child labour, and prioritising children’s rights in the national and Local Government budgets.



Participants from the Children’s National Assembly

vii. Mobile Legal Aid Clinic



Participants of the Mobile Legal Aid Clinic in CRR South

In partnership with the MoGCSW, NCCE, GPF and FLAG, the annual Mobile Legal Aid Clinic was conducted in five communities in CRR South. The community members were sensitised on their human rights as guaranteed in the 1997 Constitution and other national laws, including the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2023, Women’s (Amendment) Act 2015 and Children’s Act 2005, the functions of key institutions that provide access to justice-related services, and how to seek legal assistance. The team received

twenty-one (21) complaints of human rights violations from the community members during the outreach, and appropriate legal advice was given to the complainants.

viii. Workshop to accelerate the adaptation of the NHRC Generic Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Policy



Participants of the workshop

With support from the OHCHR and UNDP, through the Peace-building Fund (PBF), a two-day workshop was convened to accelerate the adaptation of the NHRC Generic Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Policy by both the public and private sectors, as recommended in the TRRC Report and accepted by the Government in its White Paper. This workshop served as a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue, peer learning, and capacity strengthening on the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace. Participants, including representatives from government ministries, departments and agencies, private sector bodies, trade unions, media, academia, and CSOs, agreed to adapt the generic Policy and ensure its effective implementation in their institutions.

ix. Training on the use of the online Monitoring Matrix on the TRRC White Paper



As part of The Gambia’s transitional justice process, the Government, through its White Paper on the Report of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC), committed to the full and timely implementation of the TRRC recommendations. Central to this commitment is the imperative to institutionalise mechanisms for transparency, accountability, and sustained monitoring.

In pursuit of this mandate, the NHRC, with support from the post-TRRC Project funded by the UNPBF, developed an online monitoring matrix and risk log tool to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC. This digital platform was designed to streamline data collection, allow for real-time monitoring, and facilitate accurate and comprehensive reporting to the National Assembly and the public. Recognising the need for effective utilisation of this tool, a two-day capacity-building training was organised for 35 officials drawn from institutions directly involved in the implementation of the White Paper.

x. National Human Rights Commission Follow-up Study on Hate Speech in The Gambia

The 2025 Follow-up Study complemented the 2024 Study on the Prevalence of Hate Speech in The Gambia and addressed its limitations. It deepened understanding of the prevalence, targets, perpetrators, drivers, patterns and impacts of hate speech on the country’s socio-political and cultural landscape, as well as the involvement and role of traditional and religious leaders and political actors in the perpetuation of hate speech. The Follow-up Study provided actionable recommendations on strategies that stakeholders, including policymakers, CSOs, media practitioners, and international partners, can employ to effectively prevent and counter hate speech.

The Study was supported by UNESCO under the Infrastructure for Peace project and conducted in collaboration with the National Council for Civic Education (NCCE), Gambia Press Union (GPU) and West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP).

xi. Roundtable Conference on the NHRC CRPD-Compliant Budgeting Guideline

In The Gambia, tracking Government expenditure related to the realisation or fulfilment of the rights of Persons with Disabilities remains a significant challenge. Despite the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act in 2021, there is limited information on how

resources are allocated across sectors to support its implementation.

To address these gaps, in 2024, the NHRC developed the CRPD-Compliant Budgeting Guidelines, which provide a practical framework for integrating disability perspectives into every stage of the budget cycle. It also emphasises transparency, participation, and accountability, and aims to ensure public resources are used to advance the full enjoyment of human rights by persons with disabilities.

Identifying the need to popularise the Guidelines for its use by stakeholders, this Conference engaged stakeholders on the Guidelines to ensure its adoption by all the Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. Its effective utilisation will enhance the realisation of the human rights of PWDs in the country as envisaged by both the CRPD and the Persons with Disabilities Act 2021.

xii. Sensitisation of communities in URR, NBR, LRR, and CRR on human rights and the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC



The NHRC conducted sensitisation programmes in URR, NBR, LRR, and CRR on Human Rights and the Status of the Government's White Paper on the TRRC

Recommendations. Four hundred and eighty (480) participants from twelve (12) communities were sensitised. The sessions, which were conducted in the local languages predominantly spoken in the communities visited, covered human rights principles, norms, and standards; mandate and functions of the NHRC; key national and international human rights instruments; and reporting and referral mechanisms for human rights violations.

Participants represented local authorities, women and youth organisations, Community Child Protection Committees, Mothers' Clubs, and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities.

xiii. Two-day training on Human Rights-Based Budgeting for Councillors and staff of the Brikama Area Council.

Recognising the vital role of Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in providing essential services to their communities, a two-day training supported by the US Embassy in The Gambia on Human Rights-Based Budgeting was conducted for Councillors and Staff of the Brikama Area Council. The training enhanced participants' understanding of child-friendly, disability-compliant and gender budgeting processes and how budget planning and allocation directly impact the promotion and protection of human rights. The Councillors pledged to ensure that human rights considerations are integrated into the Council's budgeting process to enhance the enjoyment of human rights in the West Coast Region (WCR).

xiv. Training of URR-CRR Civil Society Organisations, Security Officers and Members of the Media on Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting.

CSOs, Security Officers and Media Practitioners in URR were trained on Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting by the NHRC CRR-URR Regional Office. The two-day training also enhanced the skills of the participants in the identification and investigation of human rights violations, evidence collection and documentation, gender-sensitive reporting, and ethical interviewing techniques and procedures.

xv. Commemoration of the 2025 International Migrants' Day



Community members in Ghana Town

With support from the West Africa Regional Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (WARO) through the PROMIS project, International Migrants' Day was commemorated through community engagement with migrants in Ghana Town.

Ghana Town was chosen for the commemoration due to the challenges facing its inhabitants, some of whom face 'statelessness' despite being born and raised in The Gambia. During the discussion, the people highlighted the challenges they face in accessing national documents and social services such as education and health. They were informed of the steps that the Government is taking to regularise their citizenship. The representatives of NHRC and the National Refugee Commission under the Gambia Immigration and the Parliamentarian of the constituency agreed to work together to ensure the citizenship status of the inhabitants is regularised expeditiously.



(L-R) Ms. Kabilah Mbuton, OHCHR WARO, Commissioner Halimatou Dibba, NHRC and Commissioner Jainaba Johm, Vice Chairperson, NHRC



Ms. Lina ReguiGui, OHCHR WARO

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:

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



ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

i. Training of Law Enforcement Officers on Human Rights, Humanitarian Law and Handling of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)



As part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen the security sector in The Gambia, a capacity-building workshop was organised for thirty law enforcement officers from the various security agencies. The workshop, supported by the British High Commission, strengthened the skills of the law enforcers in the investigation of human rights violations, handling and management of SGBV, law enforcement in a democratic society, and strategies to effectively mainstream gender and human rights in their operations and various curricula. Their knowledge of international human rights and humanitarian laws, the role of the Office of National Security in the SSR of the country, and the mandate and functions of the NHRC improved.

ii. Training of Justice and Security Personnel on the Illegality of Enforced Disappearances supported by Fundacion de Anthropologia Forense de Guatemala (FAFG).



