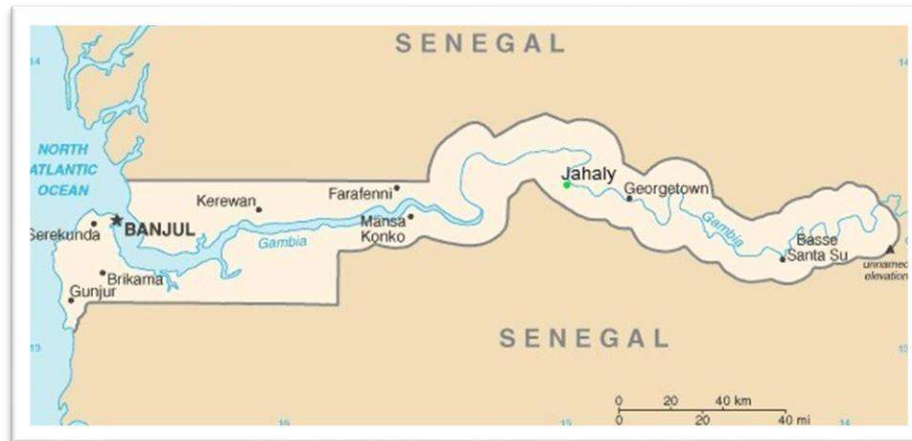


The Gambia. The economic situation.



Agriculture, tourism and fishing are the main industries in the country. Around two thirds of the Gambian gross domestic product is generated in the service sector. Another important economic factor are money transfers from Gambians living abroad, which ensure the survival of their families in The Gambia, but also keep hopes for a life abroad growing.

The most important agricultural products of The Gambia are rice, millet and peanuts (in The Gambia called "groundnuts"). Products are mainly exported to China, India and France. The Gambia's trade balance is negative despite the foreign exchange from the tourism business as it imports much of its food. The biggest challenge for The Gambia is its extreme national debt.

The Gambia is one of the poorest countries in the world: according to the United Nations Development Program, over 60 percent of the population live below the poverty line. The Gambia ranks 174th out of 189 in the United Nations' [Human Development Index](#).

A large part of the population works in agriculture or in small businesses as craftsmen and of course in the tourism industry. In The Gambia it rains for around two to three months a year and fewer tourists come to the country. Many employees in the hotels then lose their jobs and are only hired again at the beginning of the next season. Tourism in The Gambia is also heavily dependent on the current situation: due to the 2014 Ebola epidemic in some West African countries, which did not directly affect The Gambia, tourists decided not to travel to The Gambia - many hotels remained empty during the high season. The economic effects of the 2020 corona pandemic are dramatic.



Projekthilfe Gambia e.V.

The currency in The Gambia is the Dalasi (one Dalasi = 100 Butut). The currency is subject to strong fluctuations. E.g. in 2006 there were 35 dalasi for one euro, in 2020 there are around 55 dalasi. According to the IMF, the inflation rate in The Gambia was around seven percent in 2019.

The Gambia river is navigable for seagoing ships up to approx. 250 kilometers inland. In several places, crossing the river is only possible with - often unreliable - car ferries. For years the ferry connection between Farafenni / Mansa Konko and Soma was a bottleneck for the important transit route from the north to the south of the neighboring country Senegal, which runs about 30 kilometers through The Gambia. Trucks often had to wait days for a crossing. A (toll) bridge has been in operation since January 2019 after a four-year construction period. The 1,900 meter long "Senegambia Bridge" is the first bridge over the Gambia River. Several smaller bridges further inland are under construction.

Two paved highways (North Bank Road and South Bank Road), which follow the course of the Gambia River on the north and south, open up the country in a west-east direction.

There is an international airport near the capital city of Banjul, which is served daily from Europe - e.g. from Brussels, Amsterdam, London and Barcelona.