

The Gambia National Sport Policy 2024 to 2034



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ANOCA	Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa
AU	African Union
GCCI	The Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry
GNOC	The Gambia National Olympic Committee
IOC	International Olympic Committee
IOS	International Olympic Sport
IPC	International Paralympic Committee
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MoFEA	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
MoYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NPC	National Paralympic Committee
NPO	non-profit organisation
NSA	National Sport Association
NSC	National Sports Council
PE	physical education
PPP	public-private partnership
QPE	quality PE
RFNDP	The Recovery-Focused National Development Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNESCO	United Nations Education and Cultural Organization
WHO	World Health Organization

Glossary

Benchmarking	A comparative assessment of lessons of experience. Comparing indicators of a real situation with the norms of a desired situation or case for evaluation purposes.
Evaluation	The periodic assessment of performance against agreed-upon objectives for the purpose of review.
Goals	Goals indicate the 'destination' and articulate specific higher-order or lower-order objectives to be attained.
Impacts	Long-term effects or influence, to obtain a meaningful result. The realisation of medium- and long-term anticipated outcomes into substantive results.
Inclusion	Inclusion is understood as a sense of belonging, which includes feeling respected, valued for who you are and feeling a level of supportive energy and commitment from others. There should be a commitment to embracing difference and valuing the contributions of all participants, whatever their characteristics or backgrounds (Miller and Katz, 2002).
Indicators	An indicator is defined as a measuring instrument that is used to give a concrete, measurable but indirect value to an otherwise immeasurable, intangible concept (Miles 1989: 16).
Information	Interpreted data or items of knowledge or facts, (usually) expressed in quantitative or statistical format.
Leisure	Leisure, whether active or passive, is voluntary participation in any activity mainly aimed at relaxation as an individual or as a society in people's free time.
Monitoring	The ongoing recording and interpretation of information for the purpose of evaluation according to agreed-upon strategic objectives or goals, anticipated outcomes (including targets), measurable indicators and a reliable information base.
Norms and standards	A norm describes the desired situation and a standard provides the measurable information on what is expected of the norm.
Objectives	Articulation of the intent of what the policy or strategic direction is for things such as government policies or planning objectives. Strategy, planning, programmes, projects and other objectives can also be developed that cascade down or relate to higher-order objectives.
Outcomes	An articulation of the type of results that the objective and outputs are meant to achieve. Outcomes can be seen as what outputs should lead to, and in turn outcomes should result in impacts.

Outputs	Outputs are completed operational activities that were successfully accomplished in response to planning objectives, often stated in terms of the number of initiatives, services or products completed.
Paralympic sport	General reference to any sport on the Paralympic programme. This is only used when referring to the sport's involvement in the Paralympic Games. Para sport is all sport for athletes with an impairment, whether they feature on the Paralympic programme or not. The international federation must, however, be recognised by the IPC.
Physical education	Physical Education (PE) is a school subject that entails active, inclusive, peer-led learning to develop physical, social and emotional skills.
Policy	Statement of intent.
Policy analysis	The systematic analysis of policy options
Policy process	The major phases or steps in the public policy process, for example policy initiation, policy design, policy analysis, policy formulation, policy decision-making or approval, policy implementation, policy monitoring and evaluation.
Policy monitoring and evaluation	The monitoring and evaluation of public policies according to policy objectives, policy outcomes and indicators.
Public policy	Statement of intent by government.
Quality physical education	The planned, progressive, inclusive learning experience that forms part of the curriculum in early years, primary and secondary education. In this respect, Quality physical education (QPE) acts as the foundation for a lifelong engagement in physical activity and sport (UNESCO, 2015).
Recreation	Recreation is defined as a guided process of voluntary participation in any activity which contributes to the improvement of general health, well-being and the skills of both the individual and society.
School sport	Organised sport in schools practised after hours, that is, outside of the curriculum.
Sport	Sport is defined as any activity that requires a significant level of physical involvement in which participants engage in either structured or unstructured environments for the purpose of declaring a winner (though not solely so), or purely for relaxation, personal satisfaction, physical health, mental well-being, emotional growth, social interaction and development. These include play, recreation, casual, organised or competitive sport and indigenous sports or games.
Targets	Specific milestones set (as an anticipated outcome), normally in terms of a target date and a stated quantified objective (e.g. 6 per cent annual economic growth).

Executive Summary

The launch of The Gambia National Sports Policy 2024–2034 marks a special moment in the sporting history of the Gambian people. The policy articulates the vision and aspirations of the Gambian sports community following extensive consultation with all involved.

The development of The Gambia National Sports Policy has enjoyed dedicated support from all the stakeholders working in and through sport in The Gambia. Participants have regarded the new policy as an opportunity to revitalise the vision and efforts to ensure a healthy and thriving sports community in The Gambia. Participants expressed a desire for the new policy to address the latest priorities and to ensure that The Gambia is an active, caring and winning nation. The Gambian people have taken full advantage of the opportunities that this policy review offered to express their needs and desires, and the high levels of participation have been truly inspiring. The Gambia National Sports Policy represents the culmination of a new vision and commitment to the development of sports in the country in the future, and its publication also represents a special moment in time in the history of sport in The Gambia.

Following the important role that the previous Sports Policy of the Gambia (2010–2019) played in the development of the sports system in the country, the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS), in consultation with all major stakeholders in the country, has taken the important decision to review the policy to develop a new National Sports Policy for 2024 to 2034.

The government is mindful of the fact that for sports to assume pride of place as a crosscutting activity within the National Development Agenda, a consultative, participatory, collaborative and coordinated approach is required in order to elicit the desired outcomes. The Gambia National Sports Policy stands in support of and is aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063. The broad-based consultations leading to the development of this sports policy ensured that all stakeholders take ownership of responsibility for and participation in its effective implementation, thereby ensuring sustainable delivery across all the thematic areas of engagement in a more effective, efficient and inclusive manner. In essence, the approach of The Gambia National Sports Policy 2024–2034 is for The Gambia to become an active and caring nation that will result in it being a winning nation, supported by an enabling environment.

The overarching vision of The Gambia National Sports Policy, for the next decade, is to:

‘Grow, maintain and sustain the momentum and to galvanise the sporting community to a higher level of leading edge characterised by sporting engagement and excellence across all sporting disciplines.’

It is the mission of the sport community in The Gambia to:

‘Promote and support an active and caring nation that will lead to a winning and innovative sport community known for its sporting excellence, aimed at instilling national pride, unity and cohesion in society. Mainstream sports for development, physical activity and exercise into the National Development Plan thereby enhancing and promoting healthy lifestyles and sustainable development that contribute to the inculcation of the cherished values of excellence, respect, fair play, joy of effort and teamwork.’

Policy Goals, Enabling Outcomes and Implementation Plans

In order to fulfil this mission and vision, the policy has been designed to achieve seven specific goals by 2034.

1. Sport for All is promoted and supported to increase participation in sport and exercise to improve physical and mental well-being.
2. High performance and excellence in international sport are achieved.
3. Sports serve as a medium for the inclusion and development of the youth, women and girls as well as communities.
4. Adequate sports infrastructure be developed with partners at national, regional and school levels.
5. Physical education as a subject and school sports outside of school time be prioritised as the bedrock of sport in The Gambia.
6. A renewed and strong partnership with the private sector is achieved, and funding and sponsorships secured, to enable the goals to be reached.
7. A well-defined and progressive policy, institutional and legal framework be adopted to ensure sound governance and accountability.

To deliver these goals, a series of enabling outcomes to be delivered have been identified, along with a set of strategic actions to be undertaken to deliver these results. These strategic actions form the basis of a targeted policy implementation plan. In realising the importance of tracking progress in achieving the aims of the policy, indicators for each goal and enabling outcome have been established and included in the Policy.

The policy objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy include the following.

- Ensure an excellent legal, policy and institutional framework to promote good governance and the effective management and efficient coordination of sports.
- Provide clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the government, the National Sports Council, sports associations and other relevant stakeholders.
- Enable public-private-community partnerships in order to promote the participation of the private sector and non-governmental organisations in the sports community.
- Promote an active and caring nation with increased physical activity at all levels to ensure healthy lifestyles as well as physical and mental well-being.
- Promote excellence in high-performance sport with active competition at domestic and international levels.
- Ensure that physical education and sports at schools become the bedrock of sports and exercise in the country.
- Ensure economic growth, development and employment through sports.
- Ensure social cohesion, inclusion and safeguarding in and through sport with a special emphasis on the youth and women and girls.
- Ensure the sustainable use of sport goods and services and address climate change through sports.
- Ensure adequate training offerings in sport, sufficient tertiary education opportunities in relevant specialist areas and research on sport, development and peace.
- Ensure the development of a strategic and sustainable marketing partnership across all sectors.
- Secure the development of national sports infrastructure as well as regional and school facilities for sport, recreation and exercise.
- Secure adequate funding in mobilising existing and potential financial resources for sustainable funding of sports development.
- Establish implementation plans for the sports policy to ensure its implementation.
- Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to ensure regular reporting and evaluation of the results and impacts of policy implementation.

The policy priorities to achieve an active and caring nation include Sport for All, a values-based approach to sport, sport for development and peace, sport and health, physical education and school sport at schools, as well as out-of-school programmes in the regions, sport for the youth, women and girls, sport and safeguarding, sport and social inclusion, economic development, employment and entrepreneurship, arts, culture and heritage, and sport, peace and safe communities.

The Gambia is operating in a highly competitive international arena and needs to be innovative and creative in ensuring a highly effective sports system in order to support an athlete-centred approach to being a winning nation. The policy priorities include an efficient and supportive national sports system, athlete-centred development, active competition and events, prioritisation of sporting disciplines, excellent coaches and good sports management, officials and sports specialists, partnerships with educational institutions for research and training, sport academies, facilities and equipment, sports integrity and an anti-doping environment as well as international sports organisations.

The implementation of The Gambia National Sports Policy is the joint responsibility of The Gambia government, civil society, training and educational institutions as well as the private sector in The Gambia. The implementation of the policy also seeks the support and assistance of a wide range of international organisations. The implementation of the policy is dependent on the further planning of the various policy areas as identified, by the key stakeholders. The Strategic Plan of the MoYS, the Strategic Plans of the Ministries of Health as well as Primary and Secondary Education, local government plans, the strategic and business planning of the National Sports Council, the Gambia National Olympic Committee (GNOC) as well as all sport associations, federations and sport organisations, is an essential prerequisite for the successful implementation of the policy.

The establishment of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategy for the National Sports Policy has been part of its design. The purpose of the M&E system is to provide guidelines to the government and the National Sports Council as to their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the M&E strategy and system. It ensures that the key stakeholders in sport in The Gambia can attain accountability, strategic adaptation and learning by enabling a continuous process of assessing the effectiveness of implementation. The establishment of the Gambian Sports M&E System will also improve the existing reporting system on the impact of the policy on achieving sustainable development outcomes. It will provide results-based monitoring and evaluation of the National Sports Policy to ensure effective communication, clarification and reporting of objectives, decision making and ongoing adaptation and learning from M&E results.

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction, Background and History of The Gambia National Sports Policy

The development of the new National Sports Policy has enjoyed dedicated support from all the stakeholders in sport in The Gambia. Participants have regarded the new sports policy as an opportunity to revitalise the vision and efforts to ensure a healthy and thriving sport community in The Gambia. Participants expressed the desire for the new sports policy to address new priorities and to ensure that Gambia is an active, caring and winning nation. The Gambian people have taken full advantage of the opportunities that this policy review offered to express their needs and desires, and the high level of participation has been truly inspiring. The sports policy represents the culmination of a new vision and commitment to the development of sports in the country in the future, and its publication also represents a special moment in time in the history of sport in The Gambia.

Following the important role that The Gambia National Sports Policy 2010–2019 played in the development of the sports system in the country, the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), in consultation with all major stakeholders in the country, has taken the important decision to review the policy to develop a new National Sports Policy 2024 to 2034. This initiative has been described as the priority of MoYS for 2023–2024, and it is a primary objective that the new National Sports Policy be built upon the strengths of the previous policy as well as lessons learned.

The government is mindful of the fact that for sport to assume pride of place as a crosscutting activity within the development agenda, a *consultative, participatory, collaborative and coordinated* approach is required in order to elicit the desired outcomes. In this respect, the guiding principles have been applied to the policy and should also be used as guidelines for implementation. These important principles include inter alia a rights-based approach, transparency and accountability, results-based management and evidence-based decision-making.

The broad-based consultations leading to the development of this sports policy ensured that all stakeholders take ownership of responsibility for and participation in its effective implementation, thereby ensuring sustainable delivery across all the thematic areas of engagement in a more effective, efficient and inclusive manner. The overarching vision of The Gambia National Sports Policy, for the next decade, is to *maintain and sustain this momentum and to galvanise the sporting fraternity to a higher level of leading-edge performance, characterised by sporting engagement and excellence across all sporting disciplines*.

Sport is generally and widely accepted as a veritable instrument for social cohesion, well-being, personal growth and development. As a unifying and potent force, sport has the capacity to galvanise societies as well as motivate athletes, both amateur and professional, to maximise their potential and to be the very best that they can be. Hence the Government is very conscious of the solidarity effects of sports and has requested technical assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat. It is expected that this work will consult widely with different stakeholders, including government ministries and departments, national sporting associations, community-based sports entities, municipalities, athletes and officials as well as media practitioners.

The National Sports Policy will endeavour to realise the vision of the government as provided for in the National Development Plan on Sports and to incorporate the basic principles and guidelines that underpin sport development. The new National Sports Policy announces a new chapter in the life of Gambians and the sport community.

1.2 Sport, The Gambia National Development Plan, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals

The National Sports Policy and The Gambian Government derives its mandate from The Gambia Constitution. The Constitution states that the national values and principles of governance include:

- patriotism, national unity, sharing and decentralisation of power, the rule of law, democracy and participation of the people;
- human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, respect for human rights and freedoms, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalised;
- integrity, transparency and accountability; and
- sustainable development.

This National Sports Policy has been developed within the ambit and in support of the Five-Year Strategic Plan for MoYS, the Recovery-Focused National Development Plan (RFNDP) of The Gambia, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 and the AU Policy on Sustainable Development of Sport 2023 to 2033.

As noted by the Hon. Bakary Y. Badjie, Minister for Youth and Sports: '*The **Five-year Strategic Plan for the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), 2023–2028**, was an important milestone in the Ministry's strategic agenda. It represents the strategic focus and direction we as leaders, want to position the Ministry to enable us realise the goals and objectives envision by the government on empowerment youths and achieving excellence in sports. These two elements are quite significant in the country's development agenda as enshrined in the **Recovery-Focused National Development Plan (RFNDP)**, hence the importance accorded to these two critical sectors.*'

The minister also noted that: '*The Gambia's youth constitute over 60% of the population and thus necessitates the need for their effective mainstreaming placement at the centre to drive economic change and national development. This argument is based on youth being the bigger cohort of the population as well as the bedrock on which sustainable development should and must be anchored. Similarly, it is proven that the importance of sport in national development cannot be overemphasised, ranging from cultural and economic empowerment, maintenance of peace, ensuring a healthy population; which is required to have a radiant and motivated workforce that would be ready to spearhead our development process as enshrined in our country vision, among others.*'

The Gambia National Sports Policy 2024–2034 has been developed within the ambit of the RFNDP (2023–2027) of The Gambia. The goal of the plan is to 'deliver good governance and accountability, social cohesion, and national reconciliation and a revitalised and transformed economy for the wellbeing of all Gambians'. This goal will be realised through eight strategic priorities, which are:

- restoring good governance, respect for human rights, the rule of law and empowering citizens through decentralisation and local governance;
- stabilising our economy, stimulating growth and transforming the economy;
- modernising our agriculture and fisheries for sustained economic growth, food and nutritional security and poverty reduction;
- investing in our people through improved education and health services, and building a caring society;
- building our infrastructure and restoring energy services to power our economy;
- promoting an inclusive and culture-centred tourism for sustainable growth;
- reaping the demographic dividend through an empowered youth; and
- making the private sector the engine of growth, transformation, and job creation.