In 2018, The Gambia ratified the UN Convention on Enforced Disappearances, which reflects a commitment to ensuring accountability and preventing the recurrence of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings. Towards this effort, a four-day training was organised for law enforcement and justice institutions during which their knowledge and skills were enhanced on legal, ethical and institutional dimensions of enforced disappearances, investigation of enforced disappearances, protection of victims, and support and cooperation with families of victims.

iii. Capacity building for District Tribunals on the District Tribunals Act, Human Rights and laws protecting the rights of women in The Gambia



Participants of the training

A three-day capacity building workshop was organised for representatives of the Rural Women Assembly and female members of District Tribunals of WCR, NBR, CRR and URR. Organised with the support of ActionAid International The Gambia (AAITG), participants were trained on human rights, the District Tribunals Act and other legislation that protect the rights of children, Sharia and customary law as they are issues relating to women and children, gender-sensitive and child-friendly interviewing techniques, and advocacy techniques to champion the causes of women and children in the communities, protection of victims of SGBV.



Commissioner Halimatou Dibba

At the end of the training, participants and organisers pledged to work together to advocate for an increase in the number of women in the District Tribunals and the amendment, or repeal, of the District Tribunals Act, which has not undergone any significant changes since 1933 when it was enacted.



Participants of the training

iv. Interface between Families of Victims of Enforced Disappearances and the Taskforce on Enforced Disappearances.



Participants of the training

The NHRC, with support from Fundacion de Anthropologia Forense de Guatemala (FAFG), convened a one-day interface between families of victims of enforced disappearances and the Taskforce on Enforced Disappearances, during which issues affecting the families and progress on the implementation of the TRRC recommendations relating to enforced disappearances were discussed. The Task Force members also highlighted initiatives they have taken, challenges encountered and the family-centric approaches to use in the investigation, search and recovery of victims. A key outcome of the Interface was the development and adoption of a standardised Interview/Ante-mortem form and a checklist for the participation and consultation of family members of victims of enforced disappearances.



Ms. Matilda Mendy, Deputy Executive Secretary

v. Capacity building training for the staff of the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and key stakeholders.



Participants of the training

In collaboration with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and with support through the UNPRPD through UNICEF, a two-day Capacity Building was convened on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. Participants included representatives from NHRC, GFD, Res Cross, UNICEF and CSOs engaged in disaster management, discussed human rights-based approaches to disaster management and strategies to make disaster preparedness and management, including policies and plans, more disability responsive and disability-rights-compliant. A key outcome was that the NDMA and the GFD agreed to work together to ensure the National Disaster and Risk Management Policy 2024-2032 is disability-rights compliant.

vi. Training of Prison Officials on International Human Rights Law (IHRL), International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV)



Participants of the training

With the support of the EU-funded UNDP GREAT initiative, fifty (50) Prison Officers from Mile II, Jeshwang and Janjanbureh Prisons were trained on the Mandela Rules, Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, and Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) prevention. The Officers learned about best practices in prison management as stipulated in the Mandela Rules, including protection of the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and non-nationals, and how to mainstream human rights in their work to enhance conditions within the prison system. A video documentary on the training was also developed and shared on NHRC's social media platforms.

vii. Capacity Building Training for Security Institutions on the Implementation of Recommendations from Human Rights Mechanisms



Participants of the training

Security Sector Reform remains central to The Gambia's democratic transition following the TRRC Report, which documented extensive human rights abuses, including torture and extrajudicial killings by security forces under the former Regime.

The NHRC, in partnership with the OHCHR, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Office of National Security (ONS), conducted a two-day capacity-building which strengthened the human rights capacity of security institutions. The event combined presentations, dialogue, and problem-solving exercises addressing SSR, oversight mechanisms, and operational human rights challenges. The training enhanced inter-agency cooperation and deepened participants' understanding of national and international human rights standards.

viii. Training of Municipal and Area Council Police Officers on Child Protection, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Relevant Instruments and Legislation.



Participants of the training

The NHRC, with support from ChildFund, The Gambia and UNFPA, implemented a three-day capacity building training for thirty (30) Municipal and Area Council Police Officers drawn from Banjul City Council (BCC), Kanifing Municipal Council (KMC) and Brikama Area Council (BAC). The training focused on SGBV and other relevant laws, aimed at enhancing the knowledge and capacity of participants for the effective protection and promotion of human rights at the community level.



Participants of the training

Considering the powers vested in the Municipal or Area Council Police with regards to the enforcement or violations of the Local Government Act 2002 or any order, by-law or regulation made under the Act, and the power to arrest with warrant for any offence, there is a need to enhance the capacity of Municipal or Area Council Police on human rights and other key legislation to enable the officers effectively carry out their functions under these laws.

As these officers often interact with the people within their jurisdictions, it is essential they know how to deal with individuals they come into contact with, particularly women, and vulnerable groups, including children and persons with disabilities, in a professional, gender sensitive and human rights-based approach.



Participants

Participants were exposed to principles of safeguarding and upholding the dignity, rights, and safety of children and women to ensure accountability and ethical conduct in all operations.



Ms. Bintou Jaiteh, NHRC Legal Officer presenting

Deliberations highlighted the central role of local police officers as first responders and community protectors, which underscored the need for professionalism, sensitivity, and adherence to human rights principles in the discharge of their duties.



Mr. Abdou Manneh, NHRC Senior Investigation Officer presenting certificate to a participant

ix. Capacity-Building Training for Chiefs and Women Tribunal Members on Promoting Women's Leadership in District Tribunals.



Participants of the training

The NHRC convened a two-day capacity-building workshop for District Chiefs and Women District Tribunal Members from WCR, focused on Promoting Women's Leadership in District Tribunals. Despite national progress on gender equality, women remain significantly underrepresented in District Tribunals, even though these bodies handle critical issues affecting their lives, such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, custody, and access to and ownership of land.



Participants in session

This underrepresentation reflects deep socio-cultural, administrative, justice and governance challenges. Rural women continue to face barriers to access justice

due to patriarchal norms, limited awareness of their rights, and the dominance of male decision-makers. The workshop enhanced the knowledge, skills, and commitment of participants to advance and institutionalise women's leadership within District Tribunals, thereby improving access to justice and promoting gender equality at the community level.



