



# THE GAMBIA RED CROSS SOCIETY (GRCS)

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022

Activity Report 2019 to 2022

Prepared and Presented By: Secretary General - GRCS



*Secretary General Alasan Senghore, IFRC Delegate Sarah and Team visited Banjul 2022 Flooded Areas*

## **Acknowledgement**

This report will provide an account of programmes, projects and operations undertaken by The Gambia Red Cross through its dedicated volunteers and staff.

The outstanding performance has created opportunities for new programmes, partnerships, and resources. I take this opportunity to commend all Red Cross volunteers and leaders for your commitment and actions. I also wish to thank the IFRC, ICRC, Italian, Spanish Red Cross Societies partners, donors and the Government of The Gambia for the trust, confidence, and support. The transformation process would not have been possible without the support from the Italian Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

I wish to sincerely thank the Governing Board under the leadership of the President Mr. Jato Sillah for their collaboration, support, and guidance.

**Alasan Senghore**

**Secretary General**

## **Key Abbreviations**

ACLS Advanced Cardiac Life Support

CEA Community Engagement and Accountability

CRR Central River Region

EFSTH Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital

EU European Union

GA General Assembly

GRCS Gambia Red Cross Society

ICRC International Committee of the Red Cross

IFRC International Federation of the Red Cross

LRR Lower River Region

MHM Menstrual Hygiene Management

MOH Ministry of Health

NBR North Bank Region

NS National Society

PECT Practical Emergency Cash Transfer

RFL Restoring Family Links

SAF Safer Access Framework

URR Upper River Region

USAID United States Aid for International Development

VAD Volunteer Aid Detachment

WCR West Coast Region

## Introduction

The Gambia **Red Cross Society** (GRCS) continues to play its role as auxiliary to the government in the humanitarian and development fields since its establishment in 1966 by an Act of Parliament of The Gambia whilst also maintaining its independence and neutrality in accordance with the fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Movement.

Today, we are highly faced with climate hazards in The Gambia which include torrential rainfall resulting in flash floods, and windstorms. The issues of pandemics, epidemics, domestic fires and road traffic, sea and river accidents are also common which usually require urgent and immediate responses by the GRCS. The Gambia, like many other West African states, is at risk of food shortages due to erratic rainfall, significant deterioration of civil security, food unavailability and inaccessibility, and the effects of climate change and other related factors. Low cereal production causing high prices of basic food commodities, exacerbated by the decline in purchasing power and the continued impact of COVID-19 pandemic and other conflicts in the world has its impact on the lives and livelihoods of many people in the country. During the period under review, the GRCS was involved in different programmes and operations aimed at alleviating human suffering, promote dignity and reducing vulnerabilities in The Gambia. The GRCS has provided the following:

- Training and Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law
- Principles and Values of the Red Cross
- Humanitarian Assistance to Returning Migrants,
- Youth Empowerment Initiatives
- Tracing and Restoring Family Links for Separated Families,
- Assistance to Communities Affected by Disasters
- Ambulance Services Locally and to Senegal
- First Aid Training and Coverage
- Disaster Preparedness, Response and Management
- Food Security, Livelihood and Nutrition
- Health care services
- Cash Assistance
- Protection
- Gender and Inclusion
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and others

We have also increased our engagement with government and other stakeholders in terms of strengthening the auxiliary role and pursuing new partnerships.

The National Society (NS) continues operating in all the seven administrative regions of The Gambia with a strong network of trained and active volunteers . The Programme Coordinators and other staff facilitate and coordinate activities while the majority of the activities are being implemented by the volunteers in partnership with the beneficiaries. The GRCS has won the trust and confidence of the communities and partners and is currently the largest humanitarian institution with a strong network of volunteers in the country.