The strategic priorities in the RFNDP are complemented by seven critical enablers, namely: a public sector that is efficient and responsive to the citizenry; empowering Gambian women to realise their full potential; enhancing the role of the Gambian diaspora in national development; promoting environmental

sustainability, climate resilient communities and appropriate land use; making The Gambia a digital nation and creating a modern information society; creating a civil society that is engaged and is a valued partner in national development; and strengthening evidence-based policy, planning and decision-making.

The Gambia National Sports Policy supports the AU Agenda 2063 as well as the AU Policy on Sustainable Development of Sport 2023 to 2033. The AU noted that the use of sport as a tool for achieving sustainable and inclusive development goals resonates with the African Union Agenda 2063, 'The Africa We Want', which is the continent's master plan on the creation of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa. Aspiration 5 of Agenda 2063 envisions an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage and shared values and ethics.

With respect to the AU Policy on Sustainable Development of Sport 2023 to 2033, the AU reported that, in an effort to promote participation, build capacity and enhance excellence of African athletes while fostering the ideals of the African Renaissance, promoting social cohesion and stimulating nation building through sport, the AU Commission with the AU Sports Council developed the Policy for Sustainable Development of Sport 2023 to 2033. The AU stated that:

The African Union Sports Council recognises the role sport can play in promoting and contributing to African unity and integration in line with the African Union pan-African vision of 'An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena'.

Sport is crucial for promoting the AU Agenda 2063 Aspirations of the 'The Africa We Want'. In the words of the former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela: 'Sports has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does, it speaks to youth in a language they understand.'

Last, The Gambia National Sports Policy 2024–2034 has also been developed in response to the SDGs, and the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for the policy has been aligned to the sport and SDG goals, targets and indicators. As stated by the Commonwealth in the Sport and SDG Toolkit (version 4), the potential of sport-based approaches to contribute to wide-ranging development outcomes has been acknowledged across international policy declarations, most significantly in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This recognises sport as an important enabler to achieving the SDGs. The SDGs themselves are high-level goals that all UN member countries adopted in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. Chapter 4 addresses the SDGs in detail.

1.3 The Consultative Policy Review Process

The government of The Gambia initiated a review of The Gambia National Sports Policy 2010–2019 in 2022, and a thorough review of the sports policy was undertaken during 2023–2024. This process was characterised by a strong consultative process and MoYS appointed a Task Force comprising all major stakeholders to guide this process, and consultative sessions were held in all seven regions of the country. This process was supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat as well as the Institute for Sport and Development.

The primary purpose of the review of the previous sports policy was to develop a new National Sports Policy 2024–2034 which maximises the contribution of sport to deliver national strategic objectives and aligned with the Recovery-Focussed (RF)-National Development Plan and the SDGs. To do this, MoYS regarded the review and evaluation of the successful impacts of the previous policy as a priority to enable the country to build on strengths and successes but also by ensuring that lessons are learned.

The policy process included an initiation phase that was facilitated by MoYS to ensure proper planning and preparation with the partners noted above, and the Task Force consisted of key stakeholders to ensure a participative process. Subsequently, the inception phase allowed all partners and stakeholders to agree on the policy process to be followed as well as the methodologies to be used. The next phase concerned an

evaluation of The Gambia National Sports Policy 2010–2019 and an Evaluation Report was developed and approved. The evaluation identified important lessons and recorded the impacts that the previous policy had. Following this evaluation, baseline information was collected, and a needs assessment was undertaken by consulting with key stakeholders as well as regional consultations (see details below). This phase also included an assessment of the available qualitative information, and an Information Framework was developed that indicated the various data custodians in The Gambia as well as the data that they are responsible for. In this context, an assessment was also conducted on available M&E capacity as well as the requirements for such a system. Following the approval of the Baseline and Needs Assessment Report, the Task Force subsequently considered the international experience, including African cases, and developed a policy framework for the key issues and themes to be addressed in order to be responsive to the needs identified. In the final two phases, the first draft Gambia National Sports Policy 2024–2034 was developed and debated to agree on the final policy. The final White Paper included an M&E strategy and well as an Implementation Plan. The following summary of the policy process provides an overview of the different stages of the policy process.

Summary of the Gambia Sports Policy Process

STEPS	SUMMARY OF MAIN STEPS
STEP 1	ENSURE GOOD PLANNING AND READINESS FOR THE POLICY EXERCISE (APPROVED INCEPTION REPORT) The purpose of the Inception Report was to provide detailed planning for all the necessary steps and activities to be conducted, to indicate the methodology involved and to identify all of the important players to be involved as well as their roles and responsibilities in this process. 
STEP 2	CONDUCT AN EVALUATION OF THE PREVIOUS POLICY (APPROVED EVALUATION REPORT) The purpose of the evaluation of the previous sports policy was to identify the lessons that have emanated from the consultation process with all the stakeholders on the effectiveness and appropriateness of the previous sports policy 
STEP 3	DEVELOP AN INFORMATION BASE AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRESENT SITUATION (APPROVED BASELINE NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT) The purpose of this phase of the policy process was to (1) ensure that a good understanding exists regarding the needs of the sports community and the sports sector in The Gambia and (2) to record all new and existing information from data custodians that will form the baseline for the policy exercise. 
STEP 4	DEVELOP THE DRAFT NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY WHITE PAPER AND A MONITORING AND EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (DEVELOP A DRAFT NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY) The purpose of this important phase was to use the information from the previous phases to develop a new draft National Sports Policy for The Gambia and to provide adequate opportunity for stakeholders to provide final guidance on the nature of the policy. This includes an M&E framework and an implementation plan. 
STEP 5	REACH AGREEMENT ON THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY (FINAL DRAFT SPORTS POLICY) The final phase of the sports policy was aimed at the finalisation of a high-quality sports policy and to ensure that final consultation has taken place to secure agreement and high levels of ownership of and commitment to the new policy.

The above process made use of the following important policies, legislation and strategic plans on sport in The Gambia:

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- MoYS. Republic of The Gambia. 2022. Five-Year Strategic Annual Plan 2022 to 2027. Republic of The Gambia. Banjul.
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- MoYS. 2019. National Youth Policy of The Gambia 2019 to 2028. The Gambia.
- Ministry of Health. 2021. National Health Policy of The Gambia, 2021–2030. The Gambia.

Following the decision by MoYS to develop a new sports policy, and the subsequent appointment of a task force that represents the different stakeholders, MoYS also decided to embark on regional public hearings including rural areas during December 2023 to further strengthen the consultative arrangements for the policy process on how the The Gambia National Sports Policy 2010–2019 can be improved. MoYS and its partners, including the National Sports Council (NSC), The Gambia National Olympic Committee (GNOC) and The Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCl), facilitated public hearings in all regions and invited all organisations and individuals such as sports clubs and federations, schools, educational and community organisations and businesses, as well as sports participants, coaches, administrators and teachers and anyone who has an interest in sport, physical activity and exercise in The Gambia, to (1) identify any needs that they may have to improve sport, and (2) make any suggestions or proposals for the improvement of the new Sports Policy in The Gambia.

The public hearings were characterised by strong public participation and stakeholders were well represented. Participants contributed actively and comments and suggestions were recorded. Representatives from MoYS noted that all interest groups were involved, including those beyond organised sport. Participants included women, girls and youth as well as advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities and civil society at large.

Participants agreed that an improved sports policy is much needed and that strategies and plans at all levels should be clearly communicated. Participants asked for the availability of a regulatory framework and a strategic plan for the communities. A call was also made to review the legal framework. The leveraging of the development of sports in The Gambia is seen as a significant opportunity for economic development through the hosting of international sporting events, the export of sport talent and the commercialisation of the sporting industry in The Gambia. Participants suggested that the policy formulation should be chaired, monitored and spearheaded by Gambians and that the policy should be easily accessible to all, especially students and athletes themselves.

Participants called for the enhancement of the publicity of sports activities to stimulate public support and increased participation of all people in sports. A call was made for a comprehensive national campaign for Gambians to participate in the sport of their choice in large numbers to improve their health and also grow their talents. An emphasis was placed on increasing physical activity, exercise and different forms of recreation aimed at including members of civil society beyond those represented

by organisations. In particular, a need exists to target vulnerable groups, in particular women and girls, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups. A call was also made to enhance the monitoring, evaluation and management of the health of athletes to ensure the health and welfare of sportsmen and women.

Lessons from the Previous Policy

The evaluation of The Gambia National Sports Policy 2010–2019, which was conducted during November 2023 by MoYS in consultation with the Task Force and partners, showed that the existing Sports Policy played an important role in the policy development and implementation of sport in The Gambia, and that it provides an important basis for the future review of a new policy. The evaluation showed that various lessons were identified that provided valuable information for the next phase, namely the establishment of baseline information for The Gambia and identifying the need for important priorities in the policy to be addressed in the review of the previous policy.

The evaluation found that stakeholders and their partners regarded The Gambia National Sports Policy 2010–2019 as a very good foundation for the future of a new sports policy, and respondents to the evaluation recognised the important role that the sports policy has played in providing a focus on sports priorities. In this process, various important lessons of experience were identified, and valuable comments have been made as to the shortcomings of the present policy and where it can be improved.

It is encouraging that the sports community of The Gambia regard the previous policy as having played an important role in the development of the Gambian sports system, as the evaluation debate allowed respondents to share their views on what has worked and what topics should receive more attention in the future. It is also encouraging that the various players are all in favour of a review and update of the existing policy and the focus groups and discussions showed that Gambians were excited and committed to this exercise.

The evaluation results showed that MoYS regards clearly defined youth and sports policies and strategic plans, systems and capacity as key requirements for sustainability. MoYS also regarded strong institutional arrangements and an experienced and dedicated team as strengths in the quest for sustainability. MoYS also regards their ability to embrace youth and sports as development priorities as a sustainable development effort. Respondents remarked that the sustainability of sport also concerned the passion that people have for it, and that sport will always be continued as local communities are passionate about it and will continue to play sport even if the system fails them. Respondents emphasised the importance of the capacity of all sports associations and federations as the basic building blocks of any sports system and the importance of sustaining sports clubs and federations financially.

The evaluation results also showed that the concept of sustainability related to key challenges with respect to the governance of sport in The Gambia. In this respect the new Sports Act 2024 has been welcomed and a key issue identified concerned the clear roles and responsibilities of participants.

1.4 Results of the Baseline and Needs Assessment Report

Main Findings

In terms of the demographic profile of The Gambia, the report shows that the country has a very youthful age structure – approximately 55 per cent of the population is under the age of 25 as of 2021. This is likely to persist due to the country's strong total fertility rate, at nearly four children per woman. The overall literacy rate is around 50 per cent and is significantly lower for women than for men.

In terms of prevalence of physical inactivity, The Gambia has a physical inactivity rate of 16 per cent for men and 26 per cent for women in the 18+ age group. Comparative analysis shows that The Gambia has a lower

inactivity rate than most African countries. This is an important trend, as it shows a natural inclination towards an active nation with much potential for further improvements (WHO 2022).

Football is the most popular sport in the country, followed by athletics and basketball. Other popular sports include volleyball and handball. The Gambia also has a national cricket team. One of the most popular traditional sports in The Gambia is wrestling.

The evaluation of The Gambia National Sports Policy 2010–2019 showed that all the key stakeholders in sport believed it provides the basis for the development of a new policy and that Gambians were excited and committed to this exercise.

Important baseline conclusions

- Gambian stakeholders regard it as important that The Gambian context should provide the basis for a new policy, and that a future policy needs to be relevant and appropriate to The Gambian situation.
- Baseline perspectives showed that key stakeholders supported efforts that will lead to increased physical activity, exercise and recreation for all categories of society, including marginalised and vulnerable sections of the community beyond organised sport. Stakeholders supported the notion of an active nation and a winning nation and were of the view that an enabling environment was needed for both.
- Sport and physical activity in schools were regarded as the bedrock of a new policy and both the improvement of physical education (PE) as a school subject as well as school sports outside of formal school hours were emphasised.
- Various interfaces between stakeholders were identified that may improve coordination and alignment between policy priorities and key players.
- The main challenges with respect to implementation related to clarity on the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in implementation, their weak capacities and limited funding for implementation.
- The GCCI called for the involvement of the private sector based on viable partnerships and argued that the private sector was ready to play its role. They maintained, however, that government needs to enable the business and private sector to play their rightful roles with respect to investment in infrastructure development and maintenance, soft infrastructure with respect to private sector involvement in sport organisation, as well as the need for incentives.
- Stakeholders identified various areas in the existing policy which can be improved, including the decentralisation of sports facilities and support for regional and local areas, and the improvement of facilities, including maintenance, funding mobilisation, capacity building and the role of the private sector.
- A specific need existed to improve the training and education of the different sports participants and stakeholders as well as the need for research, M&E and information on sport in The Gambia.
- The evaluation results show that a serious need exists to develop good reporting and M&E systems to improve measurement as well as the assessment of performance management. It was found that the development of an M&E system and institutional arrangements for the new sports policy are seen as priorities by stakeholders.
- The evaluation results showed that MoYS regards clearly defined youth and sports policies and strategic plans, systems and good capacity as key requirements for sustainability. MoYS also regarded strong institutional arrangements and an experienced and dedicated team as strengths and as a solid base to take the new policy forwards.

The public hearings were characterised by strong public participation and stakeholders were well represented. Participants agreed that a sports policy is much needed and that strategies and plans at all levels should be clearly communicated. The leveraging of the development of sports in The Gambia is seen as a significant opportunity for economic generation through the hosting of international sporting events, the export of sport talent and the commercialisation of the sporting industry in The Gambia.

Participants would like to see MoYS and sports bodies promote sport actively among a number of stakeholders. High performance is seen as desirable to contribute to sport in terms of increased attractiveness for investors, improved levels of sport competition, the development of available role models and increased popularity of sport. Participants would like to grow the visibility and sponsorship of sport.

Participants called for the enhancement of the publicity of sports activities to stimulate public support and increased participation of all people in sports. A call was made for a comprehensive national campaign for Gambians to participate in the sport of their choice in large numbers to improve their health and also grow their talents. An emphasis was placed on increasing physical activity, exercise and different forms of recreation aimed at including civil society beyond organisations. In particular, a need exists to target vulnerable groups, in particular women and girls, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups. A call was also made to enhance the monitoring, evaluation and management of the health of athletes to ensure the health and welfare of sportsmen and women.

The availability of and access to good sporting facilities in all regions were seen as a big issue which needed to improve drastically. This included the improvement, monitoring and proper managing of the available sporting facilities, as well as the need to develop facilities in the regions. Participants noted that sports infrastructural facilities should address different sports disciplines. The availability of good sporting equipment was also identified as a priority.

