

2013

POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS



THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA



THE YOUTH REPORT

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Concepts and Definitions

Disability: For the purpose of the census, a person with disability is defined as someone who is limited in the kind or amount of activities that he or she can do because of on-going difficulties due to long-term physical and mental conditions, sensory impairment or health problem.

Economically Active Population: A group of persons who during an established reference period, furnish the supply of labour for the production of goods and economic services or are available to do so and carry out actions to incorporate themselves into said production'

Labour Force: It is a country's working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, by either working or looking for work. It provides an indication of the relative size of the supply of labour available to engage in the production of goods and services.¹

Literacy: Globally, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has defined literacy as the ability to both read and write a simple statement in any language.

Lower Secondary: Refers to Upper Basic School. This is the three-year education cycle immediately after completing primary (Lower Basic) education.

Migration: Is a form of geographic or spatial mobility involving a change of usual residence between clearly defined geographic units. Some changes of residence are temporal and do not involve change of usual residence.

Unemployment Rate: The ratio of the unemployed to the economically active population expressed as a percentage.

Upper Secondary: Referred to as Senior Secondary; it is the three-year education cycle immediately after completing the lower secondary.

Urban: According to the 2013 Population and Housing Census, a settlement is considered urban if it satisfies most of the following:

- Has commercial importance
- Has institutional importance
- Majority of the population should be non-agricultural in occupation
- Population should be 5,000 and above
- Density should be high
- Some degree of infrastructure should be available

¹ ILO 2016. Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM). 8th Edition.

http://www.ilo.org/Search4/search.do?sitelang=en&locale=en_EN&consumercode=ILOHQ_STELLENT_PUBLIC&searchWhat=KILM&searchLanguage=en

Rural: All settlements that do not meet the criteria described above are considered rural.

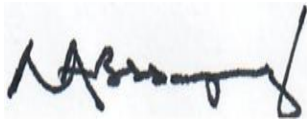
Youth: According to the National Youth Policy (2009-2018), a youth is defined as someone whose age is between 13 and 30 years; as used in this report.

Preface

This is Volume 15 of the 2013 Population and Housing Census report. The report provides information on the population with regards to the youths. The main objective of the report is to provide policy makers, data users and researchers with information on socio-cultural characteristics of the youth population of The Gambia and also youth population trends across Local Government Areas (LGAs) and place of residence.

We thank Mr Lamin L. Dibba for the preparation of this report. We also thank other GBoS staff for finalizing the report.

We wish to extend sincere thanks to The Gambia Government for providing funding for the conduct of the census, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their support both technical and financial for the conduct of the 2013 Population and Housing Census.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nyakassi M.B. Sanyang', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Nyakassi M.B Sanyang

Statistician General

Executive Summary

The Gambia has a youthful population with 37.2 per cent between the ages 13 and 30, the official age bracket for youth. Between the two censuses—2003 and 2013, the youth population increased—from 489,666 to 690,836, representing an increase of 41.1 per cent or an annual growth rate of 3.4 per cent. This is slightly higher than the national average annual growth rate of 3.1 per cent, over the same period. The distribution of the youth population by sex shows that 47.2 per cent of the youth were males and 52.8 per cent females.

Distribution of the youth population by marital status shows that 67.4 per cent of the youth had never been married, 30.0 per cent were married, while less than one per cent (0.7 per cent) were divorced. A small proportion—0.2 per cent were separated and 0.2 per cent widowed. From a gender perspective however, it is clear that females tend to marry at a relatively earlier age than males. Eighty-four per cent (84.2 per cent) of the youth in the urban areas had never been married compared to 52.4 per cent of their rural counterparts.

Analysis of the data by educational attendance shows that 32.1 per cent of the youth had never been to school, 33.0 per cent were still attending school, while 34.9 per cent went to school in the past.

Regarding literacy status, 67.5 per cent of the youth were reported to be literates, 6.5 per cent could read only and 26.0 per cent could neither read nor write.

The data shows that 297,648 youth were ‘economically active’ while 393,188 were ‘economically inactive’. Of the economically active youth, 91.6 per cent were employed and 8.4 per cent unemployed. About 22 per cent and 58.0 per cent of the economically inactive youth were homemakers and students respectively.

Majority of the employed youth (44.9 per cent) worked in agriculture, hunting, fishing and forestry industry, 16.4 per cent worked in the ‘community, social and personal services’ industry and 9.6 per cent in the ‘manufacturing, processing and services’ industry.

Less than one per cent of the youth were reported to have some form of disability. Physical disability was the most prevalent type of disability among the youth with 32.3 per cent, followed by visually impairment (seeing) with 16.6 per cent, hearing impairment with 14.8 per cent and ‘strange behaviour’ with 13.1 per cent.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The world today is facing various socio-economic and political challenges. Unemployment, poverty, hunger and instability threaten the efforts of governments to provide decent standard of living for all citizens. The consequences of these on the youth population are that they face higher risks of poverty and social exclusion. This could have a detrimental impact on their health and well-being.

A healthy and vibrant youth is a valuable asset for any nation for what it offers now and in the future. The life outcomes of youth are shaped by policies and actions adopted by governments. Depending on national policies and actions, the potential of Gambia's youth could be unleashed not only for economic success but also for societal wellbeing. Appropriate policies can ensure that young people have the skills and education to take advantage of jobs that open up with the use of new technologies. Likewise, policy interventions can steer advances in technology and finance towards job creation and innovation.

The Government of The Gambia (GoTG) takes cognizance of the critical role the youth could play in socio-economic development and has been making efforts to tap into the potential of the youth through a number of National Youth Policies. The current Policy (2009-2018) focuses on three key areas:

- Investing in the youth for national development;
- Creating employment for out of school youth; and
- Enabling the youth to operate within a wide variety of cultures.

The 2013 Population and Housing Census shows that the country's population grew from 1,360,861 in 2003 to 1,857,181 in 2013, indicating an annual population growth rate of 3.1 per cent or 36.5 per cent increase during the inter-censal period.

The Gambia Youth Policy defines youth as persons between ages of 13 and 30 years. Since the age bracket of the youth ranges between 13 and 30 years and include those who are still within the ages of the basic education cycle, it is prudent that their marital status is examined. This is important, as marriage is a defining factor in the life of individuals, thus, marriage at a relatively early age could limit future opportunities and life outcomes. Over the years, significant investments have been made towards educating the youth at various levels and opportunities created to improve access to skills training. Literacy programmes have been developed to help adults who did not have the chance to go to school during childhood.

The census figures show that there were 690,836 youth in the country at the time of the census, representing a share of 37.2 per cent of the total population. The youth population is growing at an annual rate of 3.4 per cent, and projected to be 806,660 by 2018, which is the end of the current youth policy cycle, an absolute increase of 115,824 youth in just five years.

The report analyses the youth's labour force participation, the kind of economic activities they engage in, their occupation and employment status to assess the impact of various policy interventions on their economic wellbeing.

The last few decades have witnessed significant internal and cross-border migration of youths often stimulated by political, economic, social and demographic changes in many parts of the world. Young people represent a major proportion of those migrating annually. The report shows that young people are the most mobile among the population and migrate for various reasons, including employment, education, family formation and reunification.

The report is divided into five chapters. Chapter 1 focuses on demographic characteristics of the youths, Chapter 2 on their educational attainment and literacy status, while Chapter 3 presents information on their economic activity, occupation and employment status. Chapter 4 deals with youth migration and Chapter 5 focuses on prevalence of disability among the youths. A summary of the findings and policy recommendations follows Chapter 5. It is worth mentioning that the data emanating from the census do not allow for a comprehensive analysis of the situation of the youth. For a more comprehensive situation analysis of the youth, efforts should be made to undertake a detailed youth survey.

1.2 Data Source and Limitations

There is lack of comprehensive studies or surveys on youth. Most of the information on youth is from administrative records and demand-driven surveys. The data presented in this volume is generated from the 2013 Population and Housing Census. As such, the report is not meant to provide comprehensive information on youth although efforts have been made to provide as much information as possible.

Assessment of the data reveals that age misreporting is a major issue. Age heaping around zeroes and fives is also another issue that might affect the size of the youth population. Certain modules of the questionnaire may also have inherent bias because proxy respondents were used; i.e. household heads or their representatives responded to questions relating to other individuals in their households. This might lead to bias outcomes of some key questions related to education and disability.

CHAPTER 2: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE YOUTH

2.1 Distribution of the youth population by age group, sex, residence and LGA

The youth population constituted 690,836 at the time of the 2013 Population and Housing Census representing 37.2 per cent of the total population. This Chapter examines the age, sex and geographical distribution of the youth.

There were slightly more female youth than males—52.8 per cent and 47.2 per cent respectively. Of a total youth population of 690,836, 12.0 per cent were aged between 13 and 14 years, 31.0 per cent between 15 and 19 years, 26.6 per cent between 20 and 24 years, 23.1 per cent between 25 and 29 years and 7.3 per cent aged 30 years. The age distribution by sex follows a similar pattern.

The youth are almost equally distributed between urban and rural areas—50.1 per cent in the urban areas and 49.9 per cent living in the rural areas. However, slightly more male youth lived in urban areas—63.0 per cent, in contrast with 60.3 per cent of females due partly to sex selectivity of migration with males more likely to migrate than females. The distribution of the youth by LGA shows that Banjul constituted about two per cent of the total youth population which is the lowest among the LGAs. Brikama had the largest share of youth with 37.9 per cent followed by Kanifing with 22.3 per cent. The corresponding figures for Mansakonko, Kerewan, Kuntaur, Janjanbureh and Basse were 4.0, 10.9, 4.7, 6.3 and 12.1 per cent respectively (Table 2.1).