Commissioner Njundu Drammeh presenting

x. Status Report on the Monitoring of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC

In fulfilment of its reporting obligation under the White Paper, the NHRC published its Third Status Report to update the National Assembly on the progress of implementation from 25th May 2024 to 25th May 2025. The Report highlighted the challenges faced by the implementing entities and made recommendations to the Government for the timely and expeditious implementation of all the planned activities and effective realisation of the objectives of the White Paper. To ensure holistic and comprehensive monitoring of the White Paper, the Status Report was aligned with the Implementation Plan of the Government. This approach ensures harmonisation

and consistency with the categories, detailed activities, timelines, and responsible institutions outlined in the Plan. The Report indicated that only 60 activities were fully implemented, with 143 activities ongoing at varying stages and 101 activities yet to be implemented. The report also sets out the challenges and recommendations to enhance the implementation process.

xi. Perception Survey on the Implementation of the Government White Paper on the TRRC Report

The NHRC, with support from the PBF-funded OHCHR–UNDP Post TRRC Project, commissioned a national Perception Survey to provide the Government with insight into the opinions of victims and victim-led Organisations regarding the implementation of the Government White Paper on the Report of the TRRC, the health and economic challenges they face, their expectations and 'disappointments' and strategies that could be employed to accelerate implementation and improve collaboration and communication between victims and the Government. A validation of the Draft Perception Survey Report on the implementation of the TRRC White Paper (Victims' Perception) was held on 21 August 2025, bringing together eighty-three stakeholders, of whom forty-three were women and forty were men. The stakeholders came from across the country and included government institutions that are implementing the White Paper Implementation Plan, CSOs, victims and victim-led organisations, and development partners.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:

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



ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

i. Training of NHRC Commissioners and Staff on Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting.



NHRC Commissioners and Staff at the training

Capacity building on human rights monitoring and reporting was organised for NHRC Commissioners and Staff, to enhance their knowledge and skills in human rights monitoring and investigation, identification of violations, evidence collection and documentation, sensitive interviewing, reporting and advocacy.



Mr. Hamadi Jallow, Resource Person

As part of the training, the participants undertook monitoring field visits to Mandinaring and Sanyang Villages, which are facing significant environmental challenges that have a profound impact

on their residents. Through the simulation exercises, the participants were able to apply the knowledge acquired during the training and assess real-life human rights concerns. They also interacted with affected community members and engaged the relevant authorities to explore potential remedies to the challenges the two communities face.

ii. NHRC Retreat to Enhance Organisational Growth and Team Synergy



NHRC Commissioners and Staff

The annual retreat, held for four days, provided Commissioners and Staff with the opportunity to reflect on the Commission's progress and challenges in 2024 and to review and finalise the 2025 Annual Work Plan and Budget. The Draft NHRC Policy on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace and the amendments to the Conditions of Service and Financial Manual were extensively reviewed for subsequent adoption by the Commission.

The retreat contributed to enhancing team cohesion and unity, provided clarity on major management and policy decisions, strengthened understanding between management and staff, and

reinforced commitment to excellence and operational efficiency.

iii. Tackling Corruption Through Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA)



Participants



Mr. Pradeep Wagle, OHCHR Head of Economics, Social and Cultural Rights Section at the opening of the workshop

In a concerted effort to advance the fight against corruption through a human rights lens, the OHCHR facilitated a one-day workshop on anti-corruption for NHRC Commissioners and Staff.



Ms. Ida Persson facilitating a group work

The training enhanced the capacity of the NHRC Commissioners and Staff on strategies to promote the use of United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms to address corruption and its impact on human rights. The session also focused on the importance of establishing and strengthening networks among State actors, NHRIs, and CSOs to foster a coordinated and effective response to corruption.

iv. Capacity building workshop for NHRC Commissioners and Staff on Climate Change and Human Rights



The Danish Institute for Human Rights supported and facilitated a two-day capacity-building workshop on Climate Change and Human Rights for NHRC Commissioners and Staff.

Through this training, the NHRC enhanced its understanding and skills on climate justice and climate change and their intersection with human rights. As a result of this workshop, the NHRC was able to conduct a national assessment on climate change and human rights.

v. Capacity Building Training of NHRC Commissioners and Staff on SSR Oversight functions.



SSR training with NHRC Commissioners and Staff

With support from UNODC and OHCHR, the NHRC convened a two-day training on how the Commission can use its mandate to enhance the SSR. This engagement brought together NHRC Commissioners and staff and experts in human rights and security governance. The training deepened understanding of SSR principles, reinforced the need for effective human rights monitoring within security institutions, and called for alignment with national, regional, and international human rights norms. Through presentations, interactive discussions, and group exercises, participants explored the evolving security landscape, examined the responsibilities of oversight bodies, and reflected on the critical role of the NHRC in safeguarding human rights in security operations.

vi. Training of NHRC Commissioners and Staff on Project Management

International IDEA, under the EU-funded CODE project, supported a four-day

capacity-building workshop on project management, monitoring and evaluation and resource mobilisation for the NHRC. Attended by the Commissioners and selected Staff from all the Directorates, the training enhanced capacity in programme design, project management, resource mobilisation, results-based monitoring and development of value-based project proposals.



Presentation of prizes to winners of the quiz after the training

vii. 8th National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) Forum

The NHRC participated in the 8th National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) Forum held in The Gambia under the theme: 'Human Rights and Development in Africa: Pathways to Dignity, Accountability and Inclusion'.



Participants of the Forum

viii. NHRC presents 2026 budget estimates to the National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights and Constitutional Matters



NHRC Commissioners and Staff at the National Assembly

A delegation from the NHRC, led by the Chairperson, appeared before the National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights and Constitutional Matters to present the Commission's 2026 Budget Estimates. The session, which formed part of the bilateral discussions, provided the Commission with an opportunity to share its financial plans and operational priorities for the 2026 fiscal year.



Ms. Isatou Jagne Kolley, NHRC Director of Finance

Members of the Standing Committee commended the Commission for its professionalism, transparency and strict adherence to financial management regulations and guidelines.

ix. Annual Courtesy call on His Excellency the President of the Republic of The Gambia



Commissioner Emmanuel Daniel Joof, NHRC Chairperson (R) with H.E. Adama Barrow, President of the Republic of The Gambia

Led by the Chairperson, the NHRC paid a courtesy call on the President to apprise him of the work of the Commission and areas of intervention, challenges encountered and the state of human rights in the country. The NHRC emphasised the need for sustained financial and logistical support from the Government and cooperation from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies in the implementation of its mandate. The President reaffirmed the support of the Government to the NHRC's work, reiterated his will to continue advancing human rights, democracy, and good governance in the country, and urged the NHRC to always protect its independence.



President Barrow, with NHRC Commissioners and Staff

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4:

To advance the Realisation of Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights



ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

i. National Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Human Rights in Vulnerable Communities



NHRC team of data collectors at Basse Badala, an area very prone to flooding due to rising river level

To enhance understanding of the impact of climate change on human rights, the NHRC, with the support of the Danish Institute of Human Rights, conducted a nationwide data collection in areas most affected by climate change. The findings of the research show that climate-related hazards vary from one community to another, with the effects affecting people's health and livelihoods. It also showed that some communities are grappling with the devastating impacts of climate-related hazards such as bushfires, flash floods, erosion, windstorms and salt intrusion into farmlands and rice fields, leading to relocation, loss of livelihoods, loss of shelter, lack of clean drinking water and poor sanitation.