Regional consultations were characterised by a focus on the youth and the potential of sport to assist in their development. Although overseas opportunities and financial gain are the most popular needs among young people, an understanding also existed that sport may assist in improving personal development, social cohesion, health and employment, and as a motivation to improve life circumstances.

A call was made for grassroots development and the decentralisation of funds and sports. It was suggested that a programme should be developed that promotes the identification of young, talented sportsmen and women and support the development of their talents. Participants noted that sport promoted social integration and instilled good behaviour among the youth.

In terms of social cohesion, a specific call was made to promote gender equity and the participation of people with disabilities in different sports. Participants called for attention to sports for persons with disabilities. It was felt that persons with disabilities are still left behind in many sporting disciplines where they can triumph. A suggestion was made to offer a national sports festival for persons with disabilities and to increase their access to sports facilities.

Participants identified limited financial capacity in sports development as an existing challenge and noted that funding for sports development is one of the major obstacles to the development of sports. Normally, in other countries the active involvement of the private sector in sports helps its development; but in The Gambia, the involvement of the private sector in sports development is very limited. Multiple sources of public sector and other funding sources should be pursued.

GCCI participants also noted that the review of the sports policy should also be regarded as an opportunity to place an emphasis on sport as an economic activity. Muhammed Sagne, the chairperson of the GCCI, noted that:

'A business mindset is needed with respect to sports facilities and the maintenance thereof. Sustainability and use of the facilities could be much improved by involving the private sector and the management of stadiums by the private sector should be considered as is the case elsewhere in the world. The private sector is much more geared to working with money and a return-on-investment of stadiums could be ensured by following such an approach. It is important to ensure sustainability to involve a range of private sector partners. The private sector benefits from increased marketing and visibility through sport but not direct financial gain. Visibility for the private sector in sport also demonstrates to the youth that companies are committed to the youth.'

GCCI members also argued that private sector could be involved in developing unused land for sports purposes and that the involvement of companies meant that employment was also improved.

Participants regarded sport at schools as a high priority. This concerned both the improvement of PE as a school subject as well as the improvement of school sports and in particular the management of sports leagues and competitions. Regular schools' competitions and an annual coaches development programme were seen as priorities. It was suggested that sport in schools should be seen as pivotal to the long-term success and sustainability of sports development in The Gambia.

Generally speaking, stakeholders proposed that the private sector should be directly involved in sport in The Gambia. A call was made for a collaborative relationship with the private sector to support sports development. It was suggested that regions should mobilise local development partners and businesses to invest in sports activities. There is a need to put in place a framework to promote resource mobilisation, such as increased private sector sponsorship for sports activities and other sponsorship initiatives. It was suggested that, based on global good practices, The Gambia should implement the commercialisation of sports facilities as a means to both attract the masses to get closer to sport and raise awareness and potential participation levels.

Regional consultations called for increased support for athletes and coaches. This included facilities, equipment, technical and medical support as well as sufficient funding. Suggestions included the need to profile our athletes and officials and an effective player and coach development pathway (district to regional to national to international). Participants also asked for the availability of a sports database (registration of players and coaches). Regions called for improved junior leagues to ensure succession planning.

Regional consultations noted the need for capacity building for coaches, referees, administrators and other technical staff to facilitate sports development. The current level of technical staff is not able to provide the required support for the development of sports in the country, either because of limitations in skills or in the capacity to support all groups needing their skills.

Capacity building and the organisational management of all sport organisations were seen as priorities. It was suggested that the administrative and management capacity of the different sporting bodies needed to be improved to be able to implement sustainable sports development programmes.

Regional consultations supported improved tertiary education and training in sports-related fields and called for improved research and scientific approaches. Participants asked universities to help students graduating in sports science to find internships and apprenticeship programmes with sport federations, clubs, teams and individual athletes (e.g. physiotherapists, psychologists, business students).

It was suggested that universities and colleges should place talented youth in foreign educational institutions that provide scholarships for sportsmen and women, and that universities should be running part-time postgraduate qualifications in sports management to develop potential leaders in sport. The use of ICT in the management of sports activities to facilitate easy access to information and service delivery was advocated for.

A call was made for MoYS to provide the overall leadership in the implementation of this new policy. In order for this sports policy to be fully effective, there is a need to determine the institutional mechanism to facilitate its implementation. The mechanism must ensure the coordination and participation of all stakeholders and the population to make sure that the policy creates the required impact. It was felt that the Ministry of Local Government has an important role in ensuring that people are mobilised to participate in mass sports and sports for all at the community level. MoYS should help sports bodies to develop guidelines that help local government entities support sports activities.

1.5 Purpose and Overall Goals

The primary purpose of the new National Sports Policy is to maximise the contribution of sport to deliver national strategic objectives and to align with the National Development Plan, the AU Agenda and the SDGs. To do this, it is a priority of MoYS to review and evaluate the successful impact of the previous policy, building on strengths and successes but also ensuring lessons learned. The new policy has therefore been developed in response to the Baseline Needs Assessment and the input and contributions of stakeholders.

The overall goal of the National Sports Policy is to *provide guidance and clarity on the governance and management of sport in The Gambia*. As such, the National Sports Policy 2024–2034 has been developed by Gambians, for The Gambia. The overall goal has also been to ensure that the National Sports Policy is relevant to The Gambia and addresses the key policy priorities.

The specific goals of the Sports Policy are to ensure the following.

- Sport for all is promoted and supported to increase participation in sport and exercise to improve physical and mental well-being.
- High performance and excellence in international sport are achieved.
- Sports serve as a medium for the inclusion and development of youth, women and girls as well as communities.
- Adequate sports infrastructures are developed with partners at national, regional and school levels.
- PE as a subject and school sport outside of school time be prioritised as the bedrock of sport in The Gambia.
- Adequate public and private sector funding and sponsorships be secured to enable the goals to be reached.
- A well-defined and progressive policy, institutional and legal framework be adopted to ensure sound governance and accountability.

1.6 Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

The vision of the National Sports Policy is to maintain and sustain this momentum and to galvanise the sporting community to a higher level characterised by sporting engagement and excellence across all sporting disciplines.

Mission

To develop an inclusive and vibrant sport sector that empowers all Gambians to lead active and healthy lives, inspires sporting excellence, and contributes to sustainable national development. Through strategic integration of sport and physical activity into national development, the sector will strengthen national pride, unity, social cohesion, and the values of excellence, respect, fair play, teamwork, and joy of effort.

Core Values

The core values of the National Sports Policy include the following.

Patriotism and nation building. The Gambia has a proud sports culture and heritage, and patriotism is at the centre of sport in the country. The love for the country will keep us on track to sacrifice for the country.

Innovativeness and creativeness. Innovativeness and ingenuity is highly encouraged to enable the sports community to come up with creative initiatives that can move sport and the youth forwards to realise sports goals and objectives.

Professionalism. The Gambia sports community believes in professionalism and excellence, and all stakeholders in sport are encouraged to pursue professionalism and carry out their duties in a professional manner.

Teamwork and partnerships. The sports policy can only succeed through the cooperation and collaboration of all the stakeholders and by the teamwork of the sport participants in the country. Teamwork is encouraged in our sports communities to boost performance for enhanced results.

Inclusiveness. The sports policy promotes and encourages a culture of inclusiveness where everyone is involved in the decision-making process and where the harnessing of the collective is valued.

Equality opportunity and dignity. The sports policy advocates sporting integrity and equal opportunities irrespective of background, creed or belief. Everyone is treated fairly and equitably to enhance fair play and justice.

Hard work. The sports community in The Gambia believes that hard work yields great dividends, and everyone is encouraged to be hard working.

Responsiveness. All stakeholders in sport and the sports community generally speaking are encouraged to be highly responsive to customer and stakeholder demands within the relatively short periods of time that require our attention and action.

Dedication. The sports policy encourages the sports community to be dedicated to duty, thereby unleashing their full potential for improved performance and effective service delivery, accountability and transparency.

Commitment and dedication to national service and duty. The Sports Policy is a commitment to the sports community to the country and its dedication to nation building.

1.7 Policy Objectives and Expected Outcomes

Following the specific goals of The Gambia National Sports Policy 2024–2034 as stated above, the aim of the policy is to achieve priority policy objectives. It is the objective of the National Sports Policy to:

- ensure an excellent legal, policy and institutional framework to promote good governance and the effective management and efficient coordination of sports;
- provide clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the government, the NSC, sports associations and other relevant stakeholders;
- enable public–private–community partnerships (PPCPs) in order to promote the participation of the private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the sports community;
- promote an active and caring nation with increased physical activity at all levels to ensure healthy lifestyles as well as physical and mental well-being;
- promote equality and inclusion and offer an opportunity for more involvement of women and girls as well as people living with disabilities in sporting events;
- ensure social cohesion, inclusion and safeguarding in sport with a special emphasis on the youth and women and girls;
- promote excellence in high-performance sport with active competition at domestic and international levels;
- ensure that PE and sports at schools become the bedrock of sports and exercise in the country;
- ensure economic growth, development and employment through sports;
- ensure the sustainable use of sport goods and services and address climate change through sports;
- ensure adequate training offerings in sport, sufficient tertiary education opportunities in relevant specialist areas and research on sport, development and peace;

- ensure the development of a strategic and sustainable marketing partnership across all sectors;
- secure the development of national sports infrastructure as well as regional and school facilities for sport, recreation and exercise;
- ensure that in the first 2–3 years of this policy cycle, the government minimises the expenditure on international sport events and utilises some of those funds in developing the sports infrastructure in The Gambia;
- secure adequate funding in mobilising existing and potential financial resources for the sustainable funding of sports development;
- establish an implementation plan for the sports policy which is put into practice;
- establish a robust M&E system to ensure regular reporting and evaluation of the results and impacts of policy implementation.

Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of The Gambia National Sports Policy include the following.

- In future, stakeholders will look back and confirm that the legal, policy and institutional framework established during 2023–2024 served as an effective basis for the realisation of good governance and the effective management and efficient coordination of sports over the next ten years.
- Stakeholders are satisfied that clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the government, the NSC, sports associations and other relevant stakeholders has been achieved.
- Successful PPCPs have been undertaken that have substantially improved the sports system and well-being of the sport community.
- The promotion of an active and caring nation has increased physical activity at all levels as well as improved healthy lifestyles and physical and mental well-being.
- Sport and recreation resulted in improved social cohesion, inclusion and safeguarding in sport especially with respect to the youth and women and girls as well as sport participants with disabilities.
- Excellence in high-performance sport has been achieved and this was apparent in domestic and international competitions and athlete support.
- PE and sports at schools have become the bedrock of improved sport and development in the country.
- Sport and development initiatives have resulted in economic growth, development and an increase in employment and financial income.
- The sustainable use of sport goods and services have been achieved and the sport community addressed climate change strategies sufficiently.
- Adequate training was evident at all levels in sport and sufficient tertiary education opportunities existed that resulted in qualified and trained officials, specialists and professionals able to provide such services in the country.
- The development of a strategic and sustainable marketing partnership across all sectors resulted in an increase in sport activity and benefits.
- The development and maintenance of national sports infrastructure have been successful and good sports facilities existed in all regions with appropriate facilities at all schools for sport, recreation and exercise.
- The government vision to focus on minimising the expenditure on international sports events and utilise some of those funds in developing the infrastructure of sports in The Gambia resulted in improved infrastructure and led to more results in the long run, including an increase in talented athletes to compete on the international stage.
- Adequate funding and mobilising of existing and potential financial resources resulted in a vibrant and competitive sport system in the country.
- The implementation plan for the sports policy has been successfully put into practice and a robust M&E system has been established to ensure regular reporting and evaluation of the results and impacts of the policy.

The following chapters address the various priority areas in response to the above policy objectives.

2. The Active and Caring Nation

2.1 Introduction

Sport and exercise are a human right, and an active, healthy and caring nation provides the basis for sustainable development in The Gambia and for the holistic well-being of its citizens.

This chapter deals with important issues to be addressed to ensure an active and caring environment in which sport can thrive. In this sense, sport for all promotes the advantages of sport to Gambian society at large as well as the sports community. The policy priorities to achieve an active and caring nation include:

- sport for all
- a values-based approach to sport
- sport, development and peace
- sport and health
- PE and sport in schools
- sport in the regions
- sport for the youth
- sport for women and girls
- sport and safeguarding
- sport and social inclusion
- economic development, employment and entrepreneurship
- arts, culture and heritage
- sport, peace and safe communities

The following sections provide the specific policy statements and policy objectives in this respect.

2.2 Sport for All

The government of The Gambia promotes sport for all as a human right for all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, age, social class, gender and physical and intellectual challenges. The sports policy recognises the health and social benefits that are derived by our communities through regular physical activity.

Policy objective: to ensure that The Gambia is an active nation and that it actively promotes 'sport for all'.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- promote increased physical activity through sport, recreation and exercise of the Gambian population at large;
- initiate and realise a national campaign to promote and embrace sport for all;
- embrace physical activity and well-being as a lifestyle choice;
- promote social inclusion in sports activities, especially for vulnerable groups, including women and girls, persons with disabilities, refugees and other minority groups;
- promote sport, exercise, recreation and indigenous games as informal and spontaneous activities, beyond organisations, including dance, art, cultural activities, games and play;
- promote social inclusion, cohesion and a caring and supportive nation;
- promote intergenerational games and sport and exercise for all ages;
- ensure sports facilities and recreation hubs for communities in the regions;
- ensure quality physical education (QPE) and sport in schools;
- improve access and promote sport, exercise and recreation for all.

2.3 A Values-Based Approach to Sport

The government of The Gambia promotes a values-based approach to sport and exercise departing from the principles in its Constitution as well as the core values of The Gambia National Sports Policy, as stated above. These include patriotism and nation building, innovativeness and creativeness, professionalism, teamwork and partnerships, inclusiveness, equal opportunity and dignity, hard work, responsiveness, commitment and dedication to national service and duty.

Policy objective: to promote a values-based approach in sport to support an active and caring nation.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- embrace values education and a values-based approach to sport and recreation;
- promote the core values as stated by this policy (above);
- promote Olympism and the Olympic values of excellence, fair play, respect, friendship and joy of effort, as well as a balance of body, spirit and mind;
- promote the paralympic values of determination, equality, inspiration and courage;
- promote sport as a tool for peace, tolerance, respect and understanding of diversity;
- promote the ideals of teamwork, discipline, dedication and commitment as well as respect for self and for others, competitors and authority.

2.4 Sport, Development and Peace

The Sport for Development and the Sport, Development and Peace (SDP) initiatives have become prominent worldwide and are actively supported by all multilateral organisations involved in sport. In addition, civil society organisations, including sports clubs, associations and federations, as well as developmental NGOs, are ideally placed to offer SDP programmes to the youth to maximise the development opportunities that sport offers.

The government of The Gambia supports a cooperative approach to promote the use of sport and recreation in the development of the youth. In particular, the government promotes and supports the offering of SDP programmes to the youth to improve skills development, capacity building and employability, social cohesion and personal well-being.

Policy objective: to encourage all stakeholders to support SDP initiatives and to use sport and recreation to ensure the well-being of the youth.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy include the following.