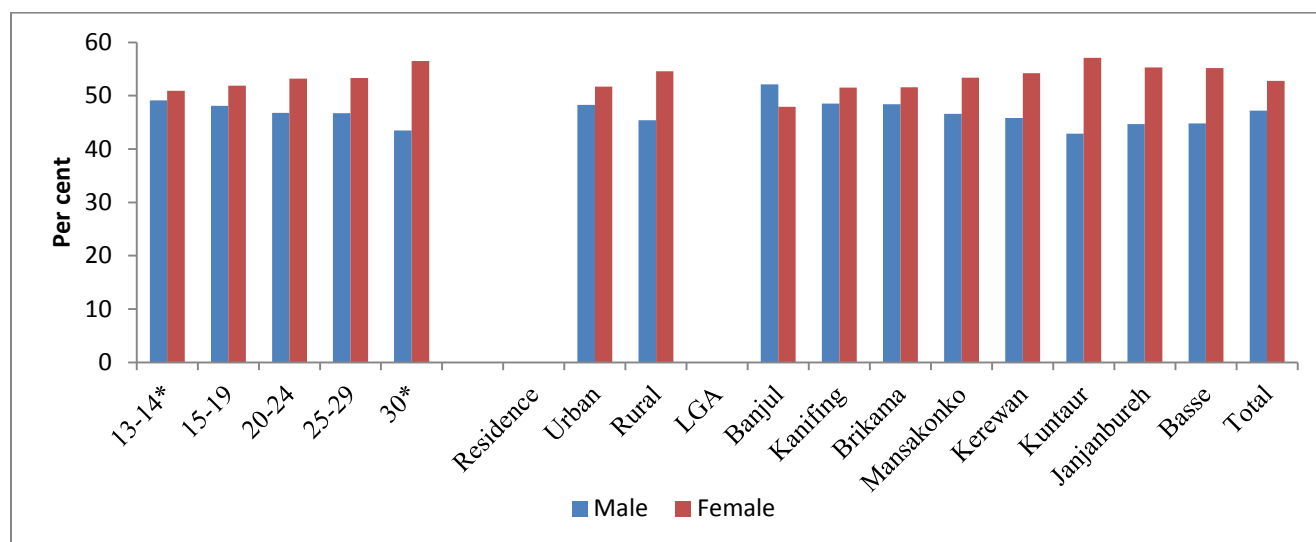
Table 2.1: Distribution of the youth by age group, sex, residence and LGA

Age group	Male	Female	Total
13-14*	12.5	11.6	12.0
15-19	31.6	30.5	31.0
20-24	26.4	26.8	26.6
25-29	22.8	23.3	23.1
30*	6.7	7.8	7.3
Residence			
Urban	63.0	60.3	50.1
Rural	37.0	39.7	49.9
LGA			
Banjul	1.9	1.6	1.8
Kanifing	23.0	21.8	22.3
Brikama	38.9	37	37.9
Mansakonko	4.0	4.1	4.0
Kerewan	10.6	11.2	10.9
Kuntaur	4.2	5.1	4.7
Janjanbureh	6.0	6.6	6.3
Basse	11.5	12.6	12.1
Total	326,051	364,785	690,836

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

The distribution of youth across age, sex and geographical location is also presented in Figure 2.1. It shows that females out-numbered males across all ages and geographical location except for Banjul LGA where there were slightly more males than females.

Figure 2.1: Percentage distribution of the youth by age group, sex, residence and LGA



*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

2.2: Marital status of the youth

Marriage in The Gambia is almost universal and often begins early, especially for females. Early marriage and subsequent child births have negative impacts on the youth. Early marriage could compromise the youth's educational attainment and skill acquisition limiting their employability, which could result in inter-generational transmission of poverty and low human development. This section focuses on the marital status of the youth from gender and geographical perspectives.

Table 2.2 below shows the percentage distribution of the youth by marital status. It indicates that 67.4 per cent of the youth had never been married at the time of the census, 30.0 per cent were married whilst the remaining 1.1 per cent were divorced, separated or widowed.

The two youngest age groups—13-14 and 15-19—had the largest shares of the never married (96.3 and 87.5 per cent respectively). This is not surprising as they are more likely to be attending school. The proportion of the never married youth decreases with increasing age. Slightly over 54 per cent of youths aged 25-29 were married and 72.8 per cent aged 30 years were married at the time of the census. The proportion of youth that were never married was higher in the urban (84.2 per cent) than in the rural areas (52.4 per cent).

Table 2.2: Percentage distribution of the youth by age group, sex, marital status and residence

Age group	Never	Married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	NS	Total
13-14*	96.3	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	83,068
15-19	87.5	10.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.5	214,264
20-24	65.1	32.5	0.7	0.2	0.2	1.4	183,939
25-29	42.1	54.4	1.3	0.3	0.4	1.4	159,356
30*	23.2	72.8	1.7	0.4	0.8	1.1	50,209
Sex							
Male	71.7	25.7	0.8	0.2	0.2	1.5	346,369
Female	63.2	34.4	0.5	0.2	0.2	1.5	344,467
Residence							
Urban	84.2	12.8	0.2	0.1	0.1	2.6	326,051
Rural	52.4	45.4	1.1	0.2	0.4	0.5	364,785
Total	67.4	30.0	0.7	0.2	0.2	1.5	690,836

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

2.3 Marital status

Table 2.3a presents the marital status of the male youth. It shows that 84.2 per cent had never been married while 12.8 per cent were married. Of those never married, the majority were between the ages of 13 and 24 years. A higher proportion of those between 25-29 and 30 years were married—28.6 and 55.1 per cent respectively.

Table 2.3a: Percentage distribution of male youth by age group and marital status

Age group	Never	Married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	NS	Total
13-14*	95.1	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	40,779
15-19	95.8	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.6	102,995
20-24	89.9	7.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.2	86,075
25-29	68.3	28.6	0.3	0.1	0.1	2.5	74,341
30*	41.7	55.1	0.8	0.3	0.2	2.0	21,861
Total	84.2	12.8	0.2	0.1	0.1	2.6	326,051

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

The proportion of female youth who had never been married reduces with increasing age while the reverse is true for those who were married and those who experienced any form of marital separation. Less than 30 per cent of the female youth aged between 24 and 29 years had never been married. About 87 per cent of those aged 30 years were married while 77.0 per cent of those aged 25-29 years had married. As expected, female youth aged 13-14 years had the lowest share of those married—2.1 per cent. A small proportion of females aged 13-19 years (0.4 per cent) were divorced, widowed or separated at the time of the census (Table 2.3b).

Table 2.3b: Percentage distribution of female youth by age group and marital status

Age group	Never	Married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	NS	Total
13-14*	97.4	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	42,289
15-19	79.8	19.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	111,269
20-24	43.4	54.2	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.6	97,864
25-29	19.2	77.0	2.2	0.4	0.7	0.5	85,015
30*	8.9	86.5	2.4	0.6	1.2	0.4	28,348
Total	52.4	45.4	1.1	0.2	0.4	0.5	364,785

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

Although the data does not show this, but the relatively large share of female youth in marriage could be attributed to socio-cultural norms that perceive the female role only as wives and mothers, therefore, valuing education of the male child over the girl child.

2.4 Distribution of youth by marital status and LGA

This sub-section presents the distribution of youth's marital status by LGA. It shows that 69.4 per cent of the youth in Banjul had never been married while 23.4 per cent were married. Slightly over one per cent (1.1 per cent) were divorced and 0.2 per cent widowed.

In Kanifing, the proportion of youth who had never been married was 74.2 per cent while 23.9 per cent were married during the time of the census. Less than one per cent were divorced and only 0.2 per cent, widowed. The corresponding figures for the Brikama LGA were 71.2 per cent, 26.5 per cent, 0.7 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively. The Kuntaur LGA has the lowest proportion of never married youth—56.6 per cent followed closely by the Basse LGA with 57.0 per cent (Table 2.4).

Table 2.4: Population of the youth by marital status and LGA

LGA	Never	Married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	NS	Total
Banjul	69.4	23.4	1.1	0.2	0.2	5.7	12,159
Kanifing	74.2	23.9	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.7	154,380
Brikama	71.2	26.5	0.7	0.2	0.2	1.3	261,704
Mansakonko	62.1	32.5	0.8	0.2	0.3	4.1	27,805
Kerewan	63.3	33.1	0.6	0.2	0.2	2.5	75,363
Kuntaur	56.6	41.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	1.4	32,331
Janjanbureh	59.2	37.9	0.6	0.2	0.2	1.9	43,611
Basse	57.0	41.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.9	83,483
Total	67.4	30.0	0.7	0.2	0.2	1.5	690,836

CHAPTER 3: YOUTH EDUCATION AND LITERACY

3.1 Distribution of youth by educational attainment and LGA

Information on educational attainment of the youth is important for gauging the quality of the labour force. Educational attainment of the youth has been analysed taking into account three aspects namely—those who have never attended school, those currently going to school and those who attended in the past. Overall, 32.1 per cent of the youth have never attended school while 33.0 per cent were attending school at the time of the census and 34.9 per cent attended in the past.