Effects of erosion in Sankandi Village, LRR

ii. Workshop on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR)- Human Rights Based Approach to Budgeting



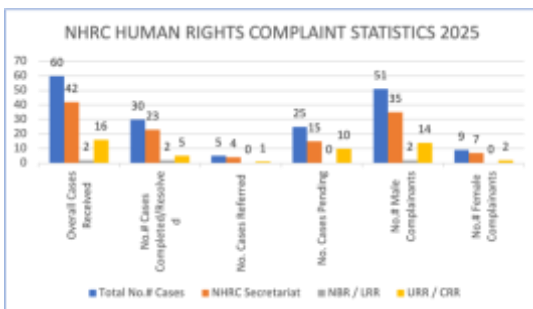
Participants of the workshop

In collaboration with the OHCHR, the NHRC organised two engagements on ESCR and the Human Rights-Based Approach to Budgeting for critical stakeholders in the country. The first engagement was a training targeted at technical officials from key Ministries, including the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA), the Ministry of Health (MoH), MoBSE, MGCSW and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The second was a workshop for members of the following National Assembly Committees: Finance and Public Accounts Committee; Select Committee on Gender and Health and the Standing Committee on Human Rights and Constitutional Matters. The training provided participants with the skills and practical tools to apply human rights principles, particularly participation, accountability, transparency, and non-discrimination, throughout the budget cycle and in public finance management.

CHAPTER 3

Complaints mechanism – Case Management System

The NHRC, 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 2025, the NHRC received a total of Sixty (60) complaints of alleged human rights violations- thirty (30) complaints were completed and resolved, five complaints were referred to other institutions for further management, and twenty-five (25) complaints are in progress. Thirty (30) of the complaints received were against security officers from the various security institutions, namely the GPF (19), GAF (03), DLEAG (02), GPS (02), and GID (04). Fifty-one (51) complaints of human rights violations, comprising 85% of the complaints received, were from male complainants, and nine (09) of the complaints, 15% of complaints reported, were from female complainants.



Breakdown of Human Rights Violation Types for the year 2025

| Violation | Number |
|--|--------|
| Protection from deprivation of property | 8 |
| Labour rights | 8 |
| Right to legal redress | 9 |
| Rights of children | 3 |
| Protection of the right to personal liberty | 8 |
| Protection from inhuman treatment or torture | 11 |
| Domestic violence | 1 |
| Right to education | 1 |
| Right to health | 3 |
| Protection from discrimination | 1 |
| Trafficking in Persons | 1 |
| Right to Privacy | 2 |
| Right to Marry | 1 |
| Access to Justice | 1 |
| Right to Fair and Speedy Trial | 1 |



Beneficiary Assessment of NHRC Activities

1.0 Introduction

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) conducted the 2025 Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey to assess the effectiveness, relevance, accessibility and perceived impact of its programmes, quality, and core services. The 2025 assessment sought to generate evidence-based insights to guide the Commission in enhancing its interventions, improving service delivery, and ensuring the NHRC's mandate remains responsive to the needs of the Gambian people.

The objective of the survey was to assess the views of beneficiaries on the usefulness, relevance, accessibility, and overall quality of NHRC's programme interventions and core services and identify the existing gaps, challenges, and areas requiring improvement. The feedback collected represented the lived experiences and perceptions of participants and institutions who directly benefited from NHRC's programme and interventions in 2025. The survey integrated both quantitative and qualitative techniques to provide a comprehensive picture of NHRC's engagement with stakeholders and rights-holders. The insights generated from the beneficiary assessment will support informed decision-making and strategic planning for NHRC's future interventions, which will reinforce the Commission's commitment to strengthening human rights protection and promotion and ensuring that

communities, especially those in hard-to-reach areas, are not left behind.

2.0 Methodology

A mixed-method approach was used, combining structured quantitative questionnaires and qualitative responses, administered digitally and in-person across all regions. The assessment utilised both quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques to ensure a robust and comprehensive assessment of the various intervention areas and the core service area, as well as to evaluate the level of awareness of NHRC in hard-to-reach areas. The data was collected digitally using 3 different standardised questionnaires and administered directly and indirectly to a representative sample of beneficiaries selected in various intervention areas of the country, including remote communities, to assess their level of awareness of NHRC.

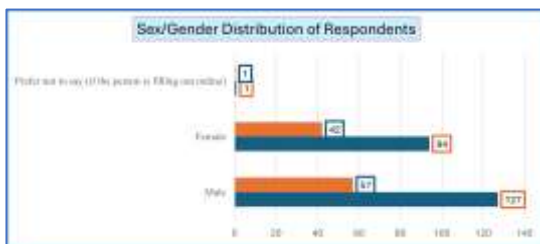
The survey focused on three key thematic areas, namely:

1. The assessment of the programmatic activities and intervention (trainings, sensitisation, National forums, Community engagements, study/research, Advocacy, etc.)
2. NHRC-Core services (Complaint handling and inquiries, mobile legal clinics, legal guidance)
3. Assessment of awareness of NHRC services in hard-to-reach areas/communities

3.0 Part A: Programme Interventions Assessment

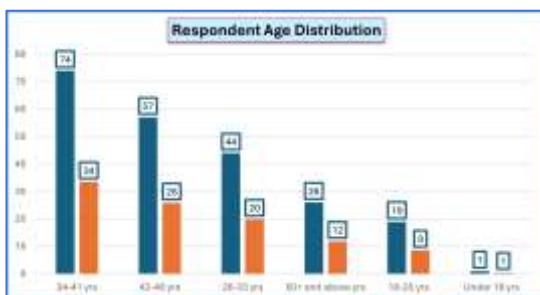
This section captures participants' perceptions, experiences, and satisfaction levels regarding NHRC's programme quality, relevance, and impact. It focuses on the various programme interventions the beneficiaries attended in 2025. A total of 223 responses were received, which represent 47% from a total of 473 beneficiaries across the 7 administrative regions.

3.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents



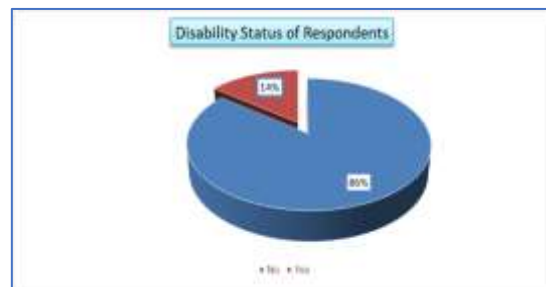
The gender/sex representation of respondents reached are 57% Males and 42% Female, and 1% of respondents prefer not to indicate sex/gender.