- Promote the use of SDP approaches and programmes to use sport as a tool for the purposes of skills development and the personal development and well-being of the youth.
- Encourage the government, the private sector, sports associations and civil society organisations to work together in providing such programmes.
- Advocate the use of sport for development programmes by the NSC, the GNOC and all National Sport Associations (NSAs) as part of their business planning.
- Encourage the development of credible local NGOs in The Gambia that are involved in offering SDP projects among the youth and help them to mobilise funding locally and internationally.
- Promote and enable the involvement of international NGOs to offer SDP projects and programmes.
- Ensure alignment and support for The Gambia Youth Policy and youth programmes with MoYS.

2.5 Sport and Health

The government of The Gambia recognises the important health benefits of sport and active lifestyles. The international experience shows that physical and mental health are improved through an increase in physical exercise.

Policy objective: to promote increased physical and mental health.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- promote sport and exercise as a tool for improved health and well-being;
- improve access and opportunities to the health benefits that sport and exercise offer;
- advocate a healthy diet and lifestyle for the youth;
- promote honest reporting of ages and birthdates of youth when registering for competitions and events;
- promote anti-doping, an ethical environment and integrity in sports;
- support the Department of Health in rendering health services to the Gambian sports community.

2.6 Sport in the Regions

The government of The Gambia recognises the importance of sport for all in terms of outlying regions and rural areas. The government is committed to addressing inequities with respect to geographical disparities. These policy priorities concern the improved organisation and coordination of sport in the regions as well as the sport and recreation facilities required for this purpose.

Policy objective: to promote sport and exercise in all the regions and to address rural disparities.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy include the following.

- Initiate 'sport for all' campaigns in all regions.
- Improve access by ensuring that sport and recreation facilities are provided in all regions.
- Improve the capacity of regional sports authorities and sports organisations.
- Promote recreation hubs in the regions.
- Promote regional centres of excellence for different sports disciplines in all the regions according to their respective competitive advantage.
- Support the implementation and promotion of junior leagues at regional level to help those identified with talents develop them to realise their full potential.
- Encourage regional authorities to include sports targets in their annual performance contracts to ensure club participation and competition for football, basketball, volleyball, athletics and traditional games and sports for men and women teams, as well as children's teams at under 12, 14 and 17 levels.
- Ensure regular schools' competitions and an annual coaches' development programme.
- Encourage regions to mobilise local development partners and businesses to invest in sports activities.

2.7 Sport and Youth

Sport and youth are a central focus of the government of The Gambia and MoYS have been dedicated to addressing youth development as a priority. Sport and exercise provide important opportunities for the youth, and it is imperative that the National Sports Policy addresses all these priorities. This policy should be applied in conjunction with the Gambian Youth Policy.

Policy objective: to ensure that the development and empowerment of the youth is accomplished through sport.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- provide access and opportunities to the youth through sport;
- improve the health and well-being of the youth;
- ensure that athletes and the youth stand at the centre of the sports movement;
- provide opportunities for increased competition and excellence in sport;
- provide increased employment opportunities through sport;
- promote personal development and skills development through sport;
- encourage local and international NGOs to assist with the skills development training of the youth;
- promote youth programmes for virtual sport and e-sport;
- promote and integrate the youth programmes and incentives of MoYS and other stakeholders in sport.

2.8 Sport for Women and Girls

The inclusion of women and girls in sport and exercise in The Gambia has emerged as an important priority during the needs assessment conducted for this exercise. One of the participants to the policy consultation said that:

'Whereas previously the role and potential of women in sport in The Gambia was not recognised, the previous policy was able to put the role of women in sport on the map and much recognition resulted from it. The policy was successful in highlighting what women could do and the policy increased awareness and the promotion of this concept, including media coverage. The implementation of the policy showed that sport does not stop women doing what is expected of them in terms of their domestic responsibilities. Much potential existed to increase the emphasis on women in sport also in terms of media coverage.'

The government of The Gambia promotes equality and social inclusion and recognises the important role of women and girls in sport and recreation in the country and is dedicated to addressing equity and equality in this domain.

Policy objective: to promote gender equality and to prioritise women and girls in sport.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- promote equal rights and access for women and girls to participate in all sports activities;
- promote education and training for women in sport;
- ensure that women become engaged in sport structures and take up leadership positions in the sports community;
- ensure that all safeguarding requirements are met;
- ensure that women and girls are engaged at all levels, including participation, coaching, teaching, management and leadership;
- ensure that girls fully participate in PE as well as school sports;
- traditional sports for females be included in indigenous games.

2.9 PE and Sport in Schools

All stakeholders in the sports community have confirmed that PE and sport in schools are regarded as the bedrock of sport and exercise in The Gambia. The United Nations Education and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Charter of Physical Education and Sports, of which The Gambia is a signatory, states that:

'Each human being has a fundamental right of access to physical education and sport opportunities essential for the inclusive development of the total child.'

The Government of The Gambia is committed to QPE as a school subject as well as the organisation and offering of school sports.

Policy objective: to promote and establish QPE at all schools and to facilitate a high standard of school sports for all.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- ensure the compulsory delivery of PE lessons as stated in the Education Policy;
- ensure that PE is regarded as a stand-alone subject in the curriculum;
- ensure that the minimum number of PE minutes (class time) is met at all schools (120 minutes/180 minutes per week depending on the grade);
- ensure that the minimum standard of male and female PE teachers per student/school are accomplished;
- in the medium term, to achieve the appointment of one male and one female PE teacher at every school;
- achieve equality of PE provision and PE lessons for all, including girls, high- and low-skilled students, students with disabilities and/or special needs, minority groups, marginalised populations and ethnic groups, in all regions of The Gambia;
- ensure that sufficient PE teacher education and teacher development take place;
- ensure that sufficient capacity exists at training colleges and universities to guarantee adequate capacity to train and qualify PE teachers and sport managers for school sports;
- promote school sports at all schools for all learners;
- promote partnerships between schools and sports associations, federations and clubs as well as NGOs to offer school sports at all schools;
- promote good organisation and coordination of school sports with high levels of consultation with all involved;
- accomplish regional and national championships for schools in football, athletics, basketball, volleyball and traditional sports, with district finals and regional finals leading to national finals, for boys and girls at under 12, 14 and 17 age groups.

2.10 Sport and Safeguarding

The government of The Gambia is committed to the safeguarding of all sports participants, spectators and the sports community at large. Safeguarding and safe spaces as well as the necessary security is regarded as a priority.

Policy objective: to promote and establish practices that ensure sufficient safeguarding of sports participants.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- Embrace safeguarding and safe spaces as an important priority to ensure the integrity of sports.
- Ensure that all major stakeholders in sport, including the NSC, the GNOC and all NSAs and Federations adopt a safeguarding policy.
- Achieve the successful implementation of safeguarding policies.
- Ensure that adequate monitoring mechanisms are put in place to track and monitor safeguarding requirements and incidents.
- Oversee the appointment of safeguarding officers and coordinators in all NSAs.
- Ensure that adequate training courses for safeguarding officers are in place.

2.11 Sport and Social Inclusion

The role of sport as a tool to improve social inclusion and cohesion has been recognised internationally; it is seen as a powerful instrument to enhance community development and peace. Social inclusion is regarded as an important dynamic at all levels of sport today, and in community sport in particular.

The government of The Gambia promotes sport and exercise as an inclusive environment in which people of all backgrounds and abilities can participate and access a range of social and health benefits as part of the sports community.

Policy objective: to embrace social inclusion and social cohesion to achieve harmony and well-being in our communities.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- promote social inclusion in all sports and exercise environments;
- specifically promote the social inclusion of women and girls;
- promote the social inclusion of all athletes with a disability;
- promote the social inclusion of all refugees and other minority groups;
- promote social inclusion in the Gambian sports community and the well-being of our people at large.

2.12 Economic Development, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Marketing

Sport should be viewed as an economic sector in its own right, contributing to economic growth and development and increasing employment opportunities. Sport as an economic activity also stimulates other sectors such as tourism, manufacturing and transport.

The GCCI and other stakeholders in sport expressed their commitment to the Gambian sports industry and a call was made for a collaborative relationship with the private sector to support sports development. It was suggested that regions should mobilise local development partners and businesses to invest in sports activities. There is a need to put in place a framework to promote resource mobilisation, such as increased private sector sponsorship for sports activities and public-private partnerships (PPPs) for the development of facilities.

The government of The Gambia embraces sport as an economic activity and is committed to a renewed partnership with the private sector.

Policy objective: to promote sport and economic development and to ensure viable partnerships with the private sector and businesses in sport.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- support economic growth and development in the Gambian sports sector;
- promote increased employability for the youth and an improvement in employment opportunities;
- promote related sectors, including transport, ICT, tourism, marketing and media, as well as manufacturing in sport;
- promote entrepreneurship and informal economic activity to increase income-generating activities for the youth;
- enable and promote PPPs and the partial commercialisation of sports facilities, with the assistance of the Department of Finance, to attract communities, as well as businesses, to participate in sport initiatives.

Marketing

- Support the development of marketing strategies of all major stakeholders and NSAs.
- Enhance sports publicity to increase and sustain public interest in sporting activities.
- Promote the marketing of sport and the relationship with the media, and improve reporting on sports activities to enhance professionalism in sport.
- Develop a sports communication strategy with a special focus on branding 'sports participation' as a healthy lifestyle for all Gambians.

2.13 Sports, Arts, Culture and Heritage

The Gambian sports communities have a rich cultural heritage and a sporting tradition that includes traditional games and sport. Sport provides the opportunity to embrace culture and heritage. Sport also offers the opportunity to embrace arts, education and related activities to improve the well-being of communities. In the case of Gambia, wrestling and other types of sport have particular importance in terms of culture and heritage.

Policy objective: to promote the use of sport to embrace Gambian culture and heritage and to integrate arts, education and indigenous games into sport activities.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- embrace culture and heritage in sports activities;
- promote indigenous sports and wrestling in particular;
- promote the arts and education as well as traditional games in sporting activities;
- include indigenous games as part of the school curriculum;
- promote intergenerational learning and sharing of Gambian cultural heritage;
- facilitate an annual indigenous games event in The Gambia.

2.14 Sport and the Environment

The government of The Gambia is committed to ensuring that the sport community promotes a healthy natural environment and contributes to the sustainable development of the country. The National Sports Policy promotes good practices with respect to all sport activities, events and sports facilities. Sport provides the opportunity to offer environmental awareness campaigns to the youth and to society as a whole.

Policy objective: to support sustainable development practices with respect to sport and the environment.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- promote environmental awareness and promote sustainable development practices with respect to sport;
- support the sustainable production and consumption of sports-related goods and services;
- develop sustainable development strategies as well as climate change strategies for major sports bodies;
- ensure that the development of new sporting infrastructure is subject to an environmental impact assessment;
- support the Gambian Government in being a signatory to the UN Climate Action Framework;
- respond to SDGs 12 and 13 by 2030.

2.15 Sport, Peace and Safe Communities

The role of sport in development and peace has been widely recognised and the potential exists to achieve nation building and patriotism at the national level as well as harmony and well-being in communities at the local level through sport.

The government of The Gambia embraces the value of sport in promoting understanding, respect and tolerance of diversity.

Policy objective: to promote peace and safe communities through sport.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- promote sport as a vehicle for peace and safe communities;
- purposefully use sport as a tool where potential conflict exists;
- promote sport as a way of including all minority groups;
- ensure peace and harmony at the local level by promoting sporting environments that are inclusive, tolerant and respectful towards diversity;
- promote Olympism and world peace.

2.16 Conclusion

The above policy priorities and objectives address all the important issues that are needed to ensure for sport to thrive in an active and caring nation. Such as nation provides the basis for a winning, innovative and creative nation to excel in sport. These policy priorities are discussed in the next chapter.

3. The Winning and Innovative Nation

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides the policy statements and objectives necessary to be successful at achieving a winning and innovative nation. The Gambia is competing in a highly competitive international arena and needs to be innovative and creative in ensuring a highly effective sports system, in order to support an athlete-centred approach to being a winning nation.

The following policy priorities have been identified:

- an efficient and supportive national sport system
- athlete-centred development
- competition and events
- prioritisation of sporting disciplines
- coaches and sports management
- officials and sports specialists
- partnerships with educational institutions for research and training
- sports academies, facilities and equipment
- sporting integrity and an anti-doping environment
- international sports organisations

The sections that follow provide The Gambia National Sports Policy statements and objectives to ensure that The Gambia is a winning and innovative nation.

3.2 An Efficient and Supportive National Sports System

The Gambia National Sports Policy promotes the development of an efficient and supportive national sports system as a key priority to ensure that The Gambia is a winning and innovative nation. The capacity of The Gambia sports system to support athletes and sports participants is a vital requirement to ensure good governance, management and support for the sports community.

The government of The Gambia encourages all stakeholders in sport in the country to ensure that the national sports system provides efficient support to sports participants and to ensure good governance, implementation and evaluation. Given the high levels of international competition and technical advancements, the government of The Gambia encourages all stakeholders to be innovative, creative and dynamic in their efforts to build the national sports system. The roles and responsibilities of the government, the NSC, the GNOC and all the other key stakeholders in sport relate directly to an efficient and supportive sports system and are addressed in Chapter 6.

Policy objective: to ensure that good governance and an efficient and supportive national sports system are developed in order that The Gambia is successful as a winning and innovative nation.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- provide the necessary policy, legislation and implementation strategies to ensure an efficient and supportive national sports system;
- guide the roles and responsibilities of all the key players in sport in The Gambia (see Chapter 6);
- support the capacity building of all key stakeholders in sport, in particular the NSC and NSAs;

- ensure good governance and an emphasis on democracy, accountability, transparency, sporting integrity, solidarity and development, as well as internal control systems by all organisations involved in sport in The Gambia;
- promote a values-based approach to sport in The Gambia;
- ensure a healthy sports system with a focus on athlete-centred development.

3.3 Athlete-Centred Development

International and local experiences show that an athlete-centred approach is necessary to provide efficient and relevant support to athletes and sports participants to ensure a winning nation. Such an approach also promotes the independence and personal well-being of athletes as a high priority.

The government of The Gambia promotes athlete-centred development and high levels of sports participation, talent identification and athlete development and well-being.

Policy objective: to support athlete-centred development as a high priority to ensure an environment where athletes can thrive, develop themselves and achieve excellence.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- embrace athlete-centred development as an important approach to developing a winning and innovative nation;
- provide efficient and relevant support to athletes and sport participants in terms of expertise, facilities, equipment and personal development;
- ensure athlete wellness and well-being;
- empower athletes and sports participants by encouraging them to further their education as well as their career development;
- promote and facilitate dual career pathways to high-performance athletes;
- provide excellent coaching and entourage support to support athletes;
- support the development of specialist services for athletes, including biokinetics, physiotherapy, nutrition and sports psychology;
- promote both amateur and professional sport in The Gambia.

3.4 Competition and Events

The Gambia National Sports Policy promotes the development of the necessary competitions and events such that athletes are able to participate and develop their ability and skills, helping The Gambia to be a winning nation. The development of domestic competitions is seen as a requirement for the national sports system to be efficient. The participation of Gambian sports participants at the international level is essential to becoming a winning nation.

The government of The Gambia supports the further development of competition and events at all levels in order to promote increased sport participation as well as competitiveness in the country.

Policy objective: to improve domestic competition and events as well as to improve access to and support for international competition.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- promote improved competitions and events for Gambian sports participants;
- enable competition at all levels, including school sports, amateur sports, professional sports and international competitions;

- improve the coordination of school sports in and between regions;
- organise competitions and events according to the guidelines and requirements provided by the NSC;
- improve the attractiveness of sports facilities in The Gambia in order to host more international competitions;
- improve funding for the international competition of Gambian athletes;
- excel in international events, World Cups and the Olympic Games in all its formats.

