The Gambia

Atlas of 2003 Population and Housing Census

Gambia Bureau of Statistics,
The Gambia

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Banjul Port, Banjul Ferry Terminal, village housing, school boy (page 56) and a Gambian couple and children by authors.

ISBN 1-4243-1262-0

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ACRONYMS

CBEMP	Capacity Building for Economic Management Project
CBG	Central Bank of The Gambia
CIESIN	Center for International Earth Science Information Network
CRD	Central River Division
CSD	Central Statistics Department
DoSE	Department of State for Education
EA	Enumeration Area
GBoS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
LGA	Local Government Area
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NAWEC	National Water and Electricity Company
NBD	North Bank Division
UND5MR	Under 5 Mortality Rate
URD	Upper River Division

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FOREWORD

The Central Statistics Department (CSD) was established by the Statistical Act of 1972. Under the Act, the Director of Statistics is empowered to conduct or direct regular population censuses. The 2003 Population and Housing Census marked the fourth census since the department was established. Now the Act has been revised and enacted and it is called the Statistics Act 2005. This Act has led to the transformation of the department from the Central Statistics Department to now The Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS).

The Gambia Atlas of 2003 Population and Housing Census, the first ever to be produced on census in the Gambia, is part of efforts to increase our understanding of the living conditions of Gambia's population as a basis for action to better provide for their well-being. The atlas is designed in a very simple, user-friendly manner and captures a wide range of useful information. It is intended to be a source book for policy makers, development planners, students and educators as well as the general population interested in understanding the characteristics and living conditions of the population of the Gambia and how they vary across the country.

My sincere gratitude to the Government of The Gambia, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Bank (WB) through the CBEMP project, and the private sector for providing technical and financial support for the conduct of the 2003 Population and Housing Census. We also appreciated the cooperation and support of all the respondents, local government authorities and the entire Gambian population during the census exercise. Special thanks goes to the Statistician and his staff and all those who participated in the collection and processing of the 2003 Population and Housing Census data and to the atlas development team for the timely completion of this document.

Musa Gibril Bala Gaye
Secretary of State for Finance and Economic Affairs
July 2006

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Capacity Building for Economic Management Project (CBEMP) under project No. 3555GM for their invaluable financial support to the production of the atlas and for their fruitful cooperation on this important project. My sincere thanks to Mrs. Fatou Leigh Project Director, Mr. Alieu Bittaye Deputy Project Director, Mr. Momodou Cham and the rest of CBEMP team for their support throughout the consultancy.

I am particularly grateful to the staff of the Gambia Bureau of Statistics and to all those who participated in the collection and processing of the data used in developing this atlas. I thank Dr. Malanding S. Jaiteh of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) at Columbia University, for putting together this atlas along with Mr. Alieu Saho of Gambia Bureau of Statistics for tirelessly coordinating the atlas review process.

Many other people have contributed immensely towards the development of this atlas. They are Mr. Sheriffo S.T. Sonko of UNICEF Gambia, Mr. Alieu Sarr, Head of the Demographic Section and the late Seedia Bayo for guiding the process. I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Baboucarr Daffeh of the Cartographic Unit and Mrs. Lolly Jallow the Principal Programmer at the Data Processing Unit for the facilitation and timely delivery of input data.