3.2 Age-distribution of Respondents



The age distribution of respondents in the 2025 beneficiary survey was categorised into six groups, namely: under 18 years, 18-25 years, 26-33 years,

34-41 years, 42-49 years, and 50 years and above. The data shows that 34-41 years represent 33%, 42-49 years account for 26%, 26-33 years represent 20%, and 18-25 years represent 20%, under 18 years represent 1% and above 50+ account 19%. The chart shows that beneficiaries are between 34 and 41 years of age.



PwDs' inclusivity in the beneficiary survey has been considered 14% of respondents interviewed are persons with disabilities, whereas 86% responded NO, are not PwDs.

3.4 Representation of Right Holders Vs. Duty bearers



The beneficiary survey shows that more rights holders were reached than duty bearers, which reflects a picture that NHRC interventions have considered the involvement/participation of right-holders in the selection of during the implementation of program-related activities.

3.7. Institution Representation in NHRC Activities.



The highest or the most representative institutional representation as per NHRC 2025 activities were Law enforcement agencies which accounts for (24) followed by Communities- Right-holders, (20), CSO, accounts for (17), followed by educational institution/ school, (13), Area /municipal council-Duty bearers, (10), Youth group /organization accounts (9) and victims focus organization accounts the lowest.

4.0. Participation of Respondents reached Across the various thematic areas of the beneficiary survey.



From the above diagram, the participation of beneficiaries across six thematic areas indicated that training recorded the highest participation 77, (34%), followed by Research/ Study/assessment accounts for 36, (16%), Advocacies and Popularisations Conducted recorded 34, (15%) while the Community awareness/Sensitization/Outreaches accounted for 24, (10%),

and development of educational/ advocacy materials has the lowest participation 15 (7 %).

4.1 Beneficiary rating on the usefulness of the activities attended



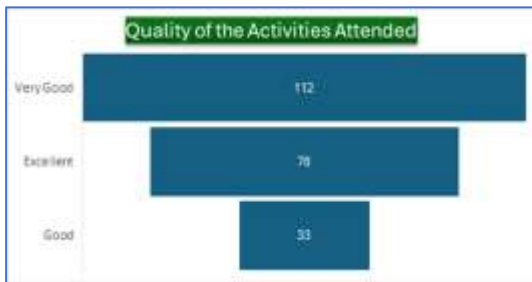
From the graph above, 71% of the respondents rated that the activities they participated/ attended were very useful, while 29 % of the respondents rated them as useful. This shows a significant number of beneficiaries are satisfied with the activities, as they are useful in their lives.

4.1. Beneficiary rating on the relevance of the training topics:



The Pie chart above shows the beneficiary ratings on the relevance of the training topics they had attended. 129 respondents rated the training topics as very relevant, whereas 92 respondents responded that the training activities are relevant to their lives.

4.2 Beneficiary rating on the quality of activities attended



Out of 223 participants, the majority of respondents perceived the quality of the activities attended as high, 85% of participants rating them Very Good or Excellent. Thus, “Very Good rated at (50%) and “Excellent rated as (35%) followed by Good rated at (14%).

4.3. Beneficiary rating on the impact of the Activity on work performance



From the above graph, the majority of the respondents rated that the NHRC activities they attended had a positive impact on their work-related performance. The highest number of participants (143) rated it with high impact, followed by (79) respondents with a rating of very high impact and only one respondent (1) rating it low.

4.3.1 Beneficiary rating on the impact of the Activity to advocate on Rights



From the above graph, the analysis shows that 58% of the respondents indicated that the impact of the activities contributed greatly to their advocacy for human rights, whereas 36% of respondents also stated that it greatly helped them to advocate for human rights, with only 6% of respondents saying the impact of the activity moderately helped them advocate for human rights.

4.4 Perceived Level of Empowerment of Rights-Holders



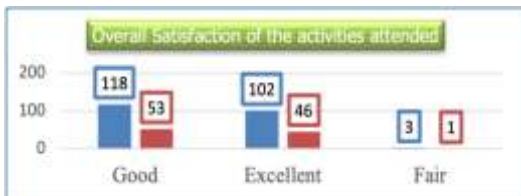
The above illustration shows that 63% of right holders commented that the activities/interventions have empowered them in understanding their rights and they can claim their rights and in turn advocate on behalf of others, followed by 34% of rights holders who responded that they are very empower and only 4% responded that they are moderately empowered as a result of the activities attended.

4.5 Beneficiary rating of activities on understanding HR and access to justice



The graph above shows that the majority of the beneficiaries on a scale of 1-5 rated NHRC higher (4 to 5 rating) that the activities have increased their understanding of human rights and access to justice. Only a few rated NHRC low on a scale of (2 to 3). This finding demonstrated that the activities had a positive impact on the beneficiaries.

4.6. Beneficiary overall rating of the activities/interventions attended



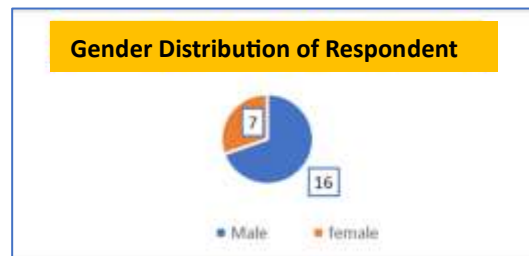
From the graph above, the overall satisfaction levels of respondents are positive, with 53% recording Good and 46% indicated Excellent responses. Whereas a few amongst the respondents rated Fair scores of 1%. This is a positive reflection that shows that the NHRC activities are carefully planned and implemented, and the overall experience and satisfaction of the beneficiary were quite positive.

5.0 Part B: Assessment of NHRC Core Services

The objective of this part was to assess the effectiveness, accessibility and response timeliness of the complaint handling mechanisms and the overall satisfaction of the service users/clients who sought information from or lodged complaints to NHRC. The respondents were selected from NHRC's Complaint Database. A Sample size of 100 service users was targeted, out of which 23 respondents were interviewed, with a response rate of 23%. The data collection method used was digital and in-person interviews.

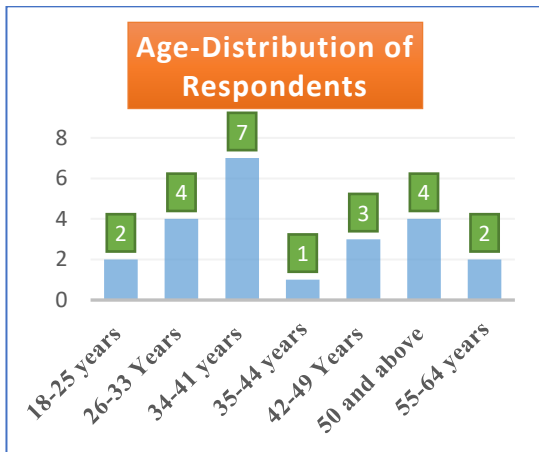
5.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

5.1.1 Gender Distributions of Respondents



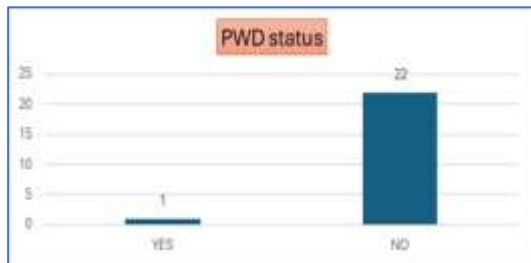
The chart shows the gender distribution of respondents reached during the survey, indicating more males reached than females. However, the female service users were also included, which provided an opportunity to have gender consideration reflected in the interview with service users.