3.5 Prioritisation of Sporting Disciplines

The support for an approach whereby prioritised sporting disciplines are identified and promoted is a worldwide practice. The prioritisation of sporting disciplines has the advantage that country-wide efforts at improving the sports system in particular disciplines allow efforts and resources to be used optimally. Advantages also include increased participation, competition and the other advantages of popular sport. International lessons also show that other sporting types should also be encouraged and supported as they play an important role in the overall quality of sport in The Gambia.

The government of The Gambia supports the prioritisation of sporting disciplines and the following sports have been identified as priority codes for the period 2024–2034.

Priority sports for The Gambia include:

1. football
2. athletics
3. judo
4. swimming
5. wrestling
6. basketball
7. volleyball
8. lawn tennis
9. cricket
10. handball

Priority sports for schools include:

1. gymnastics
2. athletics
3. football
4. taekwondo
5. long jump and high jump
6. basketball
7. volleyball
8. cricket

Policy objective: to support the prioritisation of selected sporting disciplines in order to achieve an active and winning nation.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

1. promote increased participation and competition in priority sports;
2. support the NSC in its promotion of priority disciplines;
3. support the good governance and sporting integrity of priority sporting codes;
4. promote increased local competition and events in the priority disciplines;

5. promote increase international participation in competitions and world events;
6. enable other sport disciplines to participate and compete in their own right and to acknowledge the contributions made by all sporting disciplines.

3.6 Coaches and Sports Management

As part of the 'entourage' or support group of any athlete or team, the coaching staff acts as a pillar in sports participation and competition. The development of coaches as well as sports managers and administrators is therefore seen as an important policy objective in the country.

The government of The Gambia supports the development of coaches as well as coaching as a profession. In addition, the good management of sports associations as well as good administration are vital requirements to support competing athletes.

Policy objective: to support the development of coaches and sports managers and administrators as a priority and as vital requirements for a well-functioning and efficient sport system.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- promote the training and education of coaches and to promote coaching as a career;
- support the development of the coaching profession and dual career pathways for coaches;
- ensure that adequate training opportunities exist within NSAs as well as at tertiary institutions;
- ensure that a proper grading system and database exists, and that the certification of coaches is well managed;
- promote increased international exposure of Gambian coaches to international coaching practices;
- promote adequate training and qualification opportunities for sports managers as well as sports administrators in support of coaches and athletes;
- encourage a supportive and safe environment as well as increased opportunities for the personal development of volunteers that fulfil these roles.

3.7 Officials and Sports Specialists

To ensure a healthy and well-governed sporting system, it is essential that qualified and respected officials are developed and supported as part of the vital ingredients to ensure a winning nation. The NSC and NSAs have a special responsibility to ensure the integrity of their sporting practices by ensuring the well-being of officials.

International competition has become fierce and the use of specialists in sport to ensure that expert support is available to top athletes has become a vital requirement for a winning nation.

Policy objective: to ensure that officials in sport are well qualified and experienced and that adequate specialists are trained and made available to support athletes and sports participants as part of a winning nation.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- encourage the NSC and NSAs to place a high priority on the training and certification of officials;
- collaborate with international federations, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) to improve the standard of officials;
- support the well-being and integrity of officials;
- promote adequate training opportunities for specialists in sport;

- ensure that adequate education and training opportunities exist at tertiary institutions;
- promote specific professions, including sports and exercise science, sports management and administration, and sports psychology, biokinetics and physiotherapy.

3.8 Partnership With Educational Institutions for Research and Training

This policy exercise has shown that education, training and research are vital ingredients if the sports system in The Gambia is to bear fruit. It is important that universities and colleges respond to the priorities as stated above and below. The government of The Gambia supports strong partnerships with educational institutions and urges universities and colleges to develop and offer the necessary qualifications, as identified and supported by the policy. Furthermore, this policy has shown that *it is vital to ensure that adequate research capacity exists* to undertake scientific work in important areas, such as the development of databases and the development of a M&E system for The Gambia.

Policy objective: to encourage strong partnerships between key stakeholders in sport and the tertiary and higher education institutions in The Gambia and to encourage the education system to be responsive to the needs of the sports community.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- encourage tertiary institutions to develop qualifications and different levels of training for the professions identified;
- promote strong partnerships between key stakeholders in sport and tertiary and higher education institutions;
- support research in sport development (high performance as well as SDP);
- support universities in the development of a country profile and the necessary data and information on sport in The Gambia;
- encourage universities to develop a strong sport and recreation culture and active lifestyles on campus, as well as to support sports and development initiatives in their communities.

3.9 Sports Academies, Facilities and Equipment

Separate from the importance of providing sports infrastructure and facilities in The Gambia is the potential value-added of high-quality sports academies. Excellent services for top athletes and well-equipped facilities form part of the vision of this National Sports Policy.

The government of The Gambia supports the development of a sports academy in partnership with the NSC to ensure that centralised, high-level support can be rendered to top athletes. The government also supports the development of high-quality facilities, including the Independence Stadium, to ensure that an enabling environment exists within which a winning nation can thrive.

Policy objective: ensure that sports academies are established to provide centralised, high-level support services to athletes.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- promote the development of a central academy with pooled expertise in order to support high-performance sports;
- promote the central provision of coaching expertise, such as for training and conditioning, in partnership with coaches of the NSAs, sport psychology, biokinetics and physiotherapy;
- support the incremental development of sports academies in the regions;
- provide high-level facilities and equipment to high-performance athletes for the prioritised codes.

3.10 Sporting Integrity and an Anti-doping Environment

The integrity of the Gambian sports community is of vital importance to the well-being of sport in the country. It is for this reason that a values-based approach to sport in the country is supported. Sporting integrity relates to leadership, democratic practices, transparency, accountability and development, as well as ethical practices and human rights.

The government of The Gambia supports sporting integrity and human rights and encourages the sports community to uphold and respect the Constitution.

Policy objective: to promote and support human rights, integrity and ethical conduct in sport.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- promote sporting integrity and democratic practices in all sports organisations;
- promote transparency and accountability by all stakeholders;
- promote drug-free sport and safe environments, especially for the youth;
- ensure ethical conduct in all sports activities, including the confirmation of the age of participants in sports competitions;
- encourage values-based education and fair play on and off the field;
- discourage and address match-fixing, corruption and age-cheating in sport.

3.11 International Sports Organisations

It is important that the sports community in The Gambia continues to actively develop relationships with international organisations, not only to ensure that policy requirements are met but also to embrace new developments and to harness a supporting environment. It is essential that NSAs maintain active membership and an active, supportive and competitive profile with respect to international sports federations. It is also important to embrace Gambian relationships with all multilateral institutions, such as the various UN agencies, the IOC and the IPC, as well as the Commonwealth and various other organisations.

Policy objective: to support and enable a cooperative and engaging relationship with international sports organisations.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- promote the development of strong relationships in the global sporting world to ensure competitiveness and informed decision-making;
- respond to international protocols and policies as a sporting nation;
- promote the relationships between NSAs and international sports federations;
- promote Olympism and the Olympic movement;
- promote relationships with international NGOs to create a supportive environment for sport and development.

3.12 Conclusion

A winning and innovative nation can be achieved by ensuring that a clear vision exists and that a set of relevant and dynamic policy objectives be set to ensure success. The following chapter addresses important aspects of an enabling environment.

4. A Supportive and Enabling Environment

4.1 Introduction

To be successful as an active and winning nation, it is important to ensure that a supportive and enabling environment is provided. It is clear from The Gambia National Sports Policy in Chapters 2 and 3 that a wide range of supportive and enabling dimensions exist. These include the policy, statutory and governance arrangements, the support by sports associations and federations and an enabling environment as far as education, training, employment and other aspects are concerned.

This chapter specifically addresses funding and facilities as two vital priorities to ensure a supportive and enabling environment.

Funding

A sustainable public–private financial system is a key requirement for a healthy sports system in The Gambia. Adequate finance has been a key challenge in the past, and The Gambia National Sports Policy has identified this as an important priority for the next period. It is essential that the sports community develops a comprehensive and dynamic funding system to ensure that all available and additional resources are mobilised in support of an active and winning nation.

In this process, it is essential that public finance allocations to sport by the Government are adequate, and that youth and sport are prioritised in future budgets. Stakeholders in sport in The Gambia have asked for an increase in public sector funding for sport and recreation. It is proposed that the existing sources of funding as well as potential new funding for sport be increased, including through sports levies.

An important development in the new policy is the strong role that is foreseen for the private sector, PPPs and other ventures that are strongly supported. Part of this approach is to ensure that businesses can contribute to social responsibility programmes in sport and that incentives be provided for such activities, as is the general practice internationally. The sports community also needs to focus on available sponsorship and grant funding as well as on new, alternative funding sources for sports development.

4.2 Public Financing of Sport

The government of The Gambia has been the major funder of sport initiatives in The Gambia and will continue to allocate public funding to sport as per the formal budgetary process in government. MoYS undertakes to continue to lobby for an increase in public funding, including that based on the economic contributions of sport, as has been recognised internationally.

The government of The Gambia will also undertake a review of the present Youth and Sport Levy system, with the purpose of increasing the base of such funding (see below). MoYS will also promote incentives regarding the tax revenue system in support of private sector involvement in sport.

The assessment of the previous policy has shown that it is important that local government in all regions take responsibility for the development of local sport infrastructure and facilities, based on the needs of local communities, as stated in the Constitution. It is imperative that municipalities provide such infrastructure, so that funding from other levels of government can be used for the intended purpose. The government of The Gambia is committed to continued support for local government and municipalities to play their rightful role in providing sports facilities.

Policy objective: to ensure that adequate public sector funding is secured to provide a supportive and enabling environment for sport.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- ensure adequate public sector annual budgeting approvals and financial allocations to support the sports system in The Gambia;
- support the NSC and associated NSAs with annual grant funding as well as the mobilisation of additional funding;
- support the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA) to provide regulations and technical support with the design and implementation of PPPs and to promote investment in sport;
- promote incentives for business, including tax revenue concessions for corporate social responsibility programmes;
- support The Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA) by providing technical support for a revision of tax concessions for social responsibility programmes related to sport;
- increase the incentive scheme to include additional companies and improve the transparency of levy allocations;
- support MoFEA to provide technical support, with the review of the incentive scheme to include additional companies and improve the transparency of levy allocations;
- ensure that local government in all regions take responsibility for the development of local sport infrastructure and facilities, based on the needs of local communities;
- improve the NGO stakeholder base, both locally and internationally, to source additional sources of international funding;
- support the GNOC in their applications to Olympic Solidarity and the IPC for grant funding of high-performance athletes;
- encourage stakeholders in the diaspora for sponsorship and investment in sport;
- explore new sources of funding in The Gambia such as Lottery allocations for sport and other sources.

4.3 Sponsorship and Grant Funding

In addition to public sector funding that forms the basis for a healthy financial system for sport in the country, and in addition to the leverage that is possible through dynamic PPPs, it is important to attain a specific focus on sponsorships and grant funding.

Policy objective: to support and enable substantial corporate sponsorships as well as grant funding for sport.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- encourage all stakeholders in sport to work collectively towards an attractive sports environment where corporate sponsorships can be encouraged to increase funding for sporting organisations;
- encourage excellence in marketing and media engagements to bolster corporate sponsorships;
- promote the development of marketing strategies by the NSC and NSAs;
- secure grant funding from multilateral agencies (such as the IOC/OS, IPC, Commonwealth and UN) for specific sporting purposes;
- secure grant funding from international NGOs (such as International Association for International Sport for All (TAFISA), Laureus Sport for Good and Grassroots Soccer);
- engage and interact with all grant-funding agencies as well as development banks;
- partner with the private sector to adopt a strategic approach to building the financial resource base for sport in The Gambia.

4.4 Renewed Partnership with the Private Sector

As is clear from the policy statements thus far, one of the major thrusts of the new National Sports Policy is a renewed partnership with the private sector. The sport community has clearly expressed the need for such involvement, and businesses have expressed their desire to be part of the sport system.

Policy objective: to support and enable a renewed partnership with the private sector to develop cooperation and an enabling environment for sport in the country.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- encourage and support PPPs to enable a far more substantive funding base for sport in the country;
- encourage PPPs to harness the technical expertise and financial management skills available in the private sector and development banks;
- enable formal PPPs, with the assistance of MoFEA, to provide medium- and long-term agreements that provides the necessary financial security for the private sector to make significant investments;
- promote clarity about the roles and responsibilities of partners in PPPs;
- explore the possibilities of PPCPs to enhance sport and development at community level;
- support MoFEA to provide technical support with the establishment of PPPs and PPCPs.

4.5 The Recognition of Social Responsibility Programmes

International experience shows that corporate social responsibility programmes play an important part in providing material support and funding for sport by the private sector. Much potential exists to increase this type of support dramatically by providing an enabling environment for business to offer such programmes in The Gambia.

The policy review has shown that, whereas it is common in international practices to provide incentives to companies to offer social responsibility programmes (such as by granting tax concessions to companies offering these programmes), The Gambian system does not allow for this incentive. The National Sports Policy urges MoFEA and the GRA to review this policy and to empower the private sector to play their role in this respect.

Policy objective: to acknowledge the important role that corporate social responsibility programmes play in sport and to increase this effort drastically by providing incentives for this purpose.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- recognise the importance of corporate social responsibility programmes and to institutionalise these investments in the sports system;
- encourage and promote good relationships between sports stakeholders and companies involved in such programmes;
- promote agreed-upon, high-quality corporate social responsibility programmes;
- support the GRA in offering tax revenue concessions for running successful corporate social responsibility programmes.

4.6 Additional and New Sources of Funding

In addition to the public-private sources discussed above, it is essential that additional and new sources of funding be identified and secured. The Gambia National Sports Policy encourages all stakeholders to adopt a dynamic and innovative approach to identifying additional sources of funding. Related sectors

such as ICT, transport, tourism, marketing and media, as well as manufacturing, have much potential for the future. Additional new sources of funding, such as sport allocations from the National Lottery, should be investigated.

Policy objective: to encourage all stakeholders to identify new and additional sources of funding.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- encourage all stakeholders to adopt a dynamic and innovative approach to identifying additional sources of funding;
- encourage stakeholders to explore the potential of additional sources of funding in related sectors to develop the interface between sport and recreation and sectors such as ICT, transport, tourism, marketing and media, as well as manufacturing;
- identify and secure specific new source of funding such as Lottery allocations.

Facilities

Adequate infrastructure and sports facilities have been identified as a major priority for the future. The Gambia National Sports Policy has identified this area as a key requirement in providing an enabling environment for sport to flourish and for the realisation of an active and winning nation.

The government of The Gambia is committed to developing adequate infrastructure and facilities and is calling on all partners to assist in this respect. It is essential that partners agree on the short-term, medium-term and long-term planning of facilities. It is the vision of MoYS that in the first 2–3 years of this policy cycle, the government will minimise the expenditure on international sport events and utilise some of those funds in developing the infrastructure of sports in The Gambia.

As discussed above, two key factors exist, namely a renewed partnership with the private sector and support for local government, such that the latter is able to play its rightful role in responding to local sports communities and their quest for local facilities.

The following policy statements address facilities at all levels, namely the National Independence Stadium, regional facilities and local facilities, as well as school facilities and specialised services, such as those provided by the Ministry of Health.