As reported in the last General Assembly (GA), the journey to transform The Gambia Red Cross into a well-functioning national Society continues, aimed at strengthening existing structures for effective and efficient service delivery. As proposed to the Governing Board, three work streams have emerged that could and are eventually helping in achieving the desired results from the transformation:

**1. Business continuity and development**

**2. Implementation of the transformation**

**3. Capitalizing on existing and emerging opportunities**

We try to ensure business continuity through the provision humanitarian assistance within our mandate and obligations with total impartiality, neutrality and independence. However, due to the high demand of the public on the humanitarian services, GRCS also continues into providing timely and quality assistance while improving its service delivery systems, mechanisms and procedures. We have witnessed since 2018 very good progress and development of the NS; however more needs to be done at branch level. Therefore, embarking on branch Operational capacity assessment, continuous implementation of the outcomes and recommendations of Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) and Safer Assess Framework (SAF), humanitarian diplomacy, development of key strategic and policy frameworks, staff and volunteer capacity strengthening and having a well-functional Governing Board and management will be prioritize, for the next three years, in order to increase our humanitarian services and assistance, development interventions and continue to be a well-functioning National Society.

**General Functions, Operations, Programmes, Projects and Activities (Achievements and challenges)**

The following are some highlights of what was delivered by the GRCS since the last General Assembly with key targets (outcomes and outputs);

**Outcome and Output Targets**

1. Reduce vulnerabilities and building resilience in communities
2. Address sanitation and water borne diseases through the provision of clean and potable water to vulnerable communities
3. Promote humanitarian values and the RCRC fundamental principles among the general population
4. Strengthen community based first aid, healthcare and hygiene promotion, primary healthcare and diseases prevention (e.g. COVID-) targeting communities and vulnerable groups
5. National society and branch development, volunteer recruitment, retention and capacity building to the NS to be more effective and efficient in service delivery
6. Partnership: Strengthening and resource mobilization and position the GRCS to be a partner of choice in the humanitarian and development field
7. Promote and strengthen gender inclusion and address protection issues in programming and operations

## 1. Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster Management, Preparedness and Response

The comparative advantage of the National Society has always significantly contributed in the timely and professional humanitarian interventions. The GRCS has re-established and revitalized specialized and trained response tools that are readily available to provide their valuable services at any given moment or situation. The Emergency Response Team, (the ERT) comprises over two hundred well-trained, energetic and devoted young men and women across the country to respond to disasters and other emergencies.

The GRCS mobilized about 900 volunteers nationwide to partake in the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021 presidential nominations and election. The main Roles and responsibilities of the GRCS volunteers during voting were to provide first aid services to the electorate in the various polling stations, especially the elderly and pregnant women, handling and refilling hand wash facilities, distributing of face masks, applying hand sanitizers while on standby during the period of election process.

Emergency prepared and response training of GRCS branches were conducted with funding from the Belgian Red Cross. A total of 154 GRCS volunteers and branch staff in all the 7 Red Cross branches were trained in the above subject matter and procurement and distribution of essential household items for the flood affected households.

We continue to receive funding from IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund and ICRC to respond to disasters and emergencies. In the 2022 floods through DREF a total of 7,021 affected people (606) households were reached and the operation was also supported by the American government - USAID, with an additional 757 households benefiting from cash for food and cash for shelter as well as essential household items, and health services. During other natural disaster such as domestic and bushfires we continue to conduct Situation analysis and needs assessment, distribution of essential households items and first aid and ambulance services



*GRCS and partners on tree planting exercise and mangroves restoration in the North Bank Region*

The Youth Eco-brigade Programme/Project (Brand of youth cooperatives working for environmental ecosystem protection) initiated and funded by the UNDP is an initiative that targets to preserve the environment as well as creating green job opportunities for the youth. The successful implementation of this programme requires a strong partnership between government institutions and strong collaboration with other actors, including the private sector. The initiative

has focused on tree planting exercise and capacity building for youth from July 2021 to December 2021. The project engaged youths for the regeneration of degraded habitats to improve the vegetation cover, microclimate, and above, all provide an important greenhouse sink. The GRCS , West Africa Birds Studies Association and National Youth Council (a government agent) and other relevant government tiers in partnership with UNDP has embarked on tree planting exercise and mangrove restoration in North Bank Region . During the community outreach volunteers were able to reach out to 2031 males and 2572 females (total of 4603) within 30 communities.

