





We continue to demonstrate high political will in providing health services to all Gambians at affordable prices and most importantly the provision of free maternal and child health services in public health facilities. Numerous social protection schemes including the National Health Insurance, social security and pension schemes

We have made commendable strides in the improvement of school enrolment at both primary and secondary levels for both sexes, leading to the attainment of gender parity in educational access at both levels.

Women in the Gambia actively take part in all human endeavours from homes, farms to managing the affairs of the state machinery as they have had greater access to productive resources and institutional support services.

We have also forged partnerships at all levels to tackle sexual and gender-based violence. The Gambia government has successfully legislated laws banning Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and has integrated SGBV in various schools curricula. This and many other interventions have led to a decline in the number of young women marrying before 18 years old from 25% to 19% over the past 25 years.

The Gambia has instituted youth empowerment programmes to promote youth participation in the labour force and decision making. Youth employment and skills development schemes have been imitated to address the perineal problem of youth

migration. Programs like the National Enterprise Development Initiative (NEDI) and the Gambia Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) provide training, mentorship, and financial support to young entrepreneurs for them to use innovations to create jobs.

Government has invested significantly over the years in human, materials and financial resources in addressing population, health and development issues which have yielded positive results. For example, TFR has declined from 6.01% to 5.6% and 4.4% from 1993 to 2013 and 2019 respectively; maternal mortality ratio has declined from 1050 to 730, 433 and 289 per 100,000 live births in 1990, 1993, 2013 and 2019 respectively.

While counting successes in implementing the ICPD programme of action, we continue to face a number of challenges which include resources inadequacies, a youthful population and prevalence of GBV which continues to impede the growth, health, and development of a significant number of women, children, and girls in The Gambia, posing for6ETn07.18 Tmnt8-8(an-GB)>

at 127 persons per square kilometres). It is worth noting that the high population density if unchecked may pose challenges both in terms of environmental sustainability and agricultural production.

Despite all the challenges outlined above, the Government of the Gambia is still committed to managing the population resource in order to accelerate the pace of socio-economic development and ultimately improve the quality of life of all Gambians. We will continue to prioritize investments in reproductive health, gender equality, promote the rights and dignity of all individuals, and strengthen partnerships to ensure that no one is left behind. Our vision is clear: a Gambia where every person can thrive and reach their full potential.

To conclude, I call on all member states to redouble our efforts to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, eliminate gender-based violence, empower women and girls and uphold the rights of everyone. Together, we can build a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable world for present and future generations.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.s