4.7 National Facilities: The Independence Stadium

The government of The Gambia regards the upgrading and maintenance of the Independence Stadium as a major priority. The stadium is the pride of the Gambian people and the main venue for international competition.

Policy objective: to ensure that the Independence Stadium is upgraded, such that it is an impressive, well-maintained facility that Gambians can be proud of.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- ensure that the upgrading and renovation of the Independence Stadium is of a high quality and that it meets international norms and standards;
- ensure that a long-term maintenance plan and agreement is in place to sustain this important facility, which is of national and strategic importance;
- involve the private sector in the operating and maintenance of the stadium;
- promote the effective multipurpose usage of the stadium.

- ensure accessibility to the stadium by the Gambian sports community;
- embrace the Independence Stadium as a symbol of pride for the Gambian people regarding their sports legacy and heritage.

4.8 Sports and Recreation Facilities in the Regions

The development of adequate sports facilities in all seven of the Gambian regions have been identified as a high priority. The government of The Gambia is committed to providing sports facilities in all regions.

Policy objective: to ensure that adequate sports facilities are developed in each of the regions that can foster sports participation and excellence.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- encourage local government to develop local facilities in all the regions at municipal level based on the needs of local residents;
- ensure that a regional sports facility is developed in each region and that a PPP and PPCP approach be used for this purpose;
- promote the role of the private sector in providing, maintaining and, where appropriate, operating sports facilities in the regions;
- encourage regional cooperation and coordination by all stakeholders in the establishment of regional facilities.

4.9 Sports Facilities in Schools

All stakeholders in the Gambian sports community have confirmed their understanding that sport in schools is regarded as the bedrock and foundation for sport in The Gambia. Chapter 2 emphasised this aspect, as well as the importance of PE as a school subject and the offering of school sports in schools.

The government of The Gambia is committed to supporting all schools to acquire adequate sports facilities for PE and school sports.

Policy objective: to ensure that adequate sports facilities are established at all schools.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- encourage MoYS and the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education to continue their partnership and the development and implementation of a school sports facilities plan to ensure that adequate sports facilities are developed at all schools;
- determine a specific infrastructure plan to ensure the proper planning, funding, implementation and maintenance for school sports facilities;
- ensure that sports facilities at schools serve both boys and girls on an equal basis;
- ensure that adequate facilities are developed for learners with a disability;
- ensure that school sports facilities are available and accessible after school hours for school sports.

4.10 Health Facilities Support: The Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital

The government of The Gambia recognises the important role that the Ministry of Health plays in providing health and safety support to the sports community. The government of The Gambia is committed to excellent health and support services, such as the testing and treatment of athletes.

Policy objective: to acknowledge and support the important role that health services are playing in the sports community.

The objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy are to:

- acknowledge the important role of the Ministry of Health by providing health services to the sports community in the country;
- support all health services by promoting an increase in activities among the population to increase the health benefits of sport and exercise;
- promote and support the health services offered by the EFSTH.

4.11 Conclusion

The above policy statements show that the development of an enabling environment is vital in achieving an active, caring, winning and innovative nation. The following chapter addresses Gambian priorities with respect to the SDGs.

5. Sustainable Development

5.1 Sport, Development and Peace and the Sustainable Development Goals

The Gambia National Sports Policy stands in support and is aligned with the SDGs of the UN as well as the AU Agenda 2063. The previous three chapters of this policy should also be seen as a response to the SDGs and the AU Agenda, and this chapter provides specific policy objectives in this respect.

It is the objective of The Gambia National Sports Policy to promote the contribution of sport, exercise and recreation to the SDGs and to shape the Africa we want through the AU Agenda 2063.

The Commonwealth Secretariat (Com Sec) Sport and SDG Toolkit 2020 noted that the potential for sports-based approaches to contribute to wide-ranging development outcomes has been acknowledged across international policy declarations, most significantly in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This recognises sport as an important enabler to achieving the SDGs and the AU Agenda.

The Gambia National Sports Policy supports the notion that for sport, PE and physical activity to maximise their contribution to the achievement of the SDGs, a broad range of stakeholders needs to be mobilised, and sports policy must be integrated within the SDG implementation mechanisms. The development of improved systems for measuring the contribution of sport, PE and physical activity to sustainable development is an essential, foundational step towards realising the full potential of the sector for development and peace.

The Government of The Gambia recognises the need for M&E of sports policy and the intent to measure the implementation of its policy. This chapter therefore also relates to Chapter 7 on the M&E system of The Gambia and provides the SDG indicators in this respect.

5.2 Sport and Health

The Gambia National Sports Policy Objective in Section 2.5 has been stated as: **To promote increased physical and mental health.**

The aim of SDG 3 is to: **Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.**

The Kazan Action Plan Policy Area II.1 Objective is to: **Improve health and well-being at all ages.**

Commonwealth Secretariat (2020) noted that: Participating in PE and sport can motivate people to be more active, contributing to the reduction of 'premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and associated health care costs'. Evidence shows that participating in sport, PE and physical activity, including traditional sports and games, is associated with improved psychological and social health, as well as the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

Regular participation supports the healthy development of children and adolescents, including their cognitive and psychosocial development. This supports efforts to address communicable diseases and improve access to healthcare services.

5.3 Sport, Education and Lifelong Learning

The Gambia National Sports Policy Objective in Section 2.9 has been stated as: **To promote and establish QPE at all schools and to facilitate a high standard of school sports for all.**

The aim of SDG 4 is to: **Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning.**

The Kazan Action Plan Policy Area I.3 is to: **Foster QPE and active schools.**

Active schools, in which physical activity is placed at the heart of the school, support the establishment of healthy lifestyles, behaviour and learning. QPE supports the building of physical skills and fitness, life skills, cognitive, social and emotional skills, and values and attitudes which frame socially responsible citizens. This is most attainable when it is fully resourced, respected and valued for its holistic merits.

5.4 Women and Girls

The Gambia National Sports Policy Objective in Section 2.8 has been stated as: **To promote gender equality and to prioritise women and girls in sport.**

The aim of SDG 5 is to: **Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.**

The Kazan Action Plan Policy Area I.5: **enforce gender equality/empower girls and women** – has been guiding the policy in this regard.

Commonwealth Secretariat (2020) noted that sport, PE and physical activity offer compelling levers for promoting gender equality and empowerment, and for challenging structural injustices that limit the life chances not only of girls and women but also of other gender groups. The various levels at which girls and women can engage in these activities include participation, coaching, teaching, management and leadership.

Sport, PE and physical activity reflect societal gender norms. Women are less likely to participate in physical activity than men and are significantly under-represented in leadership roles across sport. Proactive investment, policies and strategies can help address inequalities in sport participation and evidence suggests that the strong and active participation of women in decision-making processes has a potent impact on societal development. In many communities, targeted sport-based programmes, especially at grassroots levels, as well as sport values education, have made important contributions to the empowerment of women, girls and other vulnerable groups.

The Government of The Gambia promotes equality and social inclusion and recognises the important role of women and girls in sport and recreation in the country and is dedicated to addressing equity and equality in this domain.

5.5 Sport and Social Cohesion

The Government of The Gambia promotes sport and exercise as an inclusive environment in which people of all backgrounds and abilities can participate in and access a range of social and health benefits as part of the sport community.

Gambia Policy objective: **To embrace social inclusion and social cohesion to achieve harmony and well-being in our communities.**

SDG 10 aims to: **Reduce inequalities within and among countries.**

The related Kazan Action Plan Policy Area II.4 is to: **Build peaceful, inclusive and equitable societies.**

Well-designed programmes that include people irrespective of ability, impairment, ethnicity, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status challenge social divides and can make a valuable contribution to social inclusion and empowerment. Initiatives can

be used to build relationships, encourage positive interaction and foster respect between groups affected by conflict and marginalisation, perhaps involving dedicated support structures and programmes. All approaches are likely to be most sustainable when they are integrated within wider peace-building, reduction in criminal activities, violence and social inclusion processes.

5.6 Economic Development and Employment

The Government of The Gambia embraces sport as an economic activity and is committed to a renewed partnership with the private sector.

The Gambia National Sports Policy Objective in Section 2.12 has been stated as: **To promote sport and economic development and to ensure viable partnerships with the private sector and business in sport.**

The SDG 8 aims at: **Promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.**

The Kazan Action Plan Policy Area II.5 is to: **Provide economic growth and full and productive employment and work for all.**

Commonwealth Secretariat (2020) noted that the contribution of sport, PE and physical activity to economic growth, increased productivity and employment can be observed in different contexts. Maximising the potential of sport-related, event-based and active leisure tourism, in particular, can support these efforts. The attractiveness of sport to young people makes it a valuable setting for initiatives aimed at delivering employability outcomes, including entrepreneurial training. In addition, volunteers make a substantial contribution. Further economic benefits can be derived from deliberate policies aimed at scaling the voluntary contributions of officers, coaches, parents and other groups who deliver health and social benefits through supporting cost-effective physical activity and sport programmes.

5.7 Sport and the Environment

The government of The Gambia is committed to ensuring that the sports community promotes a healthy natural environment and contributes to the sustainable development of the country. The Gambia National Sports Policy promotes good practices with respect to all sport activities, events and sports facilities. Sport provides the opportunity to offer environmental awareness campaigns to the youth but also the society as a whole.

The Gambia Sports Policy Objective (2.14) is: **To support sustainable development practices with respect to sport and the environment.**

It is aligned with SDGs 12 and 13: **Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns and take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.**

The related Kazan Action Plan Policy Area II.7 is to: **Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns and take urgent action against climate change and its impacts.**

Sports events and large-scale physical activity programmes can be used to stimulate social and environmental change. They can, under certain circumstances, generate opportunities to refresh dated infrastructure, improve public transport and review development policy. Organising committees and host cities can use sporting events as part of an overarching strategy to create legacies through infrastructure improvements, sustainable tourism and behavioural change campaigns, and by strengthening their scientific

and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production. Awareness-raising and educational programmes can influence attitudes, shifting consumer behaviour and the use of natural resources.

5.8 Institutional Development, Partnerships and Networks

The government of The Gambia encourages all stakeholders in sport to ensure good governance and that the national sports system provides efficient support to sports participants and ensures good governance (implementation as well as evaluation). Given the high levels of international competition and technical advancements, the government of The Gambia encourages all stakeholders to be innovative, creative and dynamic in their efforts to build the national sports system. The roles and responsibilities of the government, the NSC, the GNOC and all other stakeholders in sport relate directly to an efficient and supportive sports system and are addressed in Chapter 6.

The Gambia Sports Policy Objective (3.2) is: **To ensure that good governance and an efficient and supportive national sports system is developed in order to be successful as a winning and innovative nation.**

It is aligned with the following SDGs.

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

SDG 17: **Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.**

Related Kazan Action Plan Policy Area II.8: **Build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.**

Related Kazan Action Plan Policy Area I.2: **Establish multistakeholder partnerships.**

The transparency and governance of sporting organisations should be considered when measuring the effectiveness, accountability, gender balance and participatory decision-making of public institutions. Equally, reducing the instances of corruption and bribery within sport, whether through the manipulation of sporting competition or the awarding of sports events or tenders, will contribute to broader transparency outcomes and a reduction in the flow of illegal finance.

The considerable diversity of the forms and contexts of sport, PE and physical activity suggest that a great deal of their relevance to civil society lies in their variety and adaptability. To fully realise their potential, cooperation is needed across public policy sectors, such as health, education, city development, infrastructure and transport, as well as with private stakeholders, to develop and implement legislation, regulations and national plans of action.

5.9 Conclusion

The policy objectives of The Gambia National Sports Policy relate directly to the UN SDGs, the policy objectives of the Kazan Action Plan and the AU Agenda 2063.

6. Implementation Guidelines: Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 Introduction

The implementation of The Gambian National Sports Policy is the joint responsibility of the Gambian government, civil society, training and educational institutions and the private sector in The Gambia. The implementation of the policy also seeks the support and assistance of a wide range of international organisations.

6.2 Planning by the Key Stakeholders in Sport

The implementation of the policy is dependent on the further planning of the various policy areas as identified by the key stakeholders. The Strategic Plan of MoYS and the Strategic Plans of the Ministries of Health – as well as basic and secondary education, local government plans, the strategic and business planning of the NSC, the GNOC and all sport associations, federations and sport organisations – are essential prerequisites for the successful implementation of the policy.

Furthermore, as discussed in Chapter 7, the M&E of The Gambia National Sports Policy is a key priority in order to ensure successful implementation.

6.3 Roles and Responsibilities of the Key Stakeholders

Essentially, clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in implementing the policy is essential to ensure good cooperation and coordination. As discussed above, integrated planning and coordinating arrangements are key requirements.

The role of the government is the development of policy, regulation and oversight as well as the public funding and technical assistance for prioritised sport activities. The government is the overall custodian of sport and supports a healthy sports system through cooperative partnerships with the other stakeholders in sport. Civil society organisations, the NSC, the NSAs and federations, as well as all sport organisations and clubs, are responsible for the efficient governance and management of sport within their domain. The GNOC is responsible for the governance of Olympic sports and training colleges and universities are responsible for education, training and research support to the sports community. The private sector is responsible for their own business and private sector interests as well as for social responsibility and social investment in sport.

6.4 The Ministry of Youth and Sports

MoYS is the custodian of the National Sports Policy and is responsible for the overall leadership in its implementation. In this process, MoYS is responsible for ensuring cooperation with stakeholders as well as the coordination of implementation of the policy. MoYS regards further planning regarding its implementation as an important priority and will liaise with all stakeholders on a regular basis to ensure preparations are integrated. MoYS also accepts responsibility for the M&E of the implementation of The Gambia National Sports Policy, together with the NSC, which is responsible for the monitoring of sports associations and the sports community under their jurisdiction.

The specific responsibilities of the MoYS are to:

- consult on, and approve, policy and legislation to govern, steer and manage youth and sports in The Gambia;
- cooperate with and promote partnerships and good intergovernmental relations with all other ministries and government entities on sporting matters;
- consult with all stakeholders in sport in The Gambia on policy and implementation;
- conduct oversight of the implementation of The Gambia National Sports Policy and to establish an M&E system for this purpose;
- ensure that the Strategic Plan of MoYS is regularly updated to aid implementation;
- provide guidance and support to all stakeholders to develop good quality planning that provides guidance in the implementation of the policy;
- provide guidance on the implementation of the policy to all stakeholders, including the participants in different sporting activities;
- encourage and promote the participation of all people in sports disciplines of their choice;
- cooperate with and involve the private sector in investments regarding sport and PPPs;
- support the Gambian NSC in meeting their mandate and responsibilities.

6.5 The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education

The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education is regarded as a key partner in the implementation of the National Sports Plan, as PE and school sports are regarded as the bedrock of sport in The Gambia.

The specific responsibilities of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education are to:

- provide an adequate education policy to ensure that PE as a school subject meets the international norms and standards for QPE;
- coordinate school sports development initiatives in partnership with MoYS and other stakeholders, including the NSC, the GNOC and sports associations;
- ensure that adequate sports facilities are provided for PE and school sports and that basic sports materials and equipment are available in schools;
- ensure the appointment of adequate numbers of male and female PE teachers at all schools;
- partner with tertiary and higher education institutions, including colleges and universities, to ensure that adequate training and education opportunities exist, such that QPE can be provided.