At the LGA level, the highest proportion of the never attended school category was reported in Kuntaur—63.3 per cent followed by Basse with 53.8 per cent and Janjanbureh with 51.6 per cent. Kanifing reported the lowest proportion with 20.3 per cent. For those currently going to school, Brikama has the highest proportion, with 37.8 per cent. Mansakonko and Kanifing followed with 35.8 per cent and 35.5 per cent respectively (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Percentage distribution of education attendance by LGA

LGA	Never	Now	Past	Total
Banjul	21.9	31.0	47.1	12,159
Kanifing	20.3	35.5	44.2	154,380
Brikama	23.1	37.8	39.1	261,704
Mansakonko	34.1	35.8	30.0	27,805
Kerewan	39.7	31.7	28.6	75,363
Kuntaur	63.3	19.1	17.6	32,331
Janjanbureh	51.6	26.6	21.9	43,611
Basse	53.8	22.6	23.6	83,483
Total	32.1	33.0	34.9	690,836

3.2 Distribution of youth by age group, sex and educational attainment

The developing world is witnessing a youth bulge, especially in sub-Saharan Africa with its concomitant demand for education and employment. These two variables are closely linked as one's level of education largely determines their employability and employment status.

The need for greater opportunities to develop skills that are needed for participation in the labour market increases with increasing youth population. It is therefore important to have a clear idea about the educational attainment of the youth to determine the extent to which the supply of

skills matches the demand for skills. Education is also an important factor shaping economic and labour market outcomes—productivity and competitiveness and provides insights for quality of a country’s labour force and informs policy decisions.

Thirty-two per cent of the youth have never been to school, 16.0 per cent attained primary education, and 23.0 per cent lower secondary while 24.0 per cent reached upper secondary level. Only one per cent had vocational education and three per cent reached tertiary level. Youth with no education tend to increase with increasing age. For example, more than half of those aged 30 years had no education. This may partly be explained by the fact that advocacy and campaigns to increase access to education was intensified in the last two decades.

Except for primary education, female youth lagged behind males at all levels of education. A similar pattern was observed between rural and urban areas. This is probably due to early marriage among females. At LGA level, the proportion of youth who had no education was highest in Kuntaur and lowest in Kanifing LGA (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2: Percentage distribution of the youth by age group, sex, educational attainment and LGA

	None	Primary	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Vocational	Tertiary**	Total
Age group							
13-14*	20.0	51.0	27.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	83,068
15-19	25.0	13.0	37.0	24.0	0.0	0.0	214,264
20-24	32.0	11.0	15.0	36.0	2.0	4.0	183,939
25-29	41.0	11.0	14.0	25.0	3.0	5.0	159,356
30*	55.0	11.0	11.0	17.0	2.0	3.0	50,209
Sex							
Male	28.0	16.0	24.0	28.0	2.0	3.0	326,051
Female	36.0	17.0	22.0	21.0	1.0	2.0	364,785
Residence							
Urban	24.0	15.0	25.0	30.0	2.0	4.0	425,311
Rural	46.0	19.0	19.0	14.0	1.0	1.0	265,525
LGA							
Banjul	22.0	11.0	26.0	34.0	2.0	4.0	12,159
Kanifing	20.0	13.0	25.0	34.0	2.0	5.0	154,380
Brikama	23.0	17.0	27.0	28.0	2.0	3.0	261,704
Mansakonko	34.0	22.0	23.0	18.0	1.0	1.0	27,805
Kerewan	40.0	19.0	21.0	18.0	1.0	1.0	75,363
Kuntaur	63.0	13.0	12.0	10.0	1.0	0.0	32,331
Janjanbureh	52.0	14.0	17.0	15.0	1.0	1.0	43,611
Basse	54.0	21.0	14.0	10.0	0.0	1.0	83,483
Total	32.0	16.0	23.0	24.0	1.0	3.0	690,836

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

**Tertiary education includes: Diploma, bachelor, master's and doctoral levels

3.3 Distribution of youth currently attending school by educational attainment, age group, residence and LGA

Table 3.3 presents the distribution of educational attainment for youth currently attending school. Overall, 95.0 per cent of youth currently attending school were between primary school and senior secondary (upper secondary) level. Beyond secondary education, 2.0 per cent were at vocational level and 3.0 per cent were at tertiary level of education.

Examining the currently attending school youth from gender perspective shows that 94.0 per cent of the males were between primary school and senior secondary level of education compared to 96.0 per cent of females. There is also an urban-rural differential in educational levels of those currently attending school. While 93.0 per cent of those living in urban areas were between primary school and upper secondary education, 98.0 per cent of those in rural areas had reached that level. These indicate that the government's efforts to bridge the education gap between girls and boys; rural and urban areas are paying off. Expectedly, the younger age group (13-14 year olds) had not gone beyond upper secondary. Sixty-four per cent of the youth were at the primary level (Table 3.3).

The rural areas lag behind the urban areas in terms of educational attainment at tertiary and vocational levels. This gives indication of areas that need both public and private sector attention in providing the necessary facilities and opportunities to bridge the rural-urban gap. Efforts are required to improve the transition and retention of female and the rural youth. Greater efforts are also required in improving access to vocational and tertiary education, as well as skills training in rural areas. This is a crucial strategy in curbing the high rate of youth who migrate for education purposes. Within LGA, there tend to be more youth enrolled in lower and upper secondary levels than in primary schools (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3: Percentage distribution of the youth currently attending school by educational attainment, age group, sex, residence and LGA

	Primary	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Vocational	Tertiary**	Count
Age group						
13-14*	64.0	35.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	62,765
15-19	8.0	53.0	37.0	0.0	1.0	121,615
20-24	0.0	3.0	80.0	6.0	11.0	37,401
25-29	0.0	1.0	35.0	29.0	34.0	5,787
30*	0.0	0.0	0.0	46.0	54.0	427
Sex						
Male	21.0	37.0	36.0	2.0	3.0	118,328
Female	23.0	40.0	33.0	2.0	3.0	109,667
Residence						
Urban	19.0	37.0	37.0	2.0	4.0	122,375
Rural	29.0	41.0	28.0	1.0	1.0	105,620
LGA						
Banjul	13.0	39.0	41.0	3.0	5.0	3,769
Kanifing	16.0	36.0	39.0	3.0	6.0	54,759
Brikama	21.0	39.0	35.0	2.0	4.0	98,983
Mansakonko	28.0	41.0	28.0	2.0	1.0	9,961
Kerewan	27.0	41.0	31.0	2.0	1.0	23,918
Kuntaur	28.0	41.0	30.0	1.0	0.0	6,165
Janjanbureh	23.0	39.0	35.0	1.0	1.0	11,579
Basse	36.0	38.0	25.0	1.0	0.0	18,861
Total	22.0	39.0	34.0	2.0	3.0	227,995

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

**Tertiary education includes: Diploma, bachelor, master's and doctoral levels

3.4: Youth and literacy

The importance of literacy in contemporary society cannot be over-emphasized. The power of literacy lies not merely in the ability to read and write, but also a person's capacity to apply reading and writing to effectively connect, interpret and discern the complexities of the world in which they live. This is what is referred to as functional literacy.

During the census, respondents were asked if household members age seven years and over could read or write in any language in either Roman alphabet or Arabic script. These two questions were used to determine the literacy status of household members. It is worth mentioning that functionality of the literacy was not tested.

On average, 67.5 per cent of the youth were literate, that is they were able to read and write using the Roman Alphabets or Arabic Script. About 7 per cent could read only and 26.0 per cent could neither read nor write.

For the youth aged 13-14 years, 76.6 per cent were literate. The proportion of youth who were literate decreases with increasing age—ranging from 75.1 per cent for those aged 15 to 19 to about 45 per cent for those aged 30 years.

Youth aged 30 years old had the largest share of those who could neither read nor write—45.6 per cent. This is followed by those aged 25 to 29 years (33.8 per cent). Those aged 13 to 14 had the lowest proportion of illiterates—16.1 per cent. Analysis of the data by sex shows that 74.4 per cent of the male youth were literate compared to 61.2 per cent of their female counterparts. (Table 3.4).

Table 3.4: Percentage distribution of the youth by sex, geographical location and literacy status

	Read and write	Read only	Neither read nor write	NS	Total
Age group					
13-14*	76.6	7.3	16.1	0.0	83,068
15-19	75.1	5.2	19.7	0.0	214,264
20-24	68.2	6.1	25.7	0.0	183,939
25-29	58.7	7.4	33.8	0.0	159,356
30*	44.9	9.5	45.6	0.0	50,209
Sex					
Male	74.4	5.3	20.2	0.0	326,051
Female	61.2	7.6	31.2	0.0	364,785
Residence					
Urban	75.4	4.5	20.1	0.0	425,311
Rural	54.7	9.8	35.5	0.0	265,525
LGA					
Banjul	78.2	2.7	18.7	0.3	12,159
Kanifing	79.3	3.4	17.3	0.0	154,380
Brikama	75.0	4.3	20.7	0.0	261,704
Mansakonko	68.8	7.4	23.7	0.0	27,805
Kerewan	61.7	9.3	29.0	0.0	75,363
Kuntaur	41.7	13.7	44.6	0.0	32,331
Janjanbureh	50.2	11.5	38.3	0.0	43,611
Basse	44.3	11.6	44.1	0.0	83,483
Total	67.5	6.5	26.0	0.0	690,836

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

3.5 Distribution of youth by literacy and type of script

Literacy by type of script in which household members were literate in is presented in Table 3.5. It shows that 23.2 per cent were literate only in Arabic script, 73.1 per cent in only Roman alphabet and 3.4 per cent in both Arabic script and Roman alphabet. An insignificant proportion (0.2 per cent) was literate in other types of scripts while 0.1 per cent did not state the script type.