The project registered the following successes: 150,000 women and youths were mobilized and engaged to accept, promote and practice in climate resilience and greening of The Gambia; planted more than 72, 000 woodlots and 10,000 fruit trees for replacement of the lost vegetation cover within North Bank Region in targeted communities as the first phase of the project with survival rate of 4 out of every 5 quality trees planted in all the targeted communities; in partnership with the West Africa Bird Studies Association(WABSA) under the same project planted about one million (1 Million) Mangrove seedlings within NBR.

Furthermore, the GRCS , in its efforts to minimize the effect of climate change in partnership with WFP under the Peace Building Fund Project has conducted various activities, including, capacity building for women on alternative energy saving technology/eco-stove construction in 10 communities, training of youths on Drought Resilient Crop management, supporting communities through desalination (Desalination of the rice fields of Naimina Sambang Fula Kunda and Mandinka Kunda villages) to reclaim their rice fields which were affected by salt intrusion, and training on peace and conflict resolution. These aim to enhance the livelihoods of people in the communities of CRR, NBR, and URR while building their capacity and reducing the effect of climate change and addressing climate induced conflicts in The country . .



*Practical on alternative energy saving stoves (traditional & modern) funded by the WFP PBF*

Under the PBF Project, community consultations were done to identify needs for the intervention of the project and for the prioritization of needs by the targeted communities. Based on this, the communities planted **over 43,500 woodlots and fruit trees to recover** the lost forest and

minimize the impact of climate change. The **Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster Management, Preparedness and Response** actions reached more than 38,500 people country-wide.

Key Activities/Interventions	Number of People Reached		Children Reached (0-18 years)		Adults Reached (19 years and above)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Capacity building of 60 women on alternative energy-saving stoves to reduce the impact of climate change in 10 communities in The Gambia	60	-	10	-	50	-
3 day Capacity building of 30 youths as trainers on drought resilient crop management	12	18	2	4	10	14
Step down training of the 10 communities (1500) on the Drought Resilient Crop Management	900	600	200	150	700	400
Capacity building training of 200 women on physical and soil conservations, conflict prevention and peace building in 10 communities in three regions .	200	-	-	-	200	-
1 study exchange visit in CRR, for URR and NBR.	150	150	15	25	135	125
GRCS, National Youth Council,community members and WABSA in partnership with UNDP embarked on a massive tree planting exercise and mangrove restoration in the NBR (within 30 communities), from August to October 2021	1,430	770			1,430	770
The GRCS volunteers and staff nationwide partake in the 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 presidential election as ERT Members	568	332			568	332
IFRC DREF - Disaster Relief Emergency Fund supported Sanyang communal tensions operations (emergency shelter	377	719	79	108	298	611

support, each transfer for food and shelter, training of GRCS ERT with staff of the NDMA and other affiliated organizations, Procurement and distribution of essential household items, health activities, water, sanitation & hygiene promotion (WASH), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)						
Response to households affected by the 2021 windstorms with food, shelter and other interventions	1,213	1,014	158	153	1,055	861
Foni crisis - Assistance to communities affected by the armed conflict along the Gambia/Senegal border - Casamance/Foni border villages (internally displaced, host families, refugees and migrants) supported by IFRC and ICRC.	7,081	2,892	850	635	6,231	2,257
Supported 2022 flood affected people through the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund, USAID, Gambians Abroad and other philanthropists	4,234	3,544	676	543	3,558	3,001
Provided support to people by the GRCS ERT members at the presidential nomination at the Election House in Kanifing, in November 2021 and the presidential election in December 2021. Other related activities Conducted were the Dissemination of IHL among the police by the ICRC supported by NS, First aid and ambulance services, and Covid19 control prevention activities (Hand sanitizing, hand washing and the	2,425	7,575	240	658	3,185	5,917

distribution of face masks).						
Response to other natural disasters such as domestic and bush fires with about 255 households reached of about 2,295 affected people. We conducted situational analysis and needs assessment, distribution of essential household items, first aid and ambulance services, and PSP	805	1,492	322	483	596	896
<b>Total Reached</b>	<b>19,455</b>	<b>19,106</b>	<b>2,552</b>	<b>2,759</b>	<b>18,016</b>	<b>15,184</b>