6.6 The Ministry of Health

As stated in the National Sports Policy, the Ministry of Health is an important partner in ensuring the good physical and mental health of the sports community as well as supporting and assisting with the safeguarding of sport participants. The ministry also plays an important role in providing technical and scientific support to sport.

The specific responsibilities of the Ministry of Health are to:

- provide support and services in maintaining the safety and health of sports participants;
- promote increased physical activity and physical and mental well-being of all categories of Gambian society;
- provide guidelines to promote healthy lifestyles among athletes and their coaches;
- assist in establishing health-monitoring systems for athletes to avoid potential health threats to them and their technical teams;
- carry out continuous training on basic health practices to sportsmen and women;
- work with MoYS, the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education and sports bodies to integrate health education with sports.

6.7 The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

MoFEA plays an important role in the facilitation of the annual planning, programming and budgeting process of public finance in support of sport. The ministry also manages the Youth and Sports Levy as well as having certain responsibilities with respect to Revenue Services.

The specific responsibilities of the Ministry of Local Government Land and Regional Governments are to:

- support MoYS with the annual planning, programming and budgeting process of the Sport and Youth budget;
- assist with the mobilisation of additional funding for sporting purposes;
- provide oversight with respect to the efficiency of the expenditure of the budget and to provide advice on financial matters.

6.8 Ministry of Local Government, Land and Regional Governments

The Ministry of Local Government, Land and Regional Governments plays an important role in responding to the needs of local communities. The ministry and local governments are committed to the provision of infrastructure, including sports facilities, as may be needed by local communities and civil society organisations.

The specific responsibilities of the Ministry of Local Government, Land and Regional Governments are to:

- ensure that sports facilities are included in local government planning in all local areas;
- support initiatives aimed at establishing regional sports facilities;
- provide leadership for the process of ensuring that development of basic infrastructure facilities for sports are integrated into the activities of MoYS for the regions;
- consult with sports organisations to ensure that appropriate sports facilities are established and maintained.

6.9 The Gambia Bureau of Statistics

The Gambia Bureau of Statistics is the central authority for statistics in the country and is responsible for major statistical activities such as the population and housing census, some household surveys, the national accounts, merchandise trade and price statistics. The National Sports Policy process has shown that the bureau has an important role to play with respect to the measurement and establishment of important data categories for sport, including economic growth, employment, social development, health and education, as well as environmental statistics related to sport.

The specific responsibilities of The Gambia Bureau of Statistics are to:

- support the Gambian Government to develop a sound statistical database to measure changes in sport and development in The Gambia;
- support MoYS and the NSC with the collection of selected data for sport purposes;
- advise the sports community on statistical recording and measurement methodologies and practices.

6.10 The National Sports Council

The NSC is a key stakeholder in sport in The Gambia and provides the overall leadership and support to all registered sports associations and federations that make up its membership. The NSC is also responsible for the governance of NSAs. The roles and responsibilities of the NSC, as well as other related regulations, are provided in The Gambia Sports Act of 2024.

The specific responsibilities of the NSC are to:

- advise the secretary of state on matters relating to sports;
- act as the main promotional and coordinating agency for sports in the country;
- strengthen the cohesion among the various structures of Gambian sports associations and other sporting organisations;
- act as the approving authority for the registration of sports associations;
- assist in the coordination and M&E of the implementation and impacts of the programmes within the policy framework;
- develop, promote and coordinate all forms of amateur and professional sport at the national and international levels;
- promote the diversification of all sports to all parts and at all levels in the country;
- ensure that national sports associations at all levels conform to national and international rules, regulations, norms and standards and codes of conduct regulating the particular type of sport;
- encourage the development, provision and maintenance of sports facilities for all concerned and ensure their equitable distribution and proper use;
- assist national sports associations in the recruitment of proper coaches, instructors and other technical assistants in building capacity and enhancing the performance of sports;
- offer assistance to migrant Gambian sportspersons in their sporting engagements in foreign countries;
- raise and maintain a fund from such sources and by such means as the Honourable Minister may approve to enable the Council to carry out its functions and achieve its goals;
- administer all Africa Games and all other sporting programmes organised by the supreme council for sports in Africa or other organised bodies;
- administer and manage the Sports Development Fund.

6.11 The Gambia National Olympic Committee

The role of the GNOC is to ensure the representation of The Gambia at the Olympic Games by sending competitors and officials as well as promoting the fundamental principles and values of Olympism in the country, in particular in the fields of sport and education.

The specific responsibilities of the GNOC are to:

- promote participation in the games of the Olympiad by sending athletes, and it shall for this purpose, constitute, organise and lead the national delegation at the Olympic Games and at the regional, continental or world multisports competitions patronised by the IOC;
- promote sport and development and acknowledge that the overall mandate of the GNOC is beyond the Olympic Games and includes total responsibility for the development of sports at the grassroots level, extending to the development of international athletes;
- support all recognised Olympic Games and sports bodies in planning, capacity building, M&E of their activities;
- work with MoYS in planning and implementing the capacity-building programmes of the different sports bodies to ensure the growth and development of sports at all levels and ultimately to produce international athletes;
- support the fundraising efforts of the sports development activities and engage with Olympic Solidarity to access available funding;
- develop a database of athletes and coaches for Olympic Sports in The Gambia;
- promote Olympic Education as well as Olympic Values Education at schools and beyond;
- monitor global developments and best practices to enhance and support the development of sport, the promotion of sport for all and mass sport in The Gambia;
- proactively represent The Gambia as the GNOC to seek cooperation, assistance and support for the development of sport in The Gambia.

6.12 The Private Sector

The role of the private sector has been identified as a major priority in the The Gambia National Sports Policy. The GCCI has played an important role in identifying various areas of priority engagement. The Government of The Gambia supports the involvement of the private sector and supports partnerships to improve sport and development.

The specific responsibilities of the private sector are to:

- engage in commercial activity and ensure that sport is a vibrant and lucrative economic interest in The Gambia;
- engage in PPPs with the Government in The Gambia and to pursue the development of sports facilities and sport initiatives in partnership with the Government;
- promote social corporate responsibility programmes and promote sport and development;
- provide technical expertise and funding to the sporting community where possible;
- assist with dual career development and the improvement of the employability of the youth;
- provide funding for sports development, including participation in the development of new sporting events and competitions at different levels.

6.13 Civil Society Organisations

Civil society organisations (CSOs), including sports clubs and sports federations, are the building blocks of sport in any country. It is through civil society mobilisation and organisation that organised sport is founded. Ultimately, the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) represents sports associations in The Gambia and is an important player in assisting and supporting the sports community at large.

CSOs involved in sport primarily support sports bodies such as clubs, associations and federations but also other organisations such as education, health and faith-based institutions that are involved in sport.

Civil society may also mobilise and provide services in the sporting field through NGOs and non-profit organisations (NPOs) that qualify for international funding. The National Sports Policy has identified support to sports NGOs as a priority.

The specific responsibilities of civil society are to:

- mobilise and organise communities to develop and practise all forms of sport, recreation and exercise, including beyond formal organisations;
- support the National Sports Policy and participate in its implementation;
- represent civil society in the sports domain by establishing sports clubs, sports associations and sports federations to promote sport;
- promote the right of all people to practise any sport freely, safely and within the laws of the country.
- establish NGOs and NPOs to promote SDP;
- cooperate with international NGOs to increase funding and technical assistance;
- promote indigenous games and traditional sports as well as arts, culture and heritage;
- promote a constructive relationship between government and civil society.

6.14 Tertiary and Higher Education Institutions: Universities, Colleges and Technical and Vocational Educational Training

The assessment of the current reality in The Gambia has shown that the role of universities and colleges in providing relevant training and education to professionals in various professions related to sport is of critical importance. Furthermore, The Gambia National Sports Policy has also identified future research as a high

priority, and universities are encouraged to undertake relevant research activities, including internationally. The country lacks sufficient capacity to provide adequate training and career development, and this shortcoming has been identified as a major priority for the future. The specific responsibilities of universities and colleges civil society are to:

- conduct proper training needs assessment exercises to ensure that appropriate and relevant courses and qualifications are developed;
- ensure that curricula and registered qualifications in priority fields, as identified by this policy, are developed and promoted;
- promote sport science, sport management, sport psychology, biokinetics, physiotherapy, coaching and other sporting disciplines at universities and colleges;
- establish relevant and well-funded research programmes for high-performance sport as well as sport and development;
- assist with the development of a scientific database for sport and development in The Gambia;
- cooperate with international initiatives aimed at improving data and information on sport in The Gambia;
- promote education and research in sport.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

7.1 Introduction and Purpose of Monitoring and Evaluation

The establishment of an M&E strategy and system for The Gambia National Sports Policy has been part of the design of the new policy. The purpose of an M&E system is to ensure not only that the implementation is monitored but also that the longer-term results and impacts of the new policy can be monitored and evaluated. As such, this chapter provides an overview of the National Sports Policy M&E strategy as well as policy statements on the future review of this policy.

The purpose of the M&E strategy is to provide guidelines to the government and the NSC as to their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Strategy and System. The aim of the M&E strategy is to successfully institutionalise MEL as a results-based approach in MoYS and the NSC.

The establishment of the Gambian Sport M&E System will also improve the existing reporting system and provide efficient, results-based monitoring and evaluation of the National Sports Policy to ensure effective communication, clarification and reporting of objectives, decision-making and ongoing adaptation and learning from M&E results.

As the international sports community has progressed significantly with the development of sport and SDG indicators to measure the contribution of sport and exercise to the various SDGs and Kazan Action Plan objectives, specific SDG and AU indicators have therefore been included in the Monitoring Framework. A need therefore also exists to express the contribution of the Gambian sports sector at a global level.

7.2 M&E Strategy and Systems Development

The M&E strategy consists of the institutional arrangements for the function, in particular the role of MoYS and the NPC in managing the M&E system, the Monitoring Framework that provides a set of indicators based on expected results, as well as the M&E process to be followed, which include quarterly and annual reporting, as well as the discussion of results by all stakeholders.

The advantages of an M&E system for The Gambia Sports Policy, include:

- improved performance management and evidence-based information for strategic decisions on policy priorities;
- enhanced reporting on accountability and transparency by MoYS and NSC leadership, strategic partners and membership organisations;
- greater internal integration of the various sports programmes, increased cooperation and coordination, and achieving combined results;
- ability to measure the contribution to the AU Agenda 2063, the SDGs and the Gambian National Plan;
- improved policy, strategy, planning, programme and project design and implementation as well as oversight;
- improved learning and capacity building by analysing results and taking action together;
- shared systems development and improved data governance.

The M&E System of MoYS is based on The Gambia National Sports Policy and is based on its policy objectives. The M&E coordinator at MoYS is responsible for the regular review and update of the Monitoring Framework as well as to collect information and data from the different data custodians on an annual basis.

The data custodians responsible for data capture, include:

- MoYS
- the NSC
- the GNOC
- the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
- the Ministry of Higher Education, Research Science and Technology
- the Ministry of Health
- MoFEA
- the Gambia Bureau of Statistics

Following the collection and registration of data from data custodians, the M&E coordinator will populate the Monitoring Framework with the data and develop quarterly M&E reports that will be submitted to MoYS to present the M&E results. An Annual M&E Report will provide a collation of results at the end of the year. The M&E results will be used to inform the annual strategic planning process of MoYS and other ministries.

The NSC M&E coordinator will also utilise The Gambia National Sports Policy M&E Framework to collect information on an annual basis (see Monitoring Framework attached). The NSC is making use of an annual survey to NSAs for this purpose. The NSC will provide annual information on the sport demography and other information on NSAs. M&E results produced by the NSC will also be discussed by all stakeholders to solicit comments on how the Gambian sports system can be improved.

In addition to the quarterly and annual reports, commissioned evaluations of different kinds will be initiated when and where necessary.

7.3 Monitoring Framework and Indicators

The Monitoring Framework for The Gambia National Sports Policy is based on the policy objectives provided and consists of a set of indicators that will be monitored. These indicator sets should be regularly reviewed and updated. The categories of information needed are based on the information needs identified through the evaluation of The Gambia National Sports Policy 2010–2019, as well as by using the Commonwealth Secretariat Sport and SDG Toolkit, Category 1 and 2 indicators, as well as the UNESCO Sport and Development Conceptual Framework. The Commonwealth Secretariat has advised that Tag indicators based on type be developed to distinguish indicators and data being collected to (1) quantify the baseline versus, (2) provide indicators of policy progress or performance versus and (3) provide indicators of policy results/outcomes. A distinction will be made between performance indicators and performance of the policy. The M&E of the policy will focus on how the policy is performing.

The sources for indicators included:

- the Gambia Evaluation Report (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development criteria);
- the Gambia NSC Survey Questionnaire to NSAs (Case for Sport);
- UNESCO Chair for SDP and OE Country Mapping Conceptual Framework;
- Sport and SDG Toolkit v4 (Com Sec);
- Global Sport and SDG Impact Report and Indicators (Com Sec);
- IOC, Olympism 365 Theory of Change Model, December 2023;
- QPE (UNESCO); World Health Organization (WHO): Global Action Plan for Physical Activity (GAPPA) and **Global Physical Activity Questionnaire** surveys for physical activity (Fit for Life);
- Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) index (Corporate Governance).

The categories below will in future be used by responsible ministries, the Statistical Bureau and the NSC as a basis for collecting sports data in The Gambia. The Monitoring Framework includes the following categories.

- Sport demography and high-performance sport.
- Institutional and governance information.
- Community development and youth in sport (sport and development).
- Economic development and finance.
- Social development (human rights, inclusion, cohesion, gender, culture, safeguarding, youth).
- Education: school sports, PE, training and research.
- Health: levels of physical activity and physical and mental well-being.
- Environment: sustainability and climate change.

The Monitoring Framework for the National Sports Policy of The Gambia has been attached as Annex A.

7.4 Evaluation and Future Policy Review

In addition to the monitoring arrangements described previously, the M&E approach that will be followed to ensure the proper M&E of The Gambia National Sports Policy will include periodic evaluation.

The government of The Gambia will:

- undertake a mid-term Review of the Policy after five years, as well as an impact evaluation after ten years of implementation.
- promote and encourage further evaluations on implementation by the different stakeholders to ensure proper operationalisation of the Sports Policy.
- review and update The Gambia National Sports Policy during 2033–2034.

The consultation on the Sports Policy with the outlying regions provided the following important options, to ensure that the sports community learns from an assessment of the M&E results. Mechanisms to facilitate maximum learning based on the M&E activities of this policy shall be instituted to include the following:

- Stakeholders' meetings to review the progress, challenges and issues. Immediate and outstanding issues to be resolved as a means of accelerating the process of development.
- Stakeholder meetings to be held on a quarterly and annual basis for this purpose and resolutions from these meetings to be used as inputs for the development of subsequent annual planning processes.
- Periodic reviews (semi-annual, annual) to be conducted to assess progress and a review of the National Policy after a three-year period to assess the overall progress and effectiveness of its implementation, including transparent communications to all stakeholders in terms of the achievements as well as possible shortfalls.
- As part of measuring the real success of the National Sports Policy and its associated strategies and action plans, there will be a significant need to make information available at the national and subnational level to ensure transparency and continued accountability.
- Periodic surveys to measure the real experience of various stakeholders, that is, private sector participants, funding agencies, sportsmen and women, national stakeholders and the public view. These could take the form of web surveys, SMS surveys sponsored by mobile carriers and sample surveys at major sporting events.