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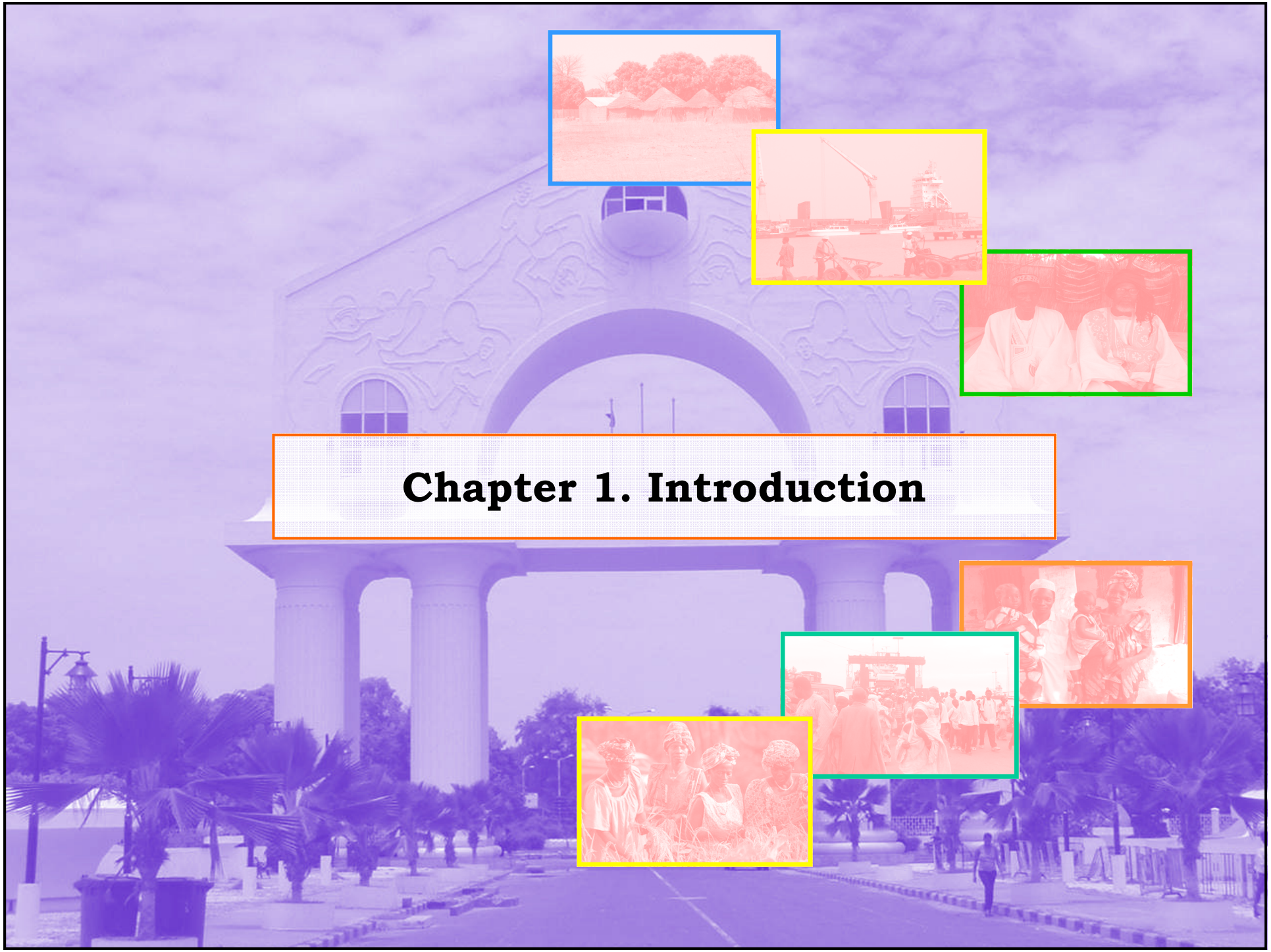


Chapter 1. Introduction

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

The population and housing census, conducted every 10 years is a complete count of all the people and households in The Gambia. The results represent a snapshot of the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the country at the time of the census thus enabling planners and policy-makers to measure changes in demographic and socioeconomic characteristics over time. It is the primary source of information about the number and characteristics of population in each local government area. It also provides a sampling frame and related functional projections that are related for sector planning affecting public expenditure in the area of education, health and agriculture. Censuses also provide data that can be used to benchmark progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The exercise provides information on the number of people living in a particular area as well as information on housing, health, education, employment and migration. The results of the census are particularly important in identifying the extent and nature of social exclusion and resulting service need. Census results are vital in supporting local and national government planning efforts such as planning and implementation of Millennium Development Goals, strategies of poverty alleviation as well as support of research and business decision making processes.

This atlas aims to present the results of The Gambia 2003 population and housing Census in an accessible form to a variety of users in the public and private sectors and the public at large. It highlights the similarities and differences between the different parts of the county using a number of key variables in the form of maps, charts and tables and that permits comparisons. The maps show the spatial distribution of the population and demographic characteristics within districts and LGAs with brief description on each topic with tables and charts.