The oldest youth (30 year olds) had the highest proportion of those who were literate in Arabic script (33.1 per cent) followed by those in 25-29 age group with 24.3 per cent. More than 73 per cent of the youth were literate in Roman alphabets and less than 4 per cent in both Arabic script and Roman alphabets. It is worth mentioning that a majority of those literate in Arabic Script obtain the skill to read and write outside the formal school system. For example, by attending ‘Darra²’ or instructed by their parents—mostly fathers.

There were no major differences between males and females in terms of literacy by type of script. The proportion of males who were literate in Arabic script was 24.2 per cent and 22.2 per cent for females. Similarly, 71.4 per cent of male youth were literate in Roman and the proportion was 74.8 per cent for females.

Some levels of notable differences were observed at residential level. In the urban areas, 14.7 per cent of the youth were literate in Arabic compared to 33.4 per cent of the rural youth. Similarly, 81.4 per cent of urban youth were literate in the Roman script while 63.0 per cent of rural youth were literate in the Roman alphabet (Table 3.5).

² Darra is an Islamic education that does not follow any standard curriculum

Table 3.5: Percentage distribution of the youth by type of script, age group, sex and residence

	Arabic	Roman	Both	Other	NS	Total
Age group						
13-14*	23.9	72.8	3.1	0.1	0.1	69,704
15-19	22.3	74.2	3.3	0.1	0.1	171,980
20-24	21.3	74.9	3.5	0.2	0.1	136,579
25-29	24.3	71.7	3.6	0.3	0.1	105,494
30*	33.1	62.9	3.5	0.4	0.1	27,300
Sex						
Male	24.2	71.4	4.1	0.2	0.1	260,100
Female	22.2	74.8	2.7	0.2	0.1	250,957
Residence						
Urban	14.7	81.4	3.5	0.2	0.1	278,986
Rural	33.4	63.0	3.2	0.2	0.1	232,071
LGA						
Banjul	10.3	86.5	2.4	0.4	0.4	9,852
Kanifing	12.9	82.9	3.9	0.2	0.1	127,683
Brikama	16.6	79.8	3.3	0.2	0.1	207,359
Mansakonko	32.9	63.2	3.8	0.1	0.0	21,211
Kerewan	32.3	64.5	3.0	0.1	0.1	53,469
Kuntaur	45.4	51.0	3.4	0.1	0.0	17,901
Janjanbureh	37.5	58.7	3.2	0.3	0.2	26,917
Basse	52.3	44.4	2.8	0.2	0.3	46,665
Total	23.2	73.1	3.4	0.2	0.1	511,057

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

CHAPTER 4: ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE YOUTH

Economic activity is a key social variable that measures labour force participation that supports personal quest to move out of poverty. It is even more critical for the economy to generate decent jobs to absorb the youth entering the labour market for them to have a sense of belonging. The economic activity status of the youth by sex, age and LGA is presented in Table 4.1a and 4.1b. Out of the 690,836 youth, 43.1 per cent were economically active and 56.9 per cent inactive at the time of the census. Being economically active tends to increase with increasing age. For example, over 71 per cent of youth aged 30 years were economically active in contrast with about 14 per cent of those in the age group 13-14.

There are gender disparities in the distribution of economically active and inactive youth. Among the female youth, 39.5 per cent were economically active compared to 46.7 per cent of their male counterparts.

At LGA level, Basse has the highest proportion of economically active youth, followed by Kuntaur. Brikama was the LGA with the lowest proportion of economically active youth (Table 4.1a).

Table 4.1a: Percentage distribution of the youth by age group, sex, residence, activity status and LGA

	Population of the youth	Economically active	Economically Inactive
Age group			
13-14*	83,068	13.6	86.4
15-19	214,264	26.0	74.0
20-24	183,939	49.5	50.5
25-29	159,356	65.2	34.8
30*	50,209	71.3	28.7
Sex			
Male	346,369	46.7	53.3
Female	344,467	39.5	60.5
Residence			
Urban	326,051	48.4	51.6
Rural	364,785	38.3	61.7
LGA			
Banjul	12,159	47.0	53.0
Kanifing	154,380	36.8	63.2
Brikama	261,704	33.6	66.4
Mansakonko	27,805	46.3	53.7
Kerewan	75,363	54.0	46.0
Kuntaur	32,331	59.3	40.7
Janjanbureh	43,611	54.7	45.3
Basse	83,483	60.6	39.4
Total	690,836	43.1	56.9

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

Out of all the economically active youth, about 92 per cent were employed and 8.4 per cent unemployed. Across all geographical locations, students formed the bulk of the inactive youth population.

It is also interesting to note that a large proportion of the economically active youth aged between 13 and 14 years were employed. These probably were unpaid family workers supporting family enterprises or farms.

While 98.3 per cent of the male economically active youth were employed, less than 90 per cent of the female (88.9 per cent) were employed. More females also reported being homemakers than males—34.2 per cent of the inactive females in contrast with about 4 per cent of the male inactive population. This is a reflection of the fact that females bear disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work. In the Gambia and other African countries, unpaid care and domestic work are considered female gender roles.

There were disparities in activity status of youth in urban and rural areas as well, with higher proportion of those in rural areas being employed—95.1 per cent in contrast with 88.5 per cent in the urban areas. Across all ages, sex and geographical locations, students form the bulk of the inactive youth (Table 4.1b).

Table 4.1b: Distribution of the youth by activity status, age group, sex, residence and LGA

	Total economically active youth	Employed	Unemployed	Total Inactive youth	Home makers	Students
Age group						
13-14*	11,305	93.4	6.6	71,763	4.1	87.5
15-19	55,607	91.2	8.8	158,657	10.5	76.7
20-24	91,001	89.4	10.6	92,938	30.2	40.2
25-29	103,941	92.5	7.5	55,415	50.8	10.4
30*	35,794	94.3	5.7	1,4415	63.0	3.0
Total	297,648	91.6	8.4	393,188	21.6	58.0
Sex						
Male	161,711	93.8	6.2	164,340	3.9	72.0
Female	135,937	88.9	11.1	228,848	34.2	47.9
Total	297,648	91.6	8.4	393,188	21.6	58.0
Residence						
Urban	157,855	88.5	11.5	267,456	20.4	56.4
Rural	139,793	95.1	4.9	125,732	24.1	61.3
Total	297,648	91.6	8.4	393,188	21.6	58.0
LGA						
Banjul	5,716	83.6	16.4	6,443	14.5	58.5
Kanifing	56,796	86.4	13.6	97,584	20.8	56.1
Brikama	87,922	89.0	11.0	173,782	18.1	57.0
Mansakonko	12,870	96.2	3.8	14,935	19.7	66.7
Kerewan	40,715	96.2	3.8	34,648	23.1	69.0
Kuntaur	19,180	97.1	2.9	13,151	44.5	46.9
Janjanbureh	23,841	90.3	9.7	19,770	38.9	58.6
Basse	50,608	96.3	3.7	32,875	23.6	57.4
Total	297,648	91.6	8.4	393,188	21.6	58.0

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

4.2 Share of youth unemployment in total unemployment by LGA

Nonetheless, the youth bear a disproportionate share of the unemployed probably due to lack of skills or mismatch between the skills they possess and those demanded in the labour market. The share of youth unemployment in total unemployment was about 70 per cent while the ratio of youth unemployment to adult unemployment was also high—2.3. This means that for every adult who was unemployed during the census reference period, there were more than two youth in that situation.

Examining the shares of youth unemployment in total unemployment within LGAs shows that in Banjul, Kanifing, Brikama, and Mansakonko more than 70 per cent of the youth were unemployed. Janjanbureh had a relatively lower share of youth that are unemployed. (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Percentage share of the youth unemployment in total unemployment by LGA

LGA	Youth unemployment	Total unemployment (13*-64 years)	Percentage Share
Banjul	940	1,341	70.1
Kanifing	7,743	10,558	73.3
Brikama	9,647	13,704	70.4
Mansakonko	489	687	71.2
Kerewan	1,540	2,275	67.7
Kuntaur	563	881	63.9
Janjanbureh	2,314	3,701	62.5
Basse	1,856	2,803	66.2
Total	25,092	35,950	69.8

*The labour force age is between 15 and 64 years. The age in this table is lowered to 13 because the National Youth Policy defines youth as those aged (13 to 30) years.

4.3 Youth population by educational attainment and unemployment

Generally, there is an inverse relationship between unemployment and level of education. That is, the higher the level of educational attainment the lower the unemployment rate. This does not seem to apply to the youth in The Gambia as we see a mixed picture. Unemployment rate was higher among youth with lower and upper secondary education than youths with primary education (Table 4.3). While the exact reason for this is unknown, it could be that youth with secondary education are more selective of the types of jobs they would accept. Further research is needed to better understand what appears to be an anomaly.