5.1.2 Age Distribution of Respondents



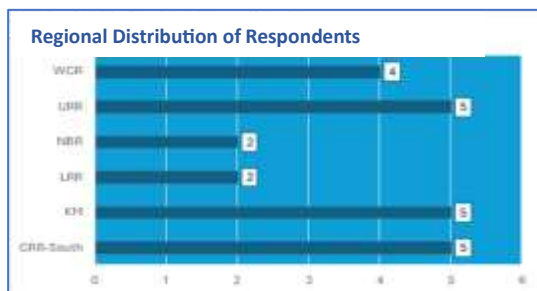
From the illustrated graph, the age distribution cut across the different age brackets and out of the age bracket (34-41) years of age represented the largest proportion of the survey, followed by (26-33) and (59 and above), the lowest proportion falls within 35-44 and 18-21 years respectively.

5.1.3 Disability Inclusion (PWDs)



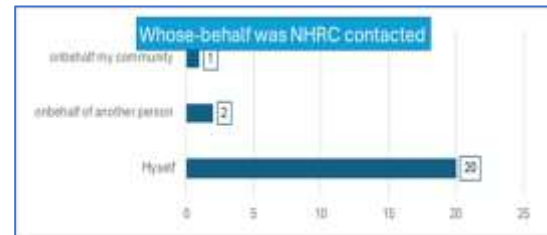
The chart shows that only one PWD has been reached during the interview with the service users.

5.1.4 Geographical Distribution & Regional Representation

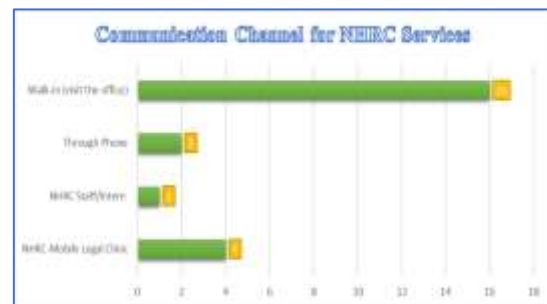


From the above graph, URR, CRR-south and KM had the highest representation, each reaching 5 respondents, this is followed by WCR, which registered 4 respondents. NBR and LRR registered the lowest number of respondents.

5.2 Medium/Channel used to access NHRC Services



From the above graph, the channel/medium used to contact/access NHRC services ranged from community to another person's behalf and on behalf of oneself. The most frequent channel used is Self, which constitutes (20), followed by another person's behalf, constituting (2) and on behalf of communities, constituting (1). Thus, the highest medium used by service users is through self.



The commonest communication channel used to reach NHRC services, as indicated on the above graph, shows that walk-in visits (16) to the offices as the commonest form, followed by Mobile legal clinic (4) while through phone calls and NHRC staff and intern register low values. This shows the need for other

features of the complainant mechanism to be known to the public.



The graph above shows that more complaint is lodge to NHRC headquarter (10), followed by URR-CRR regional office, (6) followed by the Mobile legal clinic, (4) and NBR-LRR registered slightly lower value, (3). There is need to raise more awareness at the regional level about NHRC Mandate and services.

5.3 Satisfaction with NHRC Services



From the graph above, there is high rating on NHRC complaint services amongst the respondents interviewed during the beneficiary survey. The satisfaction rate is 100%.

5.4 Effectiveness of complaint handling



The above graph surceases the level of rating on the effectiveness of the complaint handling & services. The majority of the responses indicated that the complaint handling and services are effective (10) and very effective (11) in handling dealing with information, only 2 responses show a position that the services are ineffective.

5.5 Professionalism of NHRC Staff towards Service Users



From the graph above, the level of professionalism of NHRC has been rated with Strongly Agree (17) and Agree (6) respectively. This is a positive reputation that NHRC investigators should maintain and uphold the values and principles of engaging and interacting with service users.

5.5 Responsiveness to complaints handling



The graph above also depicted that the majority of the respondents both Agree (9) & strongly agree (14) that NHRC is responsive to their complaints. This is a positive rating that NHRC should continue to nature.

5.6 Overall experience



According to the response gathered from the above graph, the overall experience of NHRC complaint system handling and services has been reckoned to be very good, excellent, effective and efficient in delivering service to the complaints as majority of the response indicated that the services are quality, relevant and responsive to the service users' needs.

6.0 Summary of Key Findings

Findings shows that the Mobile Legal Aid Clinic initiative was viewed positively by most of the respondents appreciating these outreach efforts as a solution to engaging right-holders in far to reach communities

The survey data reveals high satisfaction and responsiveness rating by respondents (83-87%) strongly agree demonstrating High satisfaction with NHRC interventions and services.

Significant knowledge gained through NHRC activity/interventions amongst beneficiaries reached (duty-bearers) which is believed to have contributed to increase work performance in understanding and handling human rights issues and amongst duty bearers

Significant empowerment of rights holders registered through NHRC interventions leading to most of the beneficiaries feel more empowered to claim their rights

Majority of beneficiaries that responded have expressed perceived sense of empowerment especially strong among right-holders reported feeling more equipped to claim their rights and assist their peers who face violations.

Majority of the Service users expressed strong appreciation for the professionalism, respect, and empathy demonstrated by NHRC staff during complaint handling and investigations. Many respondents felt they had been treated with dignity, and supported throughout the process.

The Mobile Legal Clinics Are Highly Valued as a Community-Level Access Point as Communities expressed deep appreciation for NHRC's Mobile Legal Clinic initiative, describing it as one of the only avenues that brings services closer to remote populations.

7.0 Recommendations

NHRC to strengthen investigators capacity to have an up-to-date skills and knowledge in human rights investigations to be able to investigate cases of different natures.

📍 INHRC to Create a complaint tracking systems portal that will allow complaints to see whether their complaints have been seen while monitoring the progress of the complaint they make online

🏢 NHRC to increase its future training duration from 2 days to 5 days to ensure that participants complete the required training modules and understand topics covered in the training.

🏢 INHRC to factor gender considerations in complaint handling in certain sensitive matters relating thus the need to have gender-responsive service delivery mechanisms are key.

8.0 Conclusion:

The 2025 Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey shows that NHRC is having a strong positive impact on human rights knowledge, advocacy skills, and institutional capacity in The Gambia. Beneficiaries widely appreciate the relevance and quality of programmes and core services.