## 2. Food Security, Livelihood & Nutrition

In response to COVID-19, 2,231 beneficiaries were supported by the IFRC and 594 by the Canadian Government Funds. They were supported with unrestricted cash for food and basic needs. The EU COVID-19 Initiative in The Gambia Livelihood component supported the 350 households affected by the pandemic and Informal Sector (Tourism Sector) meeting a target of 393 individual beneficiaries and 8 associations. The associations that are supported includes Fruit Sellers, Juice Pressers, Craft Market and Craft Vendors, Boating and Fishing, Hair dressers, National Tour Guide and Bird Watchers. Through funding from USAID, the GRCS also provided Cash Support (Cash Transfer) to 757 households affected by the 2022 floods. With supports from IFRC, ICRC, Africa Infrastructure Fund, Gambian Norwegian Committee, Paradise Suites Hotel, The Oba of Nigeria, United Foundations The Gambia (VSG), Philanthropists, New Gambia Platform, AGERA, Spanish Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross several cash transfers were conducted to response to disasters. A total of 8,048 households of more than 76,456 people benefited through the Cash Transfer interventions conducted by GRCS.

In partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), the Ministry of Gender and Ministry of Fisheries key interventions were done in Brufut, Tanji and Gunjur fish landing sites targeting women. The project achievements are; drilled 3 boreholes and the construction of metal water tank support, and supply and installation of solar-powered water pumping or supply system each in all the three sites, construction of 115 solar dryers (fish-drying racks), construction of 3 stores and construction 2 toilets and 4 women's shades.

A total of 154 volunteers of the GRCS were engaged in the government rice distribution headed by NDMA with the support of the WFP. In this operation the main task of GRCS volunteers was to do verification of beneficiaries before the distribution started, handling of the distributions and also booked all complains from beneficiaries.

The Gambia Red Cross Society/EU/Spanish Red Cross Livelihood Project in Kiang West, LRR being implemented in the communities of Jula Kunda, Jataba, Kuli Kunda, Jiffarong and Jali ended. The project constructed gardening infrastructure, trained, provided garden materials and handed over the 5 gardens during the period under review. The direct beneficiaries of the project

were 75 women between the ages of 18 and 29 above.



*GRCS supporting women in addressing food insecurity, livelihood and nutrition issues*

The GRCS supported the women of 2 communities in the West Coast Region (Kanilai and Kandonko villages) in boosting their vegetable production and increase their income level. The national society in collaboration with both the IFRC and the Japanese Red Cross Society were committed to supporting the two communities in upgrading their horticultural gardening with facilities such as installation of overhead water tanks, installation of solar system for Kanilai and Kandonko fencing of the Kandonko Garden, training in food production and processing, and the provision of garden tools and seeds.

The WCR volunteers on food production and processing but the required resources to scale up such initiatives. Over 150 GRCS volunteers and staff were trained in cash and voucher assistance to strengthen the CVA interventions. **Over 85,000 people benefited from the food security, livelihoods and nutrition interventions conducted by the national society.**

Key Activities/Interventions	Number of People Reached		Children Reached (0-18 years)		Adults Reached (19 years and above)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Provided cash support (cash transfer) to 350 households as part Covid-19 Response funded by EU	191	159			191	159
Post Distribution Monitoring conducted by 16 volunteers targeting EU Covid-19 Livelihood supported beneficiaries in the Informal sector (tourism sector)	188	205			188	205
Provision of training,	75				75	

vegetable gardens, seeds and materials to 75 women in Jula Kunda, Jataba, Kuli Kunda, Jiffarong and Jali						
Provision trainings, vegetable garden, seeds and materials to communities in the West Coast region (Kanilai and Kandonko villages) in boosting their vegetable production and increasing their income level.	300				300	
Distribution of tools and seeds to the farmers in 95 selected community gardens. These included 30 gardens