Table 4.3: Youth population by educational attainment and unemployment

Educational attainment	Total youth		Unemployed	
	Count	Per cent	Count	Per cent
None	221,742	32.1	9,145	36.4
Primary	113,778	16.5	2,965	11.8
Lower secondary	158,412	22.9	4,465	17.8
Upper secondary	167,628	24.3	7,398	29.5
Vocational	9,849	1.4	367	1.5
Tertiary**	17,401	2.6	651	2.6

**Tertiary education includes: Diploma, bachelor, master's and doctoral levels

4.4 Distribution of employed youth by industry

Employment by industry is an important economic indicator as it helps in understanding both the dynamics of the labour market and the level of development of a country. For example, as a country develops, one would typically expect to see a shift in employment from the agriculture to the industry and services sectors. Table 3.4 presents the distribution of economically active youth by main industry. It shows that 44.9 per cent of the employed youth were engaged in the Agricultural, Hunting, Fishing and Forestry industry, 17.1 per cent in Wholesale, Retail, Restaurants and Hotel Industry while 5.2 per cent were in Transport, Storage and Communication industry. This mirrors the distribution in the entire employed population. There were very few youth in the Mining and Quarrying industry (0.2 per cent) and in the Finance, Insurance and Business services (0.7 per cent).

The age group with the highest proportion in the Agriculture industry was 13-14 years (81.3 per cent) followed by those aged 15-19 years (62.4 per cent) and then those aged 30 (42.5 per cent). For almost all the industries analysed in Table 4.4, the majority of the youth engaged were those outside the secondary school-going age.

Table 4.4: Economically active youth by age group, sex and industry

	13-14*	15-19	20-24	25-29	30*	Total
Agriculture, hunting, fishing and forestry	81.3	62.4	41.4	35.5	42.5	44.9
Mining and Quarrying	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Manufacturing, processing and services	8.2	12.6	11.0	8.0	7.0	9.6
Electricity, gas and water	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5
General construction	1.2	3.2	5.8	6.4	5.5	5.3
Wholesale, retail, restaurants and hotels	3.9	9.0	17.1	21.5	20.9	17.1
Transport, storage and communication	1.0	3.4	5.7	6.1	5.6	5.2
Finance, insurance, estate and business services	0.0	0.1	0.7	1.1	0.8	0.7
Community, social and personal services	4.1	9.0	17.5	20.5	17.1	16.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

4.5a Youth not in employment education or training (NEET)

A youthful population could be an asset to a nation if the youth have the necessary education and employable skills to participate in the national development processes. As stated earlier, a healthy and vibrant youth is a valuable asset for a nation not only for what it offers now, but also in the future. This is more so for a country like The Gambia with very few natural resource endowments. However, the prospects for a number of youth in The Gambia appears bleak as they lack the pre-requisites for successful life outcomes—education and skills.

The proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (the NEET rate), is a broad measure of untapped potential of youth. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the NEET group is ‘neither improving their future employability through investment in skills nor gaining experience through employment. As such, they are particularly at risk of both labour market and social exclusion’³.

ILO normally estimates the NEET rate for the population aged 15-24 years, which is the United Nations definition of youth. However, in The Gambia, the youth is defined as all persons aged between 13 and 30 years. The NEET rate is therefore estimated for this group as 27.5 per cent. It is worth mentioning that the 2013 Census did not ask questions on participation in training. The NEET is thus estimated using two variables—not employed and not in education (attending school). Interpretation of the estimated NEET rate should therefore be made with caution.

In order to tap into the potential of the youth, efforts at improving their education and skills should be intensified. It is a well-known fact that the economic success of ‘East Asian Tigers’—Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan—was due mainly to investment in skills development and higher educational attainment for their youth.

4.5b Employed youth by occupation

Table 4.5b shows the percentage distribution of economically active youth by occupation. Occupational statistics gives an indication of differences in the distribution of earnings and incomes over time and between groups— for example females and males. It can also show the imbalances of supply and demand in the labour markets. Employment by occupation is also a policy relevant indicator as it guides the formulation, implementation and monitoring of economic and social policies, including those concerning the planning of education and vocational training.

³ *ibid*

Expectedly, only a small proportion of the economically active youth were reported in the ‘Legislators, Senior Officials, and Managers’ occupational group (0.1 per cent). This category usually requires higher levels of education and considerable long years of work experience. Slightly more than 3 per cent were in the ‘Professionals’ group and 2.1 per cent ‘Technicians or Associate Professionals’ group. Those who worked as ‘Clerical support workers’ accounted for 1.1 per cent of the economically active youth while 20.5 per cent were working as Services and Market Sales Workers.

The bulk of the employed youth worked as ‘Agricultural Workers’ (41.6 per cent) and 15.1 per cent as ‘Craft and Related Trade Workers’. The proportion of youth employed in ‘Plant, Machine Operators and Assemblers’ and ‘Elementary Occupation’ groups were 4.1 per cent and 4.8 per cent respectively.

As expected, none of the youngest age group (13 to 14 years) was in the ‘Professionals’ group. For youth aged 15 to 19 years, only 0.3 per cent was in the ‘Professionals’ group and for those 20 to 24 years, 3.2 per cent were in that group.

The highest proportion of youth employed as ‘Professionals’, were those aged 25-29 years with 4.7 per cent. The majority of the youth were employed as ‘Agricultural Workers’. The younger age group (13-14) accounted for the highest proportion of the youth employed as ‘Agricultural Workers’ 77.8 per cent. One reason for this could be that these young people were only working as family helpers on the farms. The corresponding figures for the other age groups chronologically are 58.3 per cent, 37.4 per cent, 32.8 per cent and 40.2 per cent respectively.

For the two prominent occupations (Services, Shop and Market Sales and Agriculture), the females constituted the bulk. Slightly more than 23 per cent of the female youth were engaged in services and related sector compared to 18.1 per cent of male youth. This holds true for agricultural workers—53.8 per cent of females compared to 31.3 per cent of males (Table 4.5b).

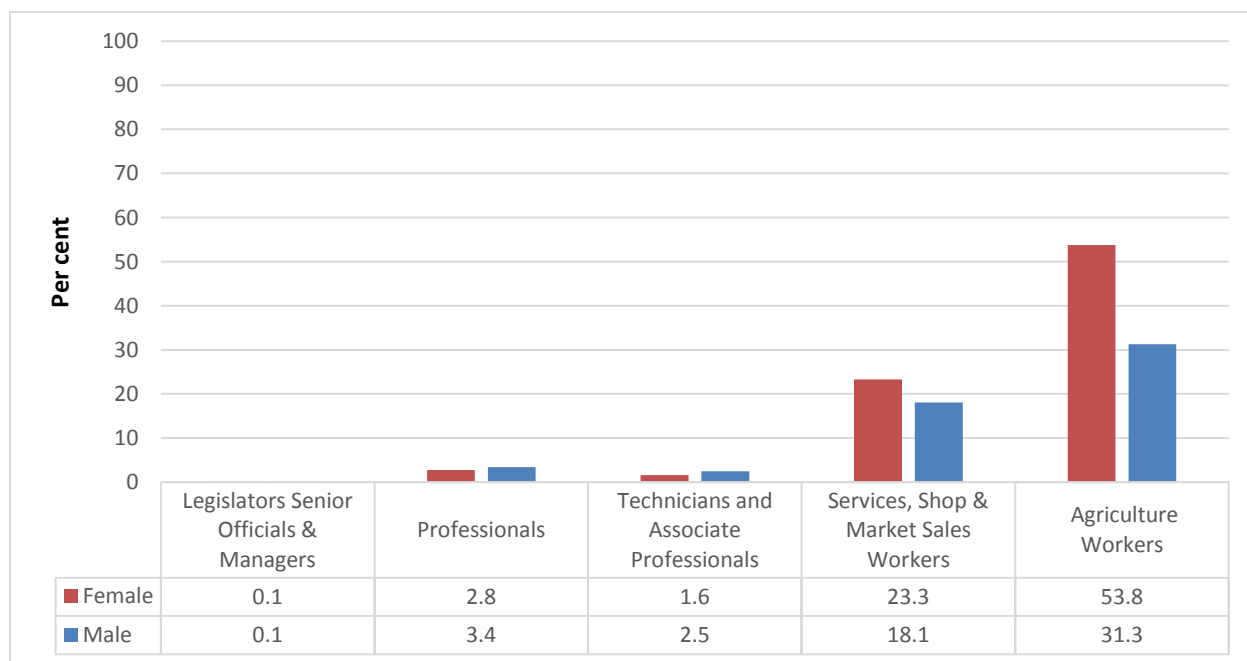
Table 4.5b: Percentage distribution of the economically active youth by occupation, age group, residence, sex and LGA

