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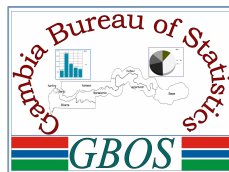


THE GAMBIA

POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2003

NATIONAL MIGRATION ANALYSIS

VOLUME 4



Gambia Bureau of Statistics

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Map of The Gambia Demarcated by Local Government Area

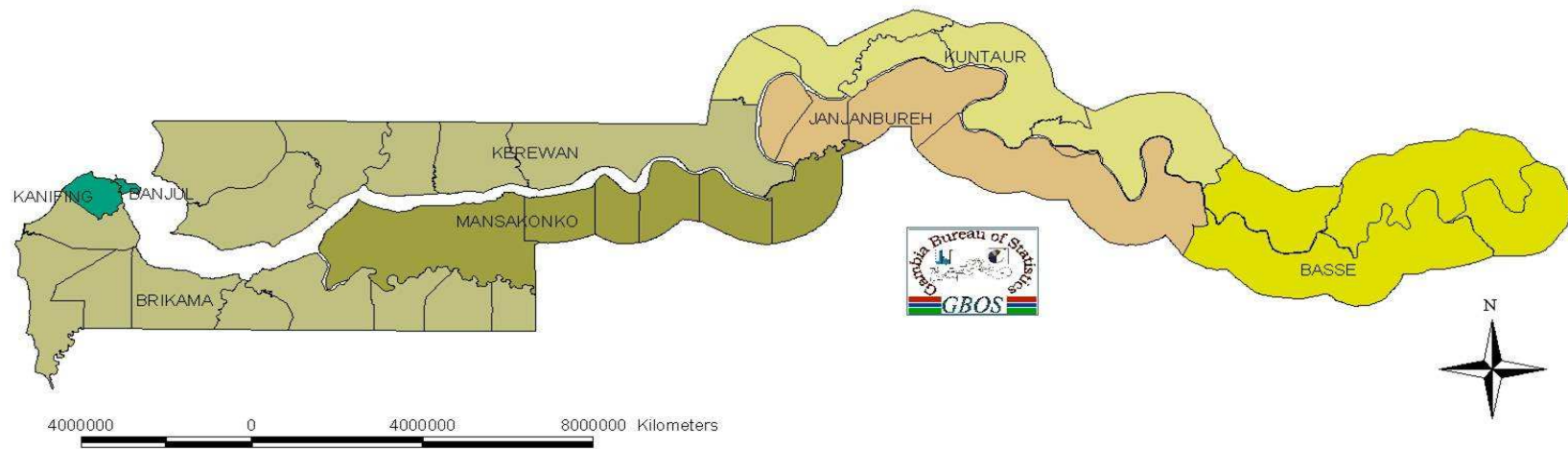


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PREFACE

This report is the fourth volume of the 2003 Population and Housing Census and provides an analytical account of migration in The Gambia as observed in 2003. The report is structured in three chapters. The introductory chapter attempts to define some key concepts that the reader will come across in the report. It also discusses the scope and limitations of the censuses in addressing certain issues that may be of interest in studying migration, the methodology used in analysing the data and theoretical considerations made in the analysis. Chapter 2 looks at the movement of Gambians between Local Government Areas and the characteristics of these internal migrants whilst chapter 3 looks at population movements into the country with a view to reflecting on their settlement patterns and socio – economic characteristics.

The analysed information has also been treated in historical perspective with a view to observing trends between the census years of 1983, 1993 and 2003. Data on migration in this country is quite scanty; hence this report could be an invaluable source of migration data. It is hoped that the information contained will suffice the needs of both policy makers and data users in general.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Baba Suwareh, Director of Social Statistics in this office for the preparation of such a comprehensive report.

Finally, I wish to thank UNFPA and the World Bank for supporting the Gambia Government in conducting the 2003 Population and Housing Census.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As in previous censuses, the 2003 Population and Housing Census studied the spatial mobility of the population enumerated in The Gambia on census night by asking questions on place of birth, place of previous residence and duration of stay at current place of residence. This report presents findings on the internal mobility of the population born in The Gambia as well as characteristics of immigrants or foreign population.

The population of The Gambia as enumerated on census night was 1,360,681 of which 1,238,133 (91%) were born in The Gambia, 119,776 (8.8%) were born outside The Gambia and 2,772 (0.2%) did not state their places of birth.

Of the population born in The Gambia, 242,213 persons had their Local Government Area (LGA) of enumeration different from their LGA of birth hence, were involved in the process of internal migration. Kerewan was the major origin of internal migrants while Kanifing and Brikama were major destinations. Except for Kanifing and Brikama, net internal migration was negative in all other LGAs implying more out – migration than in – migration into these areas. Kanifing and Brikama with better social and economic opportunities including housing receive more in – migrants and send less out – migrants.

An important aspect of internal migration that the census looked into is rural – urban migration. The census reveals that 226,720 Gambians were rural – urban migrants. About a quarter of these were born in rural areas of Kerewan whereas two thirds of them were enumerated in Kanifing and urban areas of Brikama. The census further reveals female dominance in rural – urban migration. Given that wives and co-wives in most urban families originate from rural areas coupled with the exodus of rural young ladies in search for domestic work in urban areas could largely explain this.

According to analysis done, the magnitudes of urban – urban and urban – rural migration were less significant. A total of 143,436 Gambians were found to be urban – urban migrants whilst only 24,298 were urban – rural migrants.

International migration was partially covered in the census and limited to immigrants only. A total of 119,776 persons were enumerated as being born outside The Gambia of which 105,115 have not changed their LGA of residence since they migrated into the country.

As in internal migration, Kanifing and Brikama attract most foreign nationals with 64 percent resident in these two LGAs. Most immigrants originate from Senegal (59%) and Guinea Conakry (16%). These countries are within the neighbourhood and share the same socio – cultural characteristics with The Gambia.

Due to the limited coverage of international migration, the volume of net migration could not be directly established. However, the difference between the growth rate (2.74%) and the rate of natural increase (3.5%) puts net migration at – 0.61 percent. A negative net migration implies more Gambians going out than foreigners coming in. This could be attributed mainly to the restoration of stability in countries within the sub – region particularly Sierra Leone and Liberia.