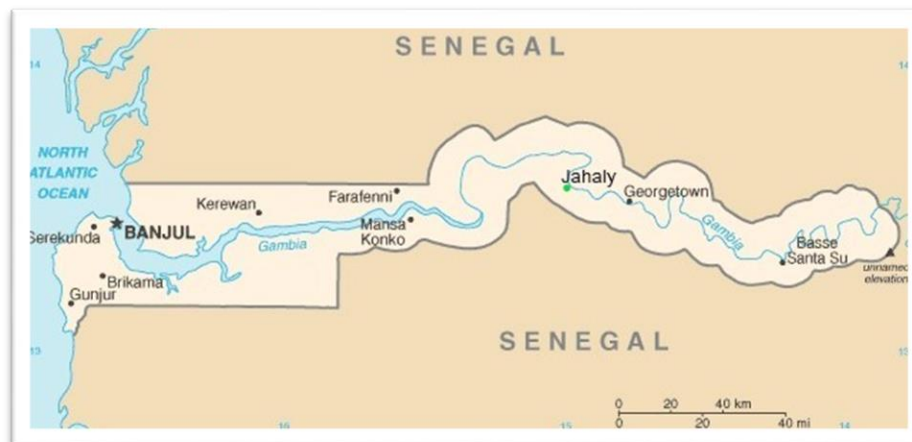


## The Gambia. The population structure.



The Gambia is the smallest territorial state on the African continent and has about 2.4\* million inhabitants (2020). The Gambia lies north and south of the River Gambia. As in many former colonial countries, the coastal region around the capital city of Banjul is significantly more developed than the rural areas upcountry. Especially young Gambians leave their villages to find work in the coastal region.

This rural exodus causes major problems for agriculture in the villages, because traditionally all family members work in the fields. The work now is to accomplish even more difficult and hard of the remaining family members. The hope that the young people earn a lot of money in the coastal region is not always fulfilled. Many also dream of a life in Europe and take the dangerous journey through the desert and the Mediterranean to look for a better life in Europe.

Ninety percent of the population of The Gambia are Sunni or Alevi Muslims, about nine percent are Christians. Despite the belief in a monotheistic religion superstition, talismans ("Juju") and animistic thoughts are widespread and no contradiction in the minds of the people.

The Gambia is a multiethnic state with different groups that all have their own culture and language. Both different religions and tribes live largely peacefully. Even weddings with one another are not uncommon, with common children generally follow the line of the father.

In the coastal region, which is called only "combo" in The Gambia, in addition to the official language English the language of Wolof is the main language. This tribe is the largest population group in neighboring Senegal. Largest population of The Gambia are Mandinka and Fulani, their languages and culture are used in many other West African countries. Other tribes are Serahule, Jola, Mandiogo, Serrer, Karondinka.

\*Source: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/gambia-population>