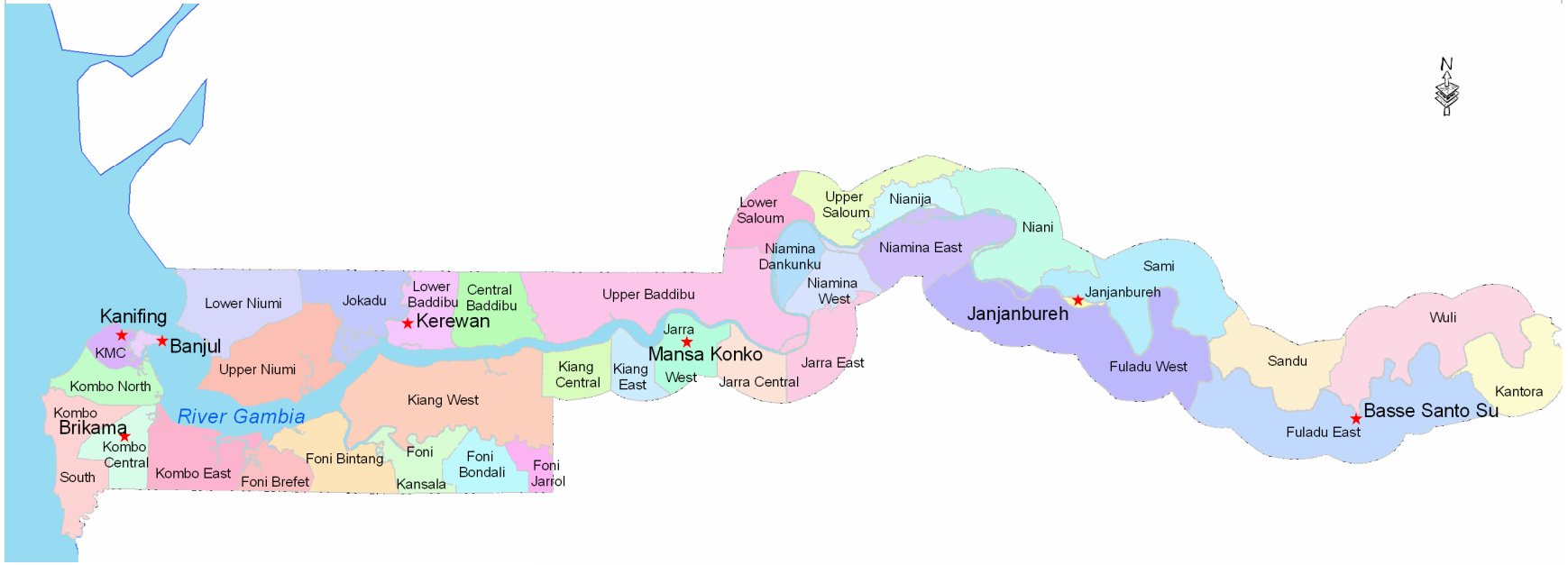
Data Collection

The 2003 Population and Housing Census is the fourth consecutive census in the Gambia since independence in 1965. The census was conducted over a 21 day period in April 2003. The first 7 days of the exercise was spent on administering the housing questionnaire. The population enumeration lasted 14 days starting April 15th 2003. The aim of the enumeration was to take a count of all persons who were within the borders of The Gambia by midnight April 15th (Census Night). Enumeration started midnight April 15th with the enumeration of institutional and floating populations. Completed questionnaires/schedules were assembled at the Divisional Census Offices for checking and validation such that all cases, which require callbacks, were attended to before instruments were finally dispatched to Banjul.