	Legislators Senior Officials and Managers	Professionals	Technicians and Associate Professionals	Clerical support workers	Services Shop and Market Sales Workers	Agricultural Workers	Craft and Related Trade Workers	Plant/ Machine Operators and Assemblers	Elementary Occupations	Other	NS	Total
Age group												
13-14*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	77.8	9.6	0.7	2.8	0.0	4.2	11,305
15-19	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.2	11.2	58.3	15.8	2.4	4.8	0.5	6.1	55,607
20-24	0.0	3.2	2.2	1.2	20.6	37.4	16.3	4.2	5.2	1.5	8.2	91,001
25-29	0.2	4.7	3.0	1.6	25.7	32.8	14.8	4.9	4.7	2.1	5.6	103,941
30*	0.2	3.7	2.3	1.2	24.3	40.2	13.4	4.8	4.5	1.6	3.6	35,794
Sex												
Male	0.1	3.4	2.5	0.9	18.1	31.3	25.5	7.2	3.8	1.8	5.5	161,711
Female	0.1	2.8	1.6	1.4	23.3	53.8	2.7	0.3	5.9	1.2	7.0	135,937
Residence												
Urban	0.2	4.1	3.8	2.0	34.8	7.3	23.0	5.7	6.7	2.3	10.2	127,853
Rural	0.0	2.4	0.8	0.5	9.7	67.4	9.1	2.8	3.3	0.9	3.1	169,795
LGA												
Banjul	0.2	2.3	3.6	2.5	37.1	2.6	19.4	3.2	11.0	2.3	15.9	5,716
Kanifing	0.2	4.1	4.5	2.6	38.5	1.7	22.6	5.0	6.4	2.0	12.4	56,796
Brikama	0.1	4.5	2.6	1.3	27.5	16.2	23.4	7.0	7.0	1.9	8.6	87,922
Mansakonko	0.1	3.3	1.3	0.6	12.6	62.3	10.3	2.8	3.1	0.9	2.6	12,870
Kerewan	0.0	2.6	1.0	0.4	11.6	63.7	8.8	3.5	3.8	2.2	2.3	40,715
Kuntaur	0.0	1.2	0.4	0.3	4.8	83.2	3.8	1.3	2.0	1.1	1.8	19,180
Janjanbureh	0.0	2.0	0.7	0.3	6.3	79.7	5.2	1.2	1.7	0.5	2.2	23,841
Basse	0.0	1.3	0.5	0.3	7.8	78.1	6.9	1.2	2.0	0.3	1.5	50,608
Total	0.1	3.1	2.1	1.1	20.5	41.6	15.1	4.1	4.8	1.5	6.2	297,648

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

Figure 4.5 below shows a comparison between male and female youth in selected occupations. For legislators, senior officials and managers, there were no differences between the sexes. However, the proportion of males who were ‘Professionals’, ‘Technicians and Associate professionals’ were slightly higher than females as shown in the graph. On the other hand, there were more females than males as ‘Service Sales Workers’ and ‘Agricultural Workers’

Figure 4.5: Comparison between male and female on key occupations



4.6 Economically active youth and status in employment

This section analyses the employment status of the employed youth. The broad categories used in this report are employment for pay, self-employed, employer, unpaid family worker and other.

Table 4.6 shows that 23.6 per cent of the youth were employed for pay, 48.0 per cent were self-employed, 0.5per cent were employers and 19.6 per cent were unpaid family workers. Youth aged 25-29 years constituted the bulk of those employed for pay (29.8 per cent) followed by those in the 20-24-year age group (25.3 per cent). It is not surprising that the youngest age group (13-14 years) had the lowest proportion of those employed for pay—4.9 per cent.

Youth in the older age groups, were reported to be more self-employed than the younger ones. More than 45 per cent were reported being self-employed but the proportion was higher for the 30 year olds—57.3 per cent. The data shows that the younger age group had the highest proportion among the youth working as unpaid family workers with 53.1 per cent. The

corresponding proportions for those aged 15-19 years, 20-24 years and 25-29 years were 33.9 per cent, 17.0 per cent and 12.8 per cent respectively.

Gender disparities were apparent for each of the status in employment. About 30per cent of males were employed for pay and 45.1 per cent were self-employed. The proportion of males who were employed as unpaid family workers is 16.7per cent and 0.6per cent were employers. On the other hand, 16.6per cent of females were employed for pay and 51.6per cent were self-employed. The corresponding figures for unpaid family workers and employers were 23.2 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6: Percentage distribution of the economically active youth by employment status, age group, sex, residence and LGA

	Employed for pay	Self employed	Employer	Unpaid family worker	Other	NS	Total
Age group							
13-14*	4.9	35.0	0.2	53.1	2.3	4.6	100.0
15-19	12.7	43.7	0.3	33.9	2.6	6.8	100.0
20-24	25.3	46.6	0.4	17.0	1.5	9.2	100.0
25-29	29.8	49.9	0.5	12.8	0.6	6.4	100.0
30*	24.0	57.3	0.6	13.4	0.3	4.4	100.0
Sex							
Male	29.5	45.1	0.6	16.7	2.1	6.0	100.0
Female	16.6	51.6	0.3	23.2	0.2	8.1	100.0
Residence							
Urban	38.9	40.9	0.7	6.5	1.8	11.3	100.0
Rural	12.1	53.4	0.3	29.6	0.8	3.8	100.0
LGA							
Banjul	35.4	40.1	0.8	2.5	0.9	20.2	100.0
Kanifing	43.9	36.0	0.8	4.4	1.7	13.3	100.0
Brikama	33.7	46.2	0.5	8.0	2.0	9.6	100.0
Mansakonko	13.5	65.7	0.3	16.7	0.7	3.1	100.0
Kerewan	14.8	57.3	0.3	23.8	1.1	2.7	100.0
Kuntaur	5.4	50.9	0.2	40.3	0.5	2.7	100.0
Janjanbureh	7.0	49.1	0.2	40.3	0.5	2.9	100.0
Basse	6.2	52.3	0.2	38.8	0.6	1.9	100.0
Total	23.6	48.0	0.5	19.6	1.3	7.0	100.0

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

CHAPTER 5: YOUTH AND MIGRATION

Migration has always been one of the toughest demographic phenomena to study. This is due to the ambiguity of who a migrant is. Migration is a form of geographic or spatial mobility involving a change of usual residence between clearly defined geographic units. The minimum duration of stay that differentiates migration from a visit is still murky. The 2013 Population and Housing Census identified two types of migration--internal and external and youth are engaged in both.

Internal migration is defined as the movement of people from one area of a country to another for establishing a new residence. This migration may be temporary or permanent. Internal migrants move but remain within their country of origin (e.g. rural to urban migration). On the other hand, external migration is the movement of people across international boundaries

According to the latest United Nations estimates, there were 232 million international migrants worldwide in 2013, representing 3.2 per cent of the world's total population of 7.2 billion (United Nations, General Assembly, 2013a).⁴ There were 35 million international migrants under the age of 20 in 2013, an increase of 13 per cent from 2000. Forty million people were between the ages of 20 and 29 showing that globally international migrants under the age of 29 years account for more than 30 per cent of all migrants, approximately half of whom are females (United Nations, General Assembly, 2013a).

It is important to note that the scope, scale and type of migration are influenced by the social, economic and educational background of the migrant. Intentions for migrating are also very important to consider as this influences the extent to which some migrants stay at their destinations. Some young migrants leave their home communities intending to return at some point, while others plan to relocate permanently.

Internal migration interacts with urban environments in multiple ways. In a number of developing countries, circular migration patterns are common with migrants relocating from rural to urban areas on a temporary basis. In some places, the main transition of migrants is from one urban area to another; elsewhere, rural-rural migration remains pre-eminent.

Previous studies such as the *World Migration Report 2015*⁵ have shown that youth are inclined to embark on temporary migration rather than on a more permanent basis. This movement could be both internal and external, as international migration in most cases, start with rural-urban migration.

⁴ International Migration Report 2013

⁵ Migrants and Cities: New Partnerships to Manage Mobility, Page 4

Internal migration is mainly influenced by economic, social and infrastructural development and expansion in cities and industries. Therefore, rural-to-urban migration can be a good indicator of sustained economic growth although this is not always the case.

5.1 Reasons for migration

It is a known fact that migration is dynamic and the reasons for migrating are many and vary. While at times a single factor can influence some decisions to migrate, often a complex combination of several factors lead to the decision to migrate. Such combinations can emanate from personal considerations, socio-economic circumstances, and the political situation in one's settlement/country. Table 5.1(a) below presents in percentages some of the reasons why the Gambian youth migrate. It shows that the bulk of all migrant youth migrated to join their families—with a share of 44.9 per cent, followed by marriage and then employment and education. Natural disasters accounted for the least reasons why the youth migrate.

Table 5.1a: Reasons for youth migration by sex

Reasons	Male	Female	Total
Education	14.6	5.4	9.4
Employment/ Search	26.3	3.9	13.7
Marriage	1.0	44.0	25.1
Followed Family	50.8	40.2	44.9
Conflict/ War	0.5	0.4	0.5
Disasters	0.2	0.2	0.2
Drought	0.2	0.1	0.1
Medical Reasons	0.3	0.3	0.3
Tourism/ Visit	2.6	3.5	3.1
Other	3.6	1.9	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 5.1b shows the percentage distribution of migrants and reason for migration within LGA. Accompanying family and marriage stand out as the main reasons for migration across all LGAs except for Banjul where a majority migrate for employment purposes. Significant number of migrants—9.4 per cent at national level move for purposes of education.

Table 5.1b: Percentage distribution of migrants by LGA and reason for migration

LGA	Education	Employment/search	Marriage	Followed Family	Conflict/War	Disasters	Drought	Medical Reasons	Tourism/ Visit	Other	Total
Banjul	9.0	46.1	23.3	17.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	2.3	1.2	3,716
Kanifing	9.0	17.4	18.9	48.6	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.3	2.5	2.3	79,027
Brikama	8.0	11.0	21.4	53.4	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.3	2.4	2.7	127,597
Mansakonko	15.7	12.8	32.6	27.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	1.0	6.9	3.1	7,212
Kerewan	11.5	14.4	38.5	27.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	5.5	2.8	19,729
Kuntaur	14.1	7.5	49.2	18.1	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.4	5.8	3.8	6,265
Janjanbureh	13.4	10.5	43.2	23.6	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.6	4.8	3.2	9,221
Basse	13.3	14.1	47.2	16.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.3	5.4	2.5	15,683
Total	9.4	13.7	25.1	44.9	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	3.1	2.6	268,450

5.2 The impact of youth migration on individuals and communities

The impact of youth migration can be felt at many levels and at different scales. The youth that migrate are themselves affected as well as the people they leave behind. It is important to note that migration comes with series of risks such as exploitation, vulnerability to several social hazards, trafficking and drugs. It also has the risk of social exclusion, which has the potential to cause frustration in young men and women.