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Annex A. The Gambia Policy Monitoring Framework

Table A1. Category 1: Sport Demography and High-Performance Sport

No.	Information Category/Type	Data Custodian
1.1	Number and names of registered National Sport Associations (NSAs)	National Sports Council (NSC)
1.2	Number of affiliate federations and clubs per NSA	NSC
1.3	Emerging Sport Associations not yet registered	NSC
1.4	Number of registered sport athletes/participants per NSA	NSC
1.5	Number of unregistered sport participants per NSA and other forms of exercise and recreation	NSC
1.6	Number of male/female sport participants/teams	NSC
1.7	Age cohorts for athletes per NSA	NSC
1.8	National Paralympic Committee	NSC
1.9	International athletes further info/sport type and context	NSC
1.10	Number and names of registered NSAs/Olympic Codes	The Gambia National Olympic Committee (GNOC)
1.11	Number of registered athletes and coaches	GNOC
1.12	Number of male/female sport participants/teams	GNOC
1.13	Age cohorts for athletes per NSA/Olympic codes	GNOC
1.14	Number of athletes and disciplines that have qualified for the Olympics and paralympics (IPs)	GNOC
1.15	Number of professional athletes abroad (international) per NSA/Olympic Code	GNOC
1.16	International athletes further info/sport type and context	GNOC

Table A2. Category 2: Institutional and Governance Information

No.	Information Category/Type	Data Custodian
2.1	The status and standing of sport and recreation policy and legislation in the country	Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS)
2.2	Constitution, Sport Policies and Laws, National Development Agency (NDA), Five-Year MoYS Plan	MoYS
2.3	Corporate Governance Indicators (ASOIF). Information for National Sport Associations (NSAs): • basic compliance of NSAs • transparency • integrity • democracy • solidarity and development • internal controls	NSC
2.4	SDG 17: Domain – Governance and Partnerships Category 1 indicators: Indicator 10: percentage of the population satisfied with the governance of sport Category 2 indicators: 17.5: number of sport, PE and physical activity questions in national census and household expenditure surveys 17.8: number of formally registered NGOs providing services related to sport, PE and physical activity (including SDP actors) 17.9: number of publications in accredited academic journals containing research related to sport, PE and physical activity generated by the country/sport/sports body	The Gambia Bureau of Statistics University of The Gambia

Table A3. Category 3: Community and Youth Development and Sport

No.	Information Category/Type	Data Custodian
3.1	Demographic and geographic profile of The Gambia Profile of the youth/demographic profile	The Gambia Bureau of Statistics
3.2	Name the specific sport initiatives that targeted the youth	MoYS
3.3	Description of sport initiatives at the community level	MoYS
3.4	NGOs and corporate social responsibility programmes in sport in The Gambia	MoYS
3.5	How many more youth have been productively engaged through sport in 2023 compared to previous years? (O365 indicator)	MoYS
3.6	Has information been provided on the status of social inclusion of the youth and the extent to which youth have enjoyed more equitable access to opportunities in 2023? (O365 indicator)	MoYS
3.7	To what extent do youth benefit from sport? (O365 indicator)	MoYS
3.8	Over the last year, has there been an increase in the number of physically active people and improved levels of physical health outcomes? (O365 indicator)	MoYS
3.9	How many more young people continued in education, started training or found employment as a result of sport? (O365 indicator)	MoYS
3.10	How many more people benefitted from sport initiatives and ultimately improved their lives through sport? (O365 indicator)	MoYS
3.11	How many more communities, families and individuals benefitted from safer, inclusive and more sustainable initiatives in sport? (O365 indicator)	MoYS
3.12	Information on the relationship and linkages between sport and arts and culture in The Gambia	MoYS
3.13	Information on the relationship and linkages between sport and recreation in The Gambia	MoYS
3.14	Information on the relationship and linkages between sport and peace in The Gambia. Have sports activities been linked to peace or a reduction in violence between communities? Does the potential exist to reduce conflict between communities through sport?	MoYS and potentially local organisations working in sport for development and peace

Table A4. Category 4: Economic Development and Finance

No.	Information Category/Type	Data Custodian
4.1	SDG 8: Domain – Economic Development and Employment Category 1 indicators: Indicator 7: percentage of contribution from (1) sports activities and amusement and recreation sector and (2) sport, fitness and active recreation to gross domestic product Indicator 8: percentage of workforce within the sport, fitness and active recreation sector Category 2 indicators: 8.2: percentage of youth (aged 15–35 years) in education, employment or training in sport; note ISCO 08 International standard 8.4 Financial worth of (1) broadcasting and (2) digital rights on sport per annum per sport and per country 8.5 of broadcasting hours allocated to sport	The Gambia Bureau of Statistics
4.2	Number of people employed in the sport sector per International Labour Organization employment categories	The Gambia Bureau of Statistics
4.3	Number of male and female volunteers per job category (NSC survey to NSAs)	NSC
4.4	Number of people employed per NSC job category (The Gambia NSC survey to NSAs)	NSC
4.5	How do sport organisations improve employability?	MoYS
4.6	What skills development has taken place as a result of sport?	MoYS
4.7	How can Gambians access more sustainable livelihoods through sport? (O365)	MoYS
	Infrastructure	
4.8	Indicator 21: percentage of local governments/member organisations with sport and physical activity facility master plans 11.1: percentage of the sport budget allocated to sports infrastructure – (1) development and (2) maintenance 11.2: percentage of land allocated to sport and recreation in proclaimed urban area and per region in The Gambia	Local government
	Funding	
4.9	What amount is available for the funding of sport in The Gambia and from which sources?	MoYS
4.10	How can funding for sport be increased? What are the potential sources of funding for sport in The Gambia?	MoYSTask Force NSC, GCCI
4.11	Kindly provide detailed information on the Sport Levy in The Gambia (profile of companies to whom levy apply, levy amounts and expenditure patterns, future options)	MoYS and MoFEA
	SDG Cat 1	
4.12	Indicator 22: percentage of national public expenditure invested in sport Indicator 23: percentage of the sport budget directly invested in the contribution of sport, PE and physical activity to support sustainable development 17.12: proportion of (1) national sports bodies and (2) major sporting event budgets funded by commercial revenue versus public grants 17.16: ratio of return on public sector investment (total economic benefit divided by public investment) on sport	MoYS and MoFEA

Table A5. Category 5: Social Development

No.	Information Category/Type	Data Custodian
	Sporting Integrity	
5.1	SDG Category 1 Indicators: Indicator 18: percentage of funded national sports bodies (NSC and GNOC)/ member organisations (NSAs) that have adopted formal policies (with procedures) to: (1) protect the rights of athletes, spectators, workers and other groups involved, (2) strengthen measures against the manipulation of sports competitions, and (3) ensure an adequate anti-doping policy framework, its implementation and effective compliance measures, to protect the integrity of sport Indicator 19: number of (1) athletes, (2) coaches/officials and (3) management/ board members in funded national sports bodies/member organisations who were trained in the last year in (a) governance and sporting integrity, (b) safeguarding children, youth and vulnerable groups, (c) prevention of violence against women and girls and (d) promoting sustainable development	NSC
5.2	How does sport impact on social cohesion and social inclusion? (Question to NSAs in NSC survey) Vulnerable categories: • physically challenged • mentally challenged • women and girls • the elderly • disadvantaged youth • refugees	MoYS and NSC
5.3	Please provide a description of the nature and standing of sporting integrity and ethics in sport in The Gambia (NSC survey and ASOIF survey)	MoYS and NSC
	Gender: SDG Cat 1	
5.4	Indicator 9: percentage of the population who volunteer in sport (male/ female) Indicator 15: percentage of (1) presidents, (2) board members and (3) CEO/secretary-general post-holders in national sports bodies/member organisations who are female Indicator 16: percentage of national sports bodies/member organisations that have invested in (1) a gender equality strategy and (2) a strategy for the inclusion of people with a disability in sport 5.5: percentage of total sport articles with gendered content for (1) males and (2) females reported on in printed media 5.6: percentage of sport media coverage (traditional and social media) dedicated to women and girls	NSC
	Equality	
5.5	10.7: percentage of the total (national public funds/organisational) sport budget allocated to disability sport disciplines	MoYS
	10.10: percentage of organisations offering targeted programmes, such as scholarships, aimed at increasing participation from marginalised groups and minorities	
	Safeguarding	
5.6	What policies and practices does your federation have in place to ensure the safeguarding of athletes and other participants? (Question to NSAs in NSC survey)	NSC

(Continued)

Table A5. Category 5: Social Development (Continued)

No.	Information Category/Type	Data Custodian
5.7	Safeguarding SDG Cat 1 Indicator 14: percentage funded national sports bodies/member organisations that have adopted formal policies (with procedures) to (1) safeguard children and (2) prevent violence against women	NSC
5.8	Indicator 20: percentage of funded national sports bodies/member organisations with a nominated focal point to (1) coordinate child safeguarding and protection and (2) prevention of violence against women in girls	NSC
5.9	16.1 NB: proportion of the population that feels safe walking alone around the area they live (United Nations Development Programme 16.1.4), also Global Sport and SDG Impact Report	The Gambia Bureau of Statistics
5.10	How do safety and security issues affect your sport and in turn, how does your sport impact this dimension? (Question to NSAs in NSC survey)	NSC

Table A6. Category 6: Education

No.	Information Category/Type	Data Custodian
	SDG 4: Domain: Active Public School and Educational Environments (and QPE)	
6.1	Category 1 Indicators: Indicator 4: percentage of (1) primary and (2) secondary schools reporting implementation of the minimum number of PE minutes per week (120/180 minutes per week depending on grade) Indicator 12: percentage of schools reporting full/partial implementation of QPE as defined by UNESCO's QPE Policy Guidelines	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
	Indicator 11: percentage of schools reporting PE specialist teachers in (1) primary and (2) secondary schools	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
6.2	Category 2 Indicators: 4.1: percentage of schools where PE is offered as a stand-alone subject 4.2: percentage of schools where sport is offered after school time 4.4: percentage of the national education budget invested in PE 4.5: percentage of schools reporting adequate facilities and equipment to support quality and inclusive PE 4.9: percentage of schools reporting the participation of persons with and without disabilities in the same PE classes 4.10: Percentage of schools that have dedicated strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in PE 4.12 number of higher education institutions offering training courses related to sport, physical education and physical activity	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
	Education, training and research	
6.3	Please provide an overview of all the education, training and capacity-building initiatives that take place per annum in the different sport codes; please also name the training service providers, including those of federations or NGOs (question to NSAs in NSC survey)	NSC MoYS
6.4	Kindly provide a description of the status of higher education and research in sport at the higher education level in The Gambia	University of The Gambia
6.5	Provide a description of training in high-performance sport per category by NSA, international federations or others (e.g. athletes, coaches, officials, managers, administrators)	NSC
	Training	
6.6	SDG 11: Domain – Social Impact, Inclusion and Equality Indicator 19: number of (1) athletes, (2) coaches/officials and (3) management/board members in funded national sports bodies/member organisations who were trained in the last year in (a) governance and sporting integrity, (b) safeguarding children, youth and vulnerable groups, (c) prevention of violence against women and girls and (d) promoting sustainable development	NSC
6.7	Please provide an overview of all capacity-building efforts that contribute to SDP, such as youth at risk programmes and HIV/AIDS awareness projects, linked to sport in The Gambia (question to NSAs in NSC survey)	NSC
6.8	Please provide comments on any involvement of your sport type with traditional games activities (question to NSAs in NSC survey)	NSC
6.9	Has your federation been involved in any cultural or heritage projects or initiatives concerning your sport? Please provide relevant information (question to NSAs in NSC survey)	NSC

Table A7. Category 6: Education – Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education – Private Schools

No.	Information Category/Type	Data Custodian
6.1	SDG 4: Domain – Active School and Educational Environments (and QPE) Category 1 indicators: Indicator 4: percentage of (1) primary and (2) secondary schools reporting implementation of the minimum number of PE minutes per week (120/180 minutes per week depending on grade) Indicator 11: percentage of schools reporting PE specialist teachers in (1) primary and (2) secondary schools Indicator 12: percentage of schools reporting full/partial implementation of QPE as defined by UNESCO's QPE Policy Guidelines	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
6.2	Category 2 Indicators: 4.1: percentage of schools where PE is offered as a stand-alone subject 4.2: percentage of schools where sport is offered after school time 4.4: percentage of the national education budget invested in PE 4.5: percentage of schools reporting adequate facilities and equipment to support quality and inclusive PE 4.9: percentage of schools reporting the participation of persons with and without disabilities in the same PE classes 4.10: Percentage of schools that have dedicated strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in PE. 4.12 number of higher education institutions offering training courses related to sport, PE and physical activity	

Table A8. Category 7: Health

No.	Information Category/Type	Data Custodian
7.1	SDG 3: Domain – Participation in Sport and Physical Activity Category 1 indicators (see WHO) Indicator 1: percentage of the population reporting that participating in sport, fitness and active recreation has a positive impact on themselves, their family or community Indicator 2: percentage of (1) adult and (2) adolescent population sufficiently physically active Indicator 3: percentage of the population who participate once a week in sports and exercise Indicator 5: percentage of females who participate once a week in sports and exercise	Department of Health, Ministry of Health
7.2	Category 2 Indicators: 3.5: percentage of national sports bodies/member organisations using sport to communicate health messaging 3.8: proportion of older people classed as active (WHO definition of adults aged 65 years and above). 3.9: percentage of population who have participated in at least one mass participation sporting event in the last year	The Ministry of Health and NSC
7.3	To what extent does sport contribute to physical and mental well-being in The Gambia?	The Ministry of Health and MoYs
7.4	Is there a need to develop a system that will determine age categories?	The Ministry of Health
7.5	Please indicate the level and extent to which the Ministry of Health provides laboratory testing related to sport	The Ministry of Health

Table A9. Category 8: Environment

No.	Information Category/Type	Data Custodian
8.1	Can you identify and discuss any environmental benefits or environmental costs that the different NSAs are responsible for in The Gambia? (Question to NSAs in NSC survey)	NSC NSAs to be consulted for this information
8.2	Do NSAs offer any sport and environmental initiatives/ advocacy/awareness campaigns?	NSC
8.3	Does your sport comply with sustainability requirements regarding the production or consumption of goods and services? SDG 12 (question to NSAs in NSC survey)	NSC
8.4	Does your sport have a sustainability policy or a climate change strategy? Please comment; SDG 13 (question to NSAs in NSC survey)	NSC
8.5	Is The Gambia a signatory to the World Action Climate Framework?	MoYS
8.6	SDGs 12 and 13: Domains – Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Category 1 Indicators: Indicator 13: annual percentage change in (1) carbon footprint and (2) recycling rate from (a) major sports facilities and (b) major sporting events Indicator 17: percentage of (1) funded national sports bodies/ member organisations, (2) major sports facilities and (3) major events with operational strategies to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, foster climate resilience and lower greenhouse gas emissions Category 2 Indicators: 12.4: number of national sports bodies/member organisations that reference the importance of education for sustainable development (including climate change education) within sports policies and/or programmes 12.5: number of sports-based behaviour change campaigns aiming to strengthen environmental and sustainability aspects 12.8: percentage of national sports federations/member organisation with policies to address climate change and the amount allocated in the annual budget. 13.4: national sports policies include an integrated strategy/ plan to increase the capability of the sector to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate reliance and low greenhouse gas emissions	The Gambia Statistics Bureau MoYS and NSC

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