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. **Leveraging on existing structures:** Enhancing the capacity of existing child protection and community-led structures in the Local Government Authorities enables them to effectively advocate for their rights and hold duty bearers accountable, in particular the Area and Municipal Councils.
2. **Managing Partnerships and Collaboration:** Building and maintaining strategic partnerships, especially at the regional level and in the targeted communities, is necessary for any efforts to eliminate deep-rooted discriminatory practices to succeed and be sustainable.
3. **Need for further decentralisation of NHRC Services:** While the establishment of the two regional offices has contributed to the decentralisation of the NHRC services, many hard-to-reach communities and vulnerable members of society still face challenges in accessing these services due to distance. Establishing fully functional
- offices in all the regions would ensure all communities and people are able to equally access NHRC services.
4. **Using Documentaries as Social Change Tools:** Community members are often convinced to change or abandon a harmful or discriminatory practice when victims themselves directly share with them their lived experiences or realities through a medium such as a documentary.
5. **Continuous Capacity Building for NHRC Commissioners and Staff:** Continuous capacity building of Commissioners and staff on emerging human rights concerns will position the NHRC to better serve the people and effectively implement its mandate.
6. **Active Collaboration with the Government:** Working with relevant Government institutions from the design, implementation and evaluation of a project or activity that aims to combat violence against women reduces not only distrust but also ensures the sustainability of the intervention.
7. **Inter-agency Coordination:** Mitigating the adverse effects of climate change or business on the human rights of the people requires Ministries, Departments and Agencies to collaborate, promote inter-agency dialogue and apply multi-sectoral approaches

8. Addressing 'sensitive' subjects like FGM in the communities requires a strong capacity for mobilisation, continuous dialogue and engagement with communities and religious leaders.
9. Effective public education on human rights needs a broad-based commitment from multiple players in society to be effective. Such campaigns can also be catalysts for change when accompanied by policy-oriented advocacy strategies.
10. The annual budgetary allocation from the Government covers mainly operational costs, which negatively impacts the implementation of the NHRC's 5-year Strategic Plan, leaving the Commission with funding gaps to implement key programmes and activities and continue the decentralisation of the NHRC in the remaining regions of the country.
11. The lack of a permanent infrastructure for the Secretariat and Regional Offices affects the limited financial allocation from the Government due to rent payments.

Challenges

Despite the many successes in 2025, the Commission continues to be faced with numerous challenges which hinder the effective implementation of its mandate. The main challenges are as follows:

12. Challenges in the timely submission of information from stakeholders for the preparation of reports by the Commission greatly impact the ability of the Commission to meet deadlines for the timely submission of sometimes statutory reports.



Financial Report

Overview of the NHRC 2025 Financial Statement

Introduction

During the planning phase for the 2025 programme of activities, it was determined that a total amount of one hundred and five million, eight hundred and seventy thousand and ninety-six Dalasi (GMD 105.9m) would be required to implement all the activities identified for the period. This amount also includes the requirements for Personnel emoluments for 2025.

Income

Following NHRC bilateral consultations with both the Ministry of Finance and the National Assembly respectively, a total budget of seventy-four million one hundred and sixty thousand, four hundred and eighty-three Dalasi (GMD 74.2m) was approved for the NHRC for the year 2025. This comprised both Personal Emoluments (PE), budgeted at forty-nine million, five hundred and forty-five thousand, four hundred and eighty-three Dalasi (GMD 49.5m), and Other Charges (OC) budgeted at twenty-four million, six hundred and fifteen thousand Dalasi (GMD 24.6m). The approved budget from the State represents 70% of the NHRC's total budgetary requirements for the year. This represents an approval of 100% of the PE budget and 41% of the budgetary requirements for programmes and other operational needs.

A budget augmentation of one million one hundred and seventy-seven thousand, three hundred Dalasi (GMD 1.1m) was approved for the NHRC during the year to accommodate expenses related to the development and validation of the report on the implementation of the post-TRRC recommendations. This report forms part of the indicators that had to be fulfilled before the government could qualify for EU budget support. The approved budget augmentation brought the total GLF budget for the NHRC to seventy-five million three hundred and thirty-seven thousand seven hundred and eighty-four Dalasi (GMD 75.3m).

From 1st January to 31st December 2025, an amount of seventy-four million eight hundred and twenty-five thousand, three hundred dalasi (GMD 74.8m) was allocated to the NHRC by the Ministry of Finance, as shown in the following table. This amount represents 99% of the total 2025 NHRC budget from the government.

Resource mobilization efforts resulted in development partner funding for some of the 2025 programmes and activities. Budgets were approved for the NHRC amounting to an aggregate total of twenty-three million and thirty-three thousand, nine hundred and forty-nine Dalasi (GMD 23.0m). This represents approximately 23% of the total budgetary requirements for 2025. From these approved budgets, a total of twenty-two million, one hundred and eighty-five thousand, five hundred and forty-two dalasi (GMD 22.2m), also shown in the table below, was received from development partners.

In total therefore, the NHRC secured budgets for approximately 92% of its overall budget for 2025 and received funding for 98% of the budgets secured.

With total expenditures at GMD 85.8m, the absorption rate was 86% of the funds received.

2025 funds received from government and development partners

| Period | GLF Actual Funds Received (GMD) | Donor Funds Actual Funds Received (GMD) | Total (GMD) |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| January | 5,791,418 | 932,000 | 6,723,418 |
| February | 6,709,989 | 4,065,248 | 10,775,237 |
| March | 6,709,988 | 926,585 | 7,636,573 |
| April | 6,709,989 | 7,729,320 | 14,439,309 |
| May | 6,709,988 | 70,785 | 6,780,773 |
| June | 6,709,988 | 1,771,126 | 8,481,114 |
| July | 7,887,288 | 467,625 | 8,354,913 |
| August | 6,709,988 | 2,035,296 | 8,745,284 |
| September | 6,709,988 | 1,106,727 | 7,816,715 |
| October | 6,709,988 | - | 6,709,988 |
| November | 6,709,988 | 2,356,556 | 9,066,544 |
| December | 756,700 | 724,275 | 1,480,975 |
| Total | 74,825,300 | 22,185,542 | 97,010,842 |

The following table shows a breakdown of the support from development partners by project

| Development Partner | Project Name | Budget (GMD) | Funds Received (GMD) |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| ActionAid International | Women Leadership in District Tribunals | 438,375 | 438,375 |
| British High Commission | Promote the enjoyment of Human Rights in The Gambia (FX gains realised) | 3,306,155 | 4,065,248 |
| | Strengthening NHRC for effective Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in The Gambia | 3,335,850 | 1,845,256 |
| Child Fund/UNFPA | Promoting Disability Rights in The Gambia | 1,910,271 | 1,910,271 |
| Danish Institute for Human Rights | Climate Change and Human Rights (FX gains realised) | 1,298,313 | 1,332,751 |
| OHCHR | Right to Food and Human Rights Based Budgeting (Also received final payment from 2024 project) | 1,443,555 | 1,663,002 |
| University of Dayton | Internship Support for 2025 | 70,785 | 70,785 |
| UNDP | Support the Implementation and monitoring of TRRC Recommendations | 2,659,285 | 2,659,285 |
| | The Gambia's Responsive and Accountable Democratic Transition (EU-UNDP GREAT initiative) | 3,866,710 | 3,866,710 |
| UNESCO - NATCOM | Combating Hate Speech in The Gambia | 2,697,000 | 2,326,210 |
| UNICEF | Promoting Disability Rights in The Gambia | 1,496,350 | 1,496,350 |
| | Total | 23,033,949 | 22,185,543 |

Expenditure From State Funding (GLF)

As at 31st December 2025, the total expenditure against the NHRC budget approved by the National Assembly amounted to sixty-seven million, eight hundred and twelve thousand, three hundred and eleven Dalasi (GMD 67.8m).