Although not much has been found from studies about the impact of youth migration at household level in The Gambia, it is evident that young people and their families sometimes see migration as a strategy for improving their livelihood prospects. The greater anticipation is always that opportunities exist at the destinations of the migrants. These opportunities could be in the form of education, employment or skills development and by making good use of these opportunities young men and women could shape their own futures and that of their families that they left behind.

Migration is mutually beneficial for the migrant's place of origin and the place of destination. In fact, in Africa, migration is a household strategy aimed at improving not only the wellbeing of the migrant but the extended family as well. At the place of origin, the impact of migration could be felt on household incomes, education and health status of household members as well as broader social and cultural processes. However, the nature and extent of the impact depends on who migrates and how they fare in the place of destination and the proclivity to stay connected to the place of origin. At the same time, the movement of highly educated and skilled personnel externally might create a skill vacuum at the country of origin; what is often referred to as 'brain-drain.' At the destination countries, migrants contribute to the economies of those countries through their work and consumption expenditures. While it is often believed that migrant workers take local jobs at lower wages, thereby depressing wages, more research is needed to provide concrete evidence to support the claim.

5.3 Distribution and pattern of youth internal migration

Table 4.3 below shows the percentage distribution and pattern of youth migration between LGAs with the rows indicating the LGAs of origin and the columns the LGAs of destination. The table indicates that movement of youth from other LGAs into Banjul was relatively small—4.4 per cent—with the highest of the movements taking place between Kanifing and Banjul—8.1 per cent. Movement into Kanifing was highest from Brikama (83.6 per cent) but Kerewan and Basse have considerable numbers of youth moving into Kanifing too—53.8 per cent and 57.5 per cent respectively.

Brikama on the other hand, received more migrants from Kanifing—75.3 per cent followed by Janjanbureh and the least was from Banjul. Youth movement into Mansakonko from any of the other LGAs was limited. The same or similar patterns are observed for Kerewan, Kuntaur, Janjanbureh and Basse (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3: Percentage distribution of internal migrants by place of origin and destination

	Banjul	Kanifing	Brikama	Mansakonko	Kerewan	Kuntaur	Janjanbureh	Basse	Count
Banjul	-	75.2	19.2	1.1	2.9	0.2	0.8	0.6	2,893
Kanifing	8.1	-	75.3	3.4	7.6	1.2	2.0	2.3	3,666
Brikama	3.7	83.6	-	3.0	5.3	0.8	2.0	1.6	5,238
Mansakonko	3.2	49.0	40.7	-	3.3	0.7	2.1	1.1	3,712
Kerewan	6.1	53.8	34.5	2.5	-	0.9	1.3	1.0	7,241
Kuntaur	3.2	46.0	36.9	2.1	4.4	-	5.4	2.0	2,314
Janjanbureh	2.7	43.8	41.1	2.9	2.8	3.2	-	3.5	3,280
Basse	5.2	57.5	28.9	0.9	2.9	1.3	3.3	-	2,799
Total	4.4	52.6	33.2	2.1	3.3	1.1	1.9	1.5	31,143

(-) refers to people who were enumerated at their places of birth

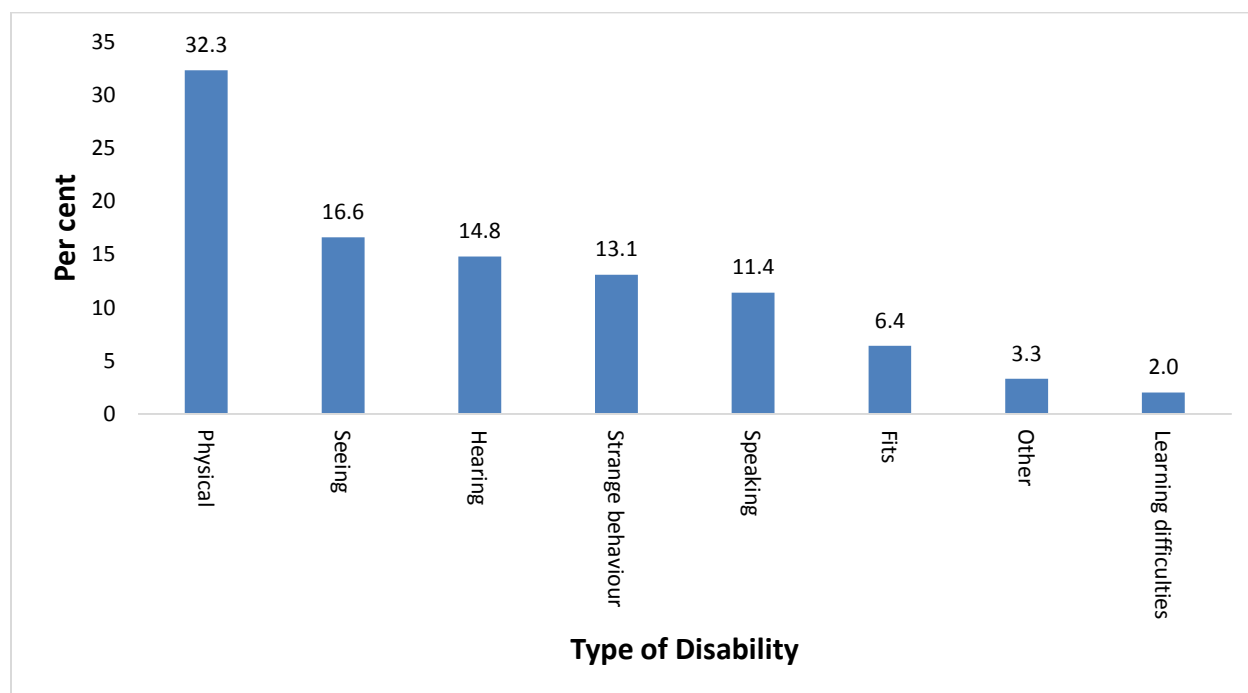
CHAPTER 6: YOUTH AND DISABILITY

6.1 Distribution of the type of disability amongst the youth population

During the census, questions on disability were asked for all household members aged 2 years and above. Out of the 690,836 youth in the country, 5,425—representing 0.8 per cent of all youth—have some form of disability.

For persons who were reported to have some form of disability, the respondent was asked to indicate the type of disability. The various types of disability that were asked about include but not limited to those related to seeing, hearing, speaking, physical, strange behaviour, fits and learning difficulties. From the figure below, it can be seen that most of the youth with disabilities have physical disability with 32.3 per cent followed by seeing difficulty with 16.6 per cent. Learning difficulties accounted for the lowest proportion of youth disability with only 2.0 per cent.

Figure 6.1: Percentage distribution of the type of disability amongst the youth population



NB: The proportions presented in the figure above are in descending order

Table 6.1 below shows percentage distribution of the youth by age group, sex, residence and LGA. The data shows that youth in the younger age cohort (13 to 14 and 15 to 19) had the highest proportion among the youth with seeing difficulties. It is observed that the younger age group (13 to 14 years) has the highest prevalence of hearing, speaking and learning difficulties as

well as other type of disabilities compared to the other age cohorts. Youth between 25 to 29 and 30 years had the highest prevalence of physical disability and ‘strange behaviour’.

By sex, 16.9 per cent of male youth have seeing difficulty, 13.8 per cent had hearing difficulty, 12.6 per cent had speaking difficulty and 30.6 per cent physical disability. For the females, 16.3 per cent have seeing difficulty, 15.7 per cent hearing difficulty, 10.2 per cent have speaking difficulty and 33.9 per cent have physical disability.

Analysis of the data by place of residence shows that 18.1 per cent of the youth in the urban areas have seeing difficulty, 15.2 per cent have hearing difficulty, 11.5 per cent have speaking difficulty and 31.5 per cent have physical disability. The comparative figures for youth in the rural areas are 15.6 per cent have seeing difficulty, 14.5 per cent hearing difficulty, 11.3 per cent speaking difficulty and 32.9 per cent physical disability.

By LGA, Banjul and Kanifing had the highest proportions among the youth with seeing difficulties, Banjul and Kuntaur had the highest proportions among the youth with hearing difficulties and Mansakonko and Janjanbureh had the highest proportions among the youth with physical disabilities.

