

The Gambia

April 2019

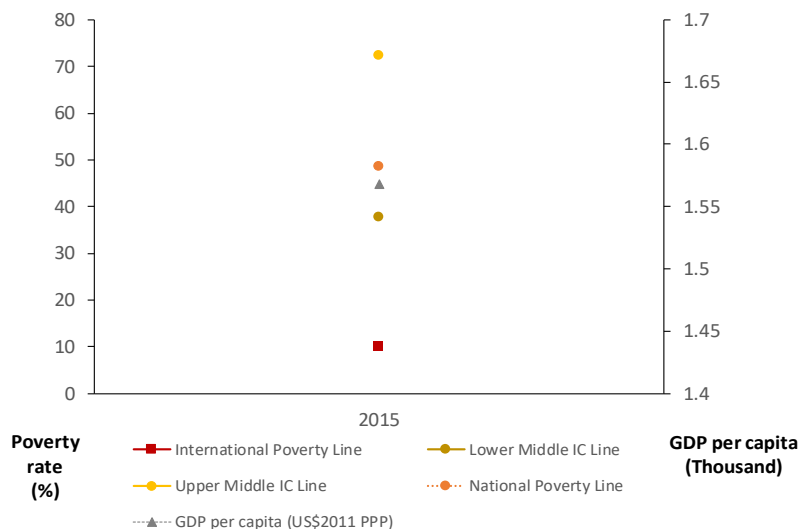
In the Gambia, 10.1 percent of the population lived below the international poverty line in 2015 (poverty measured at 2011 PPP US\$1.9 a day). In the Greater Banjul Area, which includes the local government areas of Banjul and Kanifing, the country's hub of key economic activities, the poverty rate was lower than in other urban areas. Poverty rates were highest in rural areas, where the poor typically work in the low-productivity agricultural sector, while in urban areas they work in the low-productivity informal service sectors. Even though poverty rates are high in the interior of the country compared to the coastal urban areas, the highest concentration of the poor population is found in direct proximity to the Greater Banjul Area, in the local government area of Brikama. Rapid urbanization in the past triggered by high rural-to-urban migration, led to a massing of poor people, many in their youth, in and around congested urban areas where inequality is high, traditional support systems are typically weak, and women face barriers in labor market participation.

High levels of poverty are closely intertwined with low levels of productivity and limited resilience, as well as with economic and social exclusion. The poor are more likely to live in larger family units that are more likely to be polygamous and have more dependent children, have high adult and youth illiteracy rates, and are significantly more exposed to weather shocks than others. Chronic malnutrition (stunting) affects 25 percent of children under the age of five, and non-monetary indicators of poverty linked to infrastructure, health and nutrition illustrate that the country is lagging vis-à-vis peers in Sub-Saharan Africa. There remain considerable inequities in access to basic facilities and services such as electricity and sanitation facilities. Jobs are predominately informal, and lack of off-farm activities in rural areas results in underemployment, especially among women, and outmigration among youth.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (thousand)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	961.1	48.6	2015
International Poverty Line 26.2 in Gambian dalasi (2015) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	200.7	10.1	2015
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 44.2 in Gambian dalasi (2015) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	748.1	37.8	2015
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 75.9 in Gambian dalasi (2015) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	1,433.4	72.5	2015
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		N/A	2010-2015
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		35.9	2015
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		N/A	2010-2015
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		-0.9	2010-2015
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		N/A	2010-2015

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of March 2019, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

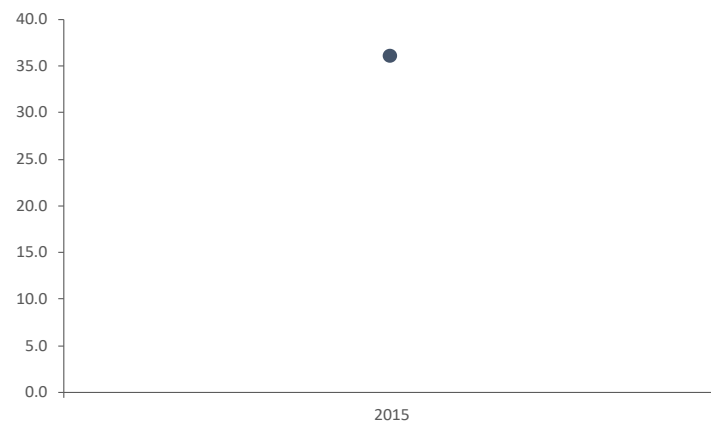
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2015



Source: World Bank using IHS/SSAPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2015

Gini Index



Source: World Bank using IHS/SSAPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS (distribution among groups)

	International Poverty Line (%)		Relative Group (%)		Year
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60	
Urban population	98	2	23	77	2015
Rural population	80	20	61	39	2015
Males	90	10	40	60	2015
Females	90	10	40	60	2015
0 to 14 years old	88	12	46	54	2015
15 to 64 years old	92	8	35	65	2015
65 and older	90	10	42	58	2015
Without education (age 16 and older)	88	12	46	54	2015
Primary education (age 16 and older)	93	7	33	67	2015
Secondary education (age 16 and older)	95	5	25	75	2015
Tertiary/post-secondary education (age 16 and older)	99	1	9	91	2015

Source: World Bank using Global Monitoring Database

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Poverty and inequality statistics in the Gambia are produced by the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS), based on the national Integrated Household Survey (IHS). The last round of the household survey was completed in 2015/16 (microdata is available on the World Bank Data Catalog). The survey was designed to be representative at the district level (sample size: 14,000). Official poverty estimates are based on the cost of basic needs approach, which determines two poverty lines: (1) the national food poverty line, which uses the minimum required level of calories; and (2) the national absolute poverty line, which also includes a non-food component.

The World Bank's international poverty rates are calculated for international comparison. International poverty lines are used to count the number of poor people in the world in terms of an absolute standard and to measure progress on global goals set by the World Bank, the United Nations, and other development partners. For this purpose, the World Bank publishes poverty rates calculated with three poverty lines: US\$1.90 a day, US\$3.2 a day, and US\$5.5 a day, all in 2011 PPP terms. The level of national and international poverty rates differs because the poverty threshold is set at different amounts.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 44 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The four countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia and Zimbabwe. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.