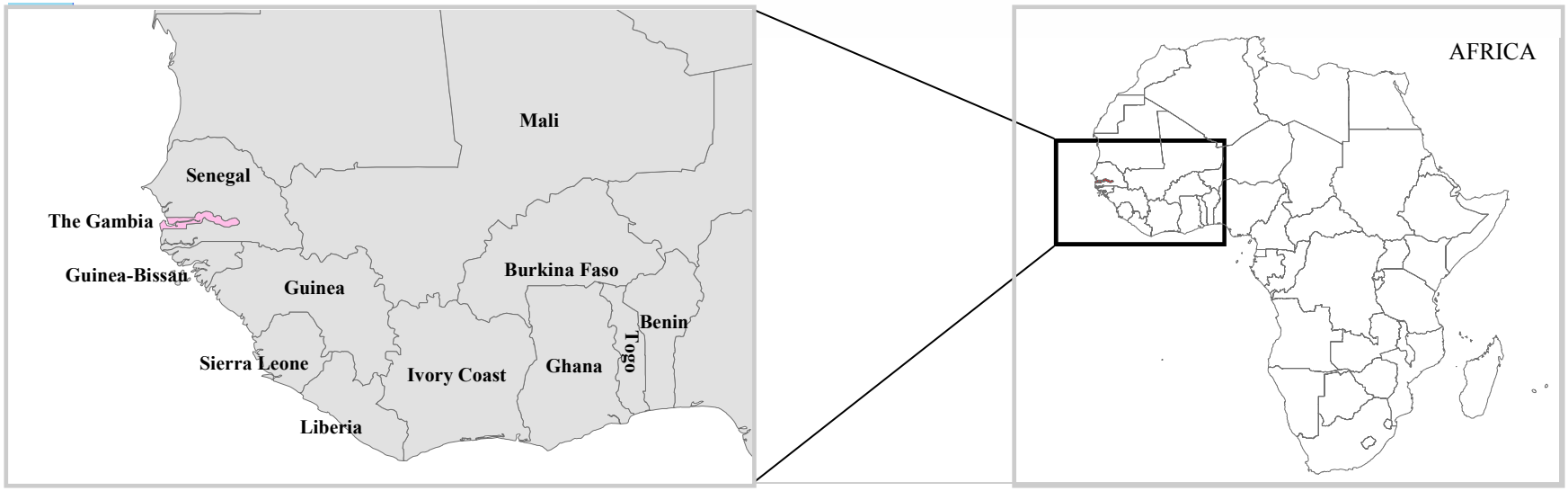
The base maps used in developing the maps come from a number of sources. Administrative (LGAs and Districts) and roads layers are from The Gambia 1:50000 GIS Database developed by the Study for Establishment of Geographic Database in the Republic of The Gambia Project at the Department of State for Local Government and Lands that was funded by the Japan International Corporation Agency. GBoS's Cartographic Unit team headed by Mr. Baboucarr Daffeh drew the enumeration area maps.

Data Entry and Processing

The results of the Census are compiled, processed by, Local Government Area (LGA), District, Settlement and Enumeration Area (EA). There are 1833 settlements (including the City of Banjul) in The Gambia. Settlements are identified by the presence of an Alkalo (village or neighborhood administrator). Census Enumeration Area (EA) is the smallest census reporting unit. An EA contains on average 65 households and 500 residents.



LOCATION MAP OF THE GAMBIA



The 2003 Census Atlas of The Gambia

This atlas maps variables that describe the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population of The Gambia as of April, 2003 data at Administrative District and Local Government Area level. The variables that are mapped have been chosen with regard to their usefulness as indicators of demographic and social conditions in the county. In particular they highlight areas of relative inequalities in education, literacy, housing characteristics, gender and overall economic wellbeing that are of interest to a number of development planners and service providers.

The intended audience for this atlas is Gambian decision makers, development and planning agencies and educators and students. Consequently, this atlas is being distributed not only to key individuals in government, but also to National Assembly members, non-governmental and civil society organizations, economic and social researchers, educational institutions and donors.

The maps in the atlas are produced using a thematic mapping approach known as chloropleth mapping. In choropleth mapping, values for spatial units (such as districts) are divided into a number of ranges that are represented by different colors or shading. Where maps aim at showing areas of deviation from country average, the class intervals for the range have been chosen with reference to that average. Where needed, the maps are accompanied by textboxes, tables and charts. This is intended to provide sufficient information to define the statistic being mapped, describe the broad spatial patterns shown in the maps and highlight limitations to the usefulness of the maps.