Table 5.1: Percentage distribution of the youth by type of disability, age group, sex, residence and LGA

	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Physical	Strange behaviour	Fits	Learning difficulties	Other	Total
Age group									
13-14*	17.7	16.8	13.6	29.8	8.4	5.7	3.4	4.5	100.0
15-19	17.8	14.9	13.3	27.9	11.5	7.6	3.4	3.7	100.0
20-24	16.8	16.0	10.8	31.1	13.9	6.7	2.1	2.6	100.0
25-29	15.6	12.9	10.7	36.0	14.1	6.5	1.0	3.2	100.0
30*	15.8	15.0	8.9	36.6	15.5	3.9	0.7	3.5	100.0
Sex									
Male	16.9	13.8	12.6	30.6	14.7	5.6	2.1	3.4	100.0
Female	16.3	15.7	10.2	33.9	11.6	7.1	2.0	3.2	100.0
Residence									
Urban	18.1	15.2	11.5	31.5	13.0	5.5	1.9	3.2	100.0
Rural	15.6	14.5	11.3	32.9	13.1	7.1	2.2	3.4	100.0
LGA									
Banjul	20.2	17.9	8.3	23.8	15.5	7.1	1.2	6.0	100.0
Kanifing	19.9	13.9	10.5	30.6	15.5	4.0	2.3	3.4	100.0
Brikama	18.7	15.5	12.4	31.2	10.7	5.1	2.7	3.7	100.0
Mansakonko	13.9	11.9	9.9	36.4	12.9	9.5	2.4	3.1	100.0
Kerewan	14.5	14.4	10.5	32.5	15.3	8.5	1.3	3.0	100.0
Kuntaur	15.4	18.7	12.8	28.2	12.6	5.0	3.1	4.2	100.0
Janjanbureh	14.6	12.8	11.2	39.3	10.7	8.6	1.6	1.3	100.0
Basse	12.7	14.5	11.1	34.4	15.2	8.2	0.8	3.1	100.0
Total	16.6	14.8	11.4	32.3	13.1	6.4	2.0	3.3	100.0

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2013 Population and Housing Census revealed that the population of The Gambia is youthful. Growing at an annual rate of 3.4 per cent, it is projected to be 806,660 by 2018 an absolute increase of 115,824 youth in just five years. The youth are the wealth of The Gambia, a country not endowed with many natural resources. How they are supported is thus too important to be left to chance. Currently, too many of the youth are arriving at adulthood unprepared to contribute productively as citizens and employees. The youth, especially females, tend to marry too early, a situation that compromises their opportunities to attain higher education and be gainfully employed.

From the analysis, it is clear that the educational attainment of the youth is below desirable levels. Many of the educated youth lack the skills, innovation and motivation to generate decent jobs for themselves. Thus, they bear disproportionate share of the unemployed. Youth unemployment can be traced back to a number of economic and social factors. It is now commonly recognized that youth unemployment is a structural concern that requires long-term solutions. In the skills development field, a mismatch between demand for skills and the lack of appropriately skilled young workers has often been at the root of the youth's weak integration into the labour market

The potential of the youth could be unleashed not only for economic success but also for societal good if a strengths-based approach is adopted for policy interventions aimed at developing the youth—that is, recognizing both risks and protective factors that shape the development outcomes of the youth. Appropriate policies can ensure that young people have the skills and education to take advantage of jobs that open up with the use of new technologies. Likewise, policy interventions can steer advances in technology and finance towards job creation and innovation. Failure to develop the intellectual and productive capacities of the youth risks the challenge of under-qualified labour force, jobless growth and increased social ills.

In this regard, the next Youth Policy should focus on the following recommendations:

- Provide services and opportunities to support all young people in developing a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and empowerment.
- Policies and programmes should focus on the evolving developmental needs and tasks of young people, and involve youth as partners rather than beneficiaries of programs.
- National youth service should aim at giving the youth some work experience to increase their employability.

- There should be a clear mission and vision in articulating the role of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) within the national education and training system and the broader national development agenda. The success of a TVET system should be measured by its impact on the social and economic development of the nation. Ultimately, the real tests of success are the employability of the graduates, career development and improved youth wellbeing.
- Stronger bridges between TVET and the labour market are critical for The Gambia to match skills training with the needs of labour market. This is an essential step to enhancing employability of graduate youth.
- There is need to conduct a comprehensive nationwide youth survey to address the dearth of data on youth.

References

International Labor Organization

International Migration Report 2013

ANNEXES

Table A.1: Distribution of youth by age group, sex, residence and LGA

	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Age group			
13-14*	40,779	42,289	83,068
15-19	102,995	111,269	214,264
20-24	86,075	97,864	183,939
25-29	74,341	85,015	159,356
30*	21,861	28,348	50,209
Residence			
Urban	205,516	219,795	425,311
Rural	120,535	144,990	265,525
LGA			
Banjul	6,336	5,823	12,159
Kanifing	74,841	79,539	154,380
Brikama	126,690	135,014	261,704
Mansakonko	12,957	14,848	27,805
Kerewan	34,505	40,858	75,363
Kuntaur	13,856	18,475	32,331
Janjanbureh	19,491	24,120	43,611
Basse	37,375	46,108	83,483
Total	326,051	364,785	690,836

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

Table B.1: Distribution of the youth by marital status, age group, sex, residence and LGA

	Marital status						Total
	Never	Married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	NS	
Age group							
13-14*	79,956	1,217	19	19	37	1,820	83,068
15-19	187,404	23,093	313	138	184	3,132	214,264
20-24	119,827	59,691	1,297	306	326	2,492	183,939
25-29	67,101	86,753	2,126	478	625	2,273	159,356
30*	11,632	36,577	853	218	380	549	50,209
Sex							
Male	248,230	88,887	2758	570	761	5,163	346,369
Female	217,690	118,444	1,850	589	791	5,103	344,467
Residence							
Urban	274,666	41,839	574	269	224	8,479	326,051
Rural	191,254	165,492	4,034	890	1328	1,787	364,785
LGA							
Banjul	8,438	2,850	129	20	30	692	12,159
Kanifing	114,551	36,905	1,258	232	316	1,118	154,380
Brikama	186,272	69,315	1,740	427	591	3,359	261,704
Mansakonko	17,275	9,029	223	47	97	1,134	27,805
Kerewan	47,684	24,960	483	159	175	1,902	75,363
Kuntaur	18,308	13,309	146	49	69	450	32,331
Janjanbureh	25,807	16,531	252	84	104	833	43,611
Basse	47,585	34,432	377	141	170	778	83,483
Total	465,920	207,331	4,608	1,159	1,552	10,266	690,836

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

Table C.1: Distribution of the youth by school attendance, age group and LGA

LGA	Never	Now	Past	Total
Banjul	2,666	3,769	5,724	12,159
Kanifing	31,340	54,759	68,281	154,380
Brikama	60,451	98,983	102,270	261,704
Mansakonko	9,491	9,961	8,353	27,805
Kerewan	29,908	23,918	21,537	75,363
Kuntaur	20,473	6,165	5,693	32,331
Janjanbureh	22,486	11,579	9,546	43,611
Basse	44,927	18,861	19,695	83,483
Total	221,742	227,995	241,099	690,836

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

Table D.1: Distribution of the youth by literacy status, age group, sex, residence and LGA

	Read and write	Read only	Neither read nor write	NS	Total
Age group					
13-14*	63,614	6,090	13,337	27	83,068
15-19	160,933	11,045	42,219	67	214,264
20-24	125,391	11,185	47,280	83	183,939
25-29	93,621	11,868	53,794	73	159,356
30*	22,522	4,777	22,897	13	50,209
Sex					
Male	242,732	17,361	65,829	129	326,051
Female	223,349	27,604	113,698	134	364,785
Residence					
Urban	320,818	18,992	85,314	187	425,311
Rural	145,263	25,973	94,213	76	265,525
LGA					
Banjul	9,513	333	2,273	40	12,159
Kanifing	122,399	5,284	26,646	51	154,380
Brikama	196,228	11,127	54,236	113	261,704
Mansakonko	19,143	2,068	6,587	7	27,805
Kerewan	46,490	6,978	21,877	18	75,363
Kuntaur	13,467	4,434	14,426	4	32,331
Janjanbureh	21,887	5,030	16,678	16	43,611
Basse	36,954	9,711	36,804	14	83,483
Total	466,081	44,965	179,527	263	690,836

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes

Table E.1: Distribution of the youth by employment status, age group, residence and LGA

	Employment status						NS	Total
	Working	Had a job but not at work	Did not work and did not have a job	Home making	Student	Other		
Age group								
13-14*	4,384	5,955	6,611	2,943	62,763	382	30	83,068
15-19	29,340	20,063	25,078	16,676	121,616	1,405	86	214,264
20-24	59,054	20,248	37,246	28,026	37,399	1,863	103	183,939
25-29	74,217	19,599	29,416	28,125	5,785	2,114	100	159,356
30*	25,172	7,747	7,137	9,084	426	622	21	50,209
Sex								
Male	114,987	34,711	47,582	6,474	118,324	3,816	157	326,051
Female	77,180	38,901	57,906	78,380	109,665	2,570	183	364,785
Residence								
Urban	103,980	5,504	65,442	45,739	122,373	3,165	166	346,369
Rural	88,187	68,108	40,046	39,115	105,616	3,221	174	344,467
LGA								
Banjul	4,602	125	2,306	937	3,769	388	32	12,159
Kanifing	46,439	1,772	30,036	20,284	54,759	1,037	53	154,380
Brikama	69,631	5,728	52,663	31,388	98,979	3,111	204	261,704
Mansakonko	7,397	4,749	2,386	2,938	9,961	368	6	27,805
Kerewan	24,360	14,298	4,498	7,995	23,917	282	13	75,363
Kuntaur	8,006	10,291	1,951	5,855	6,163	59	6	32,331
Janjanbureh	13,043	7,533	3,239	7,693	11,580	514	9	43,611
Basse	18,689	29,116	8,409	7,764	18,861	627	17	83,483
Total	192,167	73,612	105,488	84,854	227,989	6,386	340	690,836

*As the analysis is limited to the youth population aged 13 to 30, the age groups are of unequal sizes