This amount represents a total absorption rate of 91% and 90% of the total funds allocated to the NHRC and the budget for the 2025 fiscal year respectively.

Expenditure on personal emoluments (PE) as at 31st December 2025 was forty-two million, six hundred and thirty-one thousand, eight hundred and sixty-nine Dalasi (GMD 42.6m) against a total allocation and budget of GMD 49.1m and GMD 49.5m respectively. This represents an absorption rate of 87% against allocations and 86% against budget.

Other recurrent expenditure or other charges (OC) expenditure as at 31st December 2025 amounted to twenty-five million, one hundred and eighty thousand, four hundred and forty-two Dalasi (GMD 25.2m) against a total allocation and budget of GMD 25.7m and GMD 25.8m respectively. This represents a 98% absorption rate against both allocations and budget.

The following table shows a summary of expenditure against budget and allocations as at end of December 2025.

| | Budget | Total Allocations | Total Expenditure | Absorption Rate Expenditure against Allocations | Absorption Rate Expenditure against Budget | Allocations against Budget |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| | GMD | GMD | GMD | | | |
| PE | 49,545,484 | 49,118,120 | 42,631,869 | 87% | 86% | 99% |
| OC | 25,792,300 | 25,707,180 | 25,180,442 | 98% | 98% | 100% |
| TOTAL | 75,337,784 | 74,825,300 | 67,812,311 | 91% | 90% | 99% |

Budget and expenditure lines are as shown in the following table: 2025

| Expenditure Type | Budget | Expenditure | Variance | Variance |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | GMD | GMD | GMD | % |
| Travel Expense | 4,131,000.00 | 4,111,596.82 | 19,403.18 | 0.5% |
| Telecommunication Expenses | 1,637,200.00 | 1,575,343.18 | 61,856.82 | 3.8% |
| Electricity, water & sewage | 840,000.00 | 840,000.00 | - | 0.0% |
| Rents and Rates | 2,318,000.00 | 2,318,000.00 | - | 0.0% |
| Purchase of fuel and lubricants | 5,242,500.00 | 5,057,000.00 | 185,500.00 | 3.5% |
| Maintenance of Vehicles | 840,000.00 | 839,613.96 | 386.04 | 0.0% |
| Maintenance of Building and Facilities | 570,000.00 | 561,535.00 | 8,465.00 | 1.5% |
| Maintenance of Equipment | 238,000.00 | 129,100.00 | 108,900.00 | 45.8% |
| Conferences, Workshops and Seminars | 2,886,715.00 | 2,839,351.40 | 47,363.60 | 1.6% |
| Stationery | 193,300.00 | 170,800.00 | 22,500.00 | 11.6% |
| Miscellaneous Office Expenses | 550,000.00 | 549,417.50 | 582.50 | 0.1% |
| Official Entertainment & Hotel Accommodation | 84,000.00 | 83,434.00 | 566.00 | 0.7% |
| Printing Expenses | 951,985.00 | 944,850.00 | 7,135.00 | 0.7% |
| Advertisements and Publications | 613,000.00 | 608,170.00 | 4,830.00 | 0.8% |
| Consultancy | 2,177,300.00 | 2,150,727.00 | 26,573.00 | 1.2% |
| Uniforms and Protective clothing | 126,000.00 | 126,000.00 | - | 0.0% |
| Insurance (Vehicle) | 436,000.00 | 344,152.48 | 91,847.52 | 21.1% |
| Contribution to Intl Org | 990,000.00 | 989,999.65 | 0.35 | 0.0% |
| Office Equipment | 108,000.00 | 105,698.00 | 2,302.00 | 2.1% |
| Furniture & Fittings | 100,000.00 | 94,353.00 | 5,647.00 | 5.6% |
| Application Software Systems and Licenses | 741,300.00 | 741,300.00 | - | 0.0% |
| Expenses of Committees | 18,000.00 | - | 18,000.00 | 100.0% |
| Salaries and Allowances | 49,545,484.00 | 42,631,869 | 6,913,614.78 | 14.0% |
| TOTAL | 75,337,784.00 | 67,812,311 | 7,525,472.79 | 10.0% |

Expenditure From Donor Funding

As indicated above, the NHRC was also supported by development partners during 2025 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 2025 was twenty-two million, one hundred and eighty-five thousand, five hundred and forty-two Dalasi (GMD 22.2m). Actual spending, as shown below, was seventeen million, nine hundred and ninety-two thousand, six hundred and fifteen Dalasi (GMD 17.9m).

| Development Partner | Funds Received GMD | Actual Spending in 2025 GMD |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Action Aid International | 438,375 | 409,750 |
| British High Commission | 5,910,504 | 3,551,284 |
| Child Fund | 1,910,271 | 1,036,130 |
| Danish Institute | 1,332,751 | 979,380 |
| Fundacion de Anthropologia Forense de Guatemala (FAFG) - Funds received in 2024 | - | 345,650 |
| OHCHR | 1,663,002 | 1,332,795 |
| UNDP - GREAT Project | 3,866,710 | 3,397,498 |
| UNDP - Post TRRC | 2,659,285 | 2,657,855 |
| UNESCO | 2,326,210 | 2,248,110 |
| UNICEF | 2,007,650 | 1,893,014 |
| University of Dayton | 70,785 | - |
| US Embassy - Funds received in 2024 | - | 141,150 |
| TOTAL | 22,185,542 | 17,992,615 |

CONCLUSION

The NHRC reiterates its commitment to "bring back the culture of human rights" by advocating for a democratic society where human rights are respected, the rule of law prevails, and the independence of the Judiciary is guaranteed. Where fundamental rights such as freedom of speech and the press are upheld. Where the protection of the Rights of Vulnerable Groups including the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities, ensure they live with dignity and free from discrimination. Where the protection of women and children, particularly against harmful traditional practices such as FGM/C) and gender-based violence is ensured and where institutions, organisations, and individuals are held accountable for acts of omission or commission regarding human rights violations.

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC)

April 2026