Care must be taken over the interpretation of these maps. The spatial units used (output areas) are not uniform either in area or number of people/households; hence in a district with relatively few households (as is the case with some rural districts), a small number of households in absolute terms may appear on the map as a high concentration in percentage terms, and may appear to cover a large area due to the large physical size of the district.

Administrative Areas

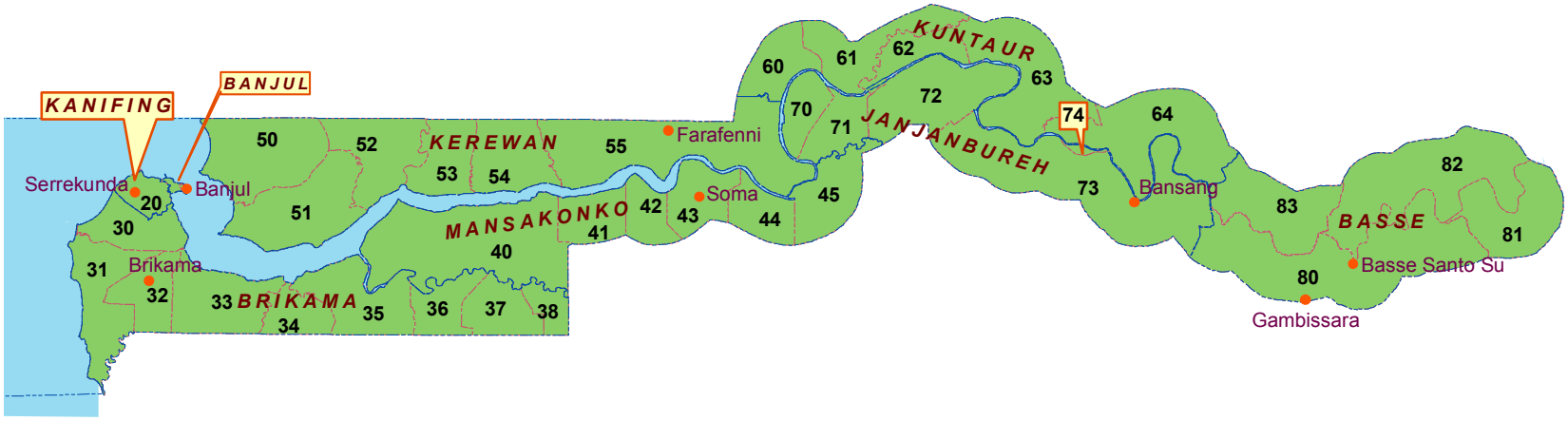
For the census administration, the country is divided into 8 Local Government Areas (LGAs) (Table 1). In all there are 39 administrative districts including Banjul and Kanifing Municipalities. Banjul Municipality is further divided into 3 district-equivalent sub-divisions.

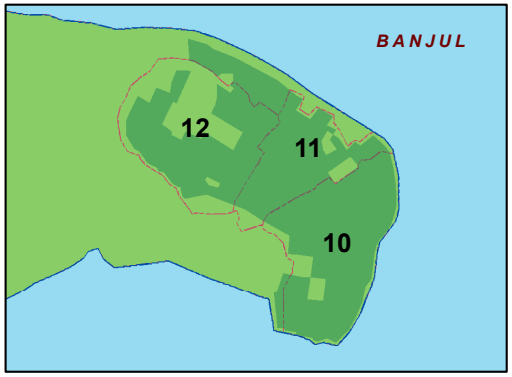
Table 1. Land area, population and number of households by local government area. *Land area include River Gambia

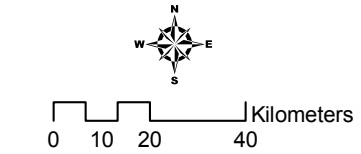
Local Government Area	Land area*		Population		Households	
	Sq. km	% Total	Count	% Total	Count	% Total
Banjul Municipality	12	0.1	35,061	2.6	6,853	4.4
Kanifing Municipality	76	0.7	322,735	23.7	49,015	31.1
Brikama	1,764	16.5	389,594	28.6	45,138	28.7
Mansakonko	1,618	15.1	72,167	5.3	8,432	5.4
Kerewan	2,255	21.1	172,835	12.7	18,241	11.6
Kuntaur	1,467	13.7	78,491	5.8	7,103	4.5
Janjanbureh	1,428	13.4	107,212	7.9	10,113	6.4
Basse	2,070	19.4	182,586	13.4	12,592	7.9
The Gambia	10,690	100	1,360,681	100	157,487	100

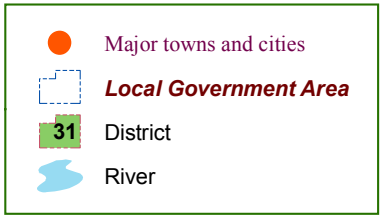
Administrative districts in 2003

This map shows the 39 districts in the 8 Local Government Areas (LGAs) that were used for enumeration during the 2003 Population and Housing Census.









Banjul	***Mansakonko***	61. Upper Saloum
10. Banjul South	40. Kiang West	62. Nianija
11. Banjul Central	41. Kiang Central	63. Niani
12. Banjul North	42. Kiang East	64. Sami
Kanifing	43. Jarra West	***Janjanbureh***
20. Kanifing Municipality	44. Jarra Central	70. Niamina Dankunku
Brikama	45. Jarra East	71. Niamina West
30. Kombo North	***Kerewan***	72. Niamina East
31. Kombo South	50. Lower Nuimi	73. Fuladu West
32. Kombo Central	51. Upper Nuimi	74. Janjanbureh
33. Kombo East	52. Jokadu	***Basse***
34. Foni Brefet	53. Lower Baddibu	80. Fuladu East
35. Foni Bintang Karanai	54. Central Baddibu	81. Kantora
36. Foni Kansala	55. Upper Baddibu	82. Wuli
37. Foni Bondali	***Kuntaur***	83. Sandu
38. Foni Jarrol	60. Lower Saloum	

Population data: The Gambia Population and Housing Census 2003
Boundary data: The Gambia 50000 dataset. Department of State for Local Government and Lands 2001.

Table 2. Land Area, population and number of households by district in 2003

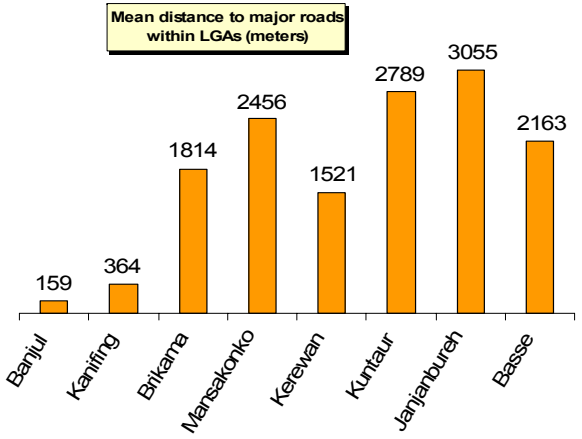
District Code	Name	Area (sq km)‡	Population	Households	District Code	Name	Area (sq km)	Population	Households
Banjul		**12 ***	**35,061**	**6,853**	**Kerewan**		**2,199**	**172,835**	**18,241**
10	Banjul South	0.90	8,453	1,671	50	Lower Niumi	392.99	44,611	4,890
11	Banjul Central	0.51	9,094	1,891	51	Upper Niumi	382.77	24,959	2,445
12	Banjul North	0.91	17,514	3,291	52	Jokadu	279.21	17,871	1,664
					53	Lower Baddibu	200.61	15,349	1,665
Kanifing		**76**	**322,735**	**49,015**	54	Central Baddibu	254.55	15,282	1,660
20	Kanifing Municipality	76	322,735	49,015	55	Upper Baddibu	689.29	54,763	5,917
Brikama		**1,764**	**389,594**	**45,138**	**Kuntaur**		**1,501**	**78,491**	**7,103**
30	Kombo North	181.09	166,493	20,585	60	Lower Saloum	155.76	13,564	1,361
31	Kombo South	299.71	61,615	6,874	61	Upper Saloum	273.93	15,157	1,257
32	Kombo Central	196.23	84,296	9,497	62	Nianija	138.24	8,305	697
33	Kombo East	267.19	27,944	3,060	63	Niani	433.92	22,239	2,087
34	Foni Brefet	128.07	10,822	1,176	64	Sami	499.58	19,226	1,701
35	Foni Bintang Karanai	291.11	15,136	1,514	**Janjanbureh**		**1,463**	**107,212**	**10,113**
36	Foni Kansala	144.73	11,353	1,205	70	Niamina Dankunku	127.86	5,926	648
37	Foni Bondali	158.16	6,080	632	71	Niamina West	148.33	6,577	649
38	Foni Jarrol	97.59	5,855	595	72	Niamina East	386.40	19,320	1,942
Mansakonko		**1,561**	**72,167**	**8,474**	73	Fuladu West	789.31	72,166	6,446
40	Kiang West	710.92	14,610	1,666	74	Janjanbureh	11.26	3,223	428
41	Kiang Central	158.36	7,882	929	**Basse**		**2,048**	**182,586**	**12,592**
42	Kiang East	119.87	6,510	656	80	Fuladu East	798.83	98,078	7,421
43	Jarra West	171.02	24,220	3,222	81	Kantora	312.39	30,006	1,594
44	Jarra Central	169.43	6,500	604	82	Wuli	605.91	36,198	2,356
45	Jarra East	231.73	12,445	1,397	83	Sandu	331.09	18,304	1,221

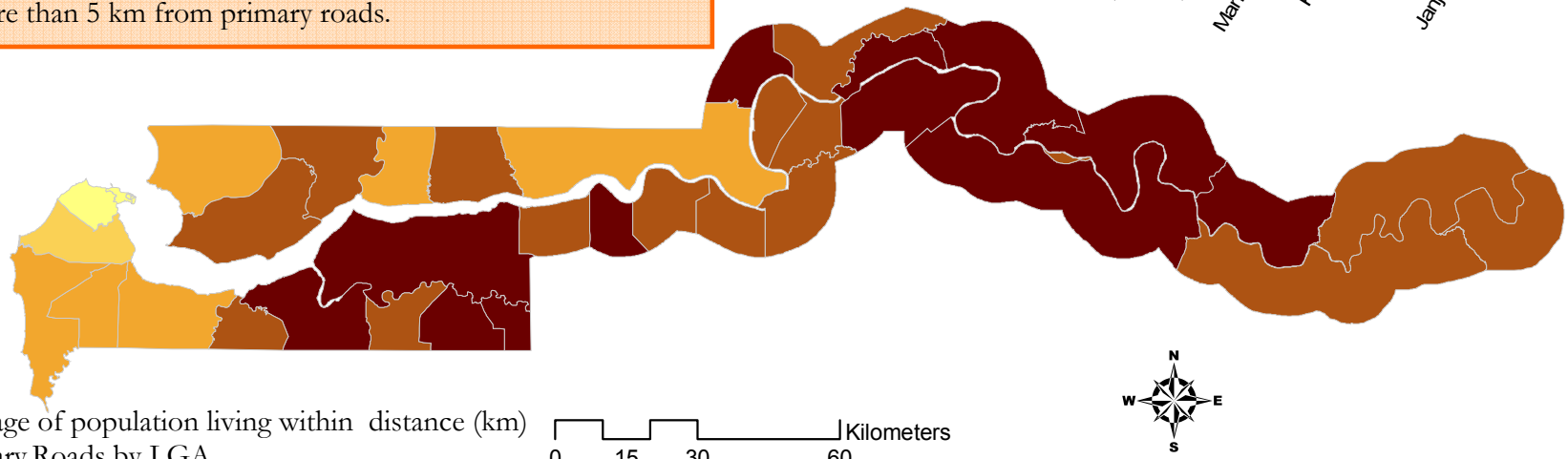
‡ Land area only

* Includes Mangrove swamps which are uninhabited

Distance to primary roads

Roads are the artery of circulation in any modern economy. The presence of good roads—particularly all weather roads—facilitates transportation of people and goods to and from markets and other services. Mean distance to roads and the proportion of administrative area population living within specific distance from primary roads are used to compare different parts of the country. The Gambia has an estimated 690 km of primary roads and 910 km of secondary roads. About 50% of the population live within 0.5 km of primary roads while 25 percent live more than 5 km from primary roads.





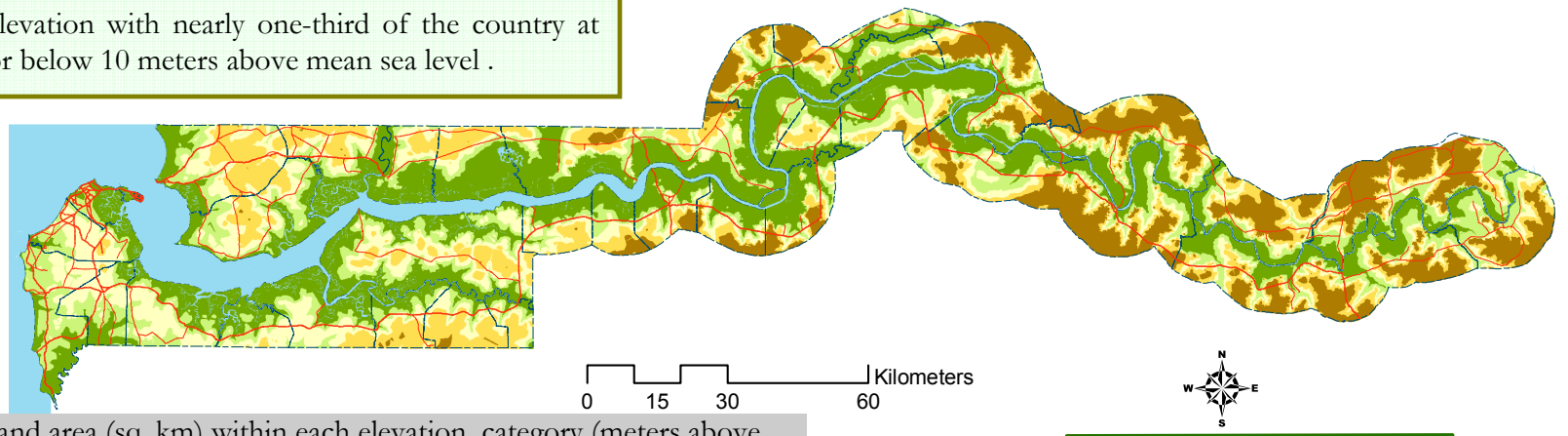
Percentage of population living within distance (km) of Primary Roads by LGA

LGA	<.5km	0.5 -1km	1-2.5km	2.5-5km
Banjul	100	100	0	0
Kanifing	93	7	0	0
Brikama	50	13	17	16
Mansakonko	46	10	13	13
Kerewan	29	3	6	13
Kuntaur	0	0	0	0
Janjanbureh	32	12	14	16
Basse	16	5	4	9
The Gambia	**50**	**8**	**8**	**9**

Population data: The Gambia Population and Housing Census 2003
District boundary data: The Gambia 50000 dataset. Department of State for Local Government and Lands, 2001.

Elevation map of The Gambia

The topography of the Gambia is dominated by the River Gambia, which divides the country into two strips of land no wider than 30 km on either side. The country is generally low-lying with no areas above 60m in elevation. Over 52% of the total land area at or below 20 meters elevation with nearly one-third of the country at or below 10 meters above mean sea level .



Population data: The Gambia Population and Housing Census 2003
District boundary data: The Gambia 50000 dataset. Department of State for Local Government and Lands, 2001.

Land area (sq. km) within each elevation category (meters above sea level)

	<10	10 - 20	20 - 30	30 - 40	>40
Banjul	12	0	0	0	0
Kanifing	50	25	1	0	0
Brikama	562	477	512	202	11
Mansakonko	630	294	347	245	102
Kerewan	944	393	415	456	47
Kuntaur	413	203	180	196	475
Janjanbureh	567	250	193	170	248
Basse	383	381	287	329	690
The Gambia	3,561	2,023	1,935	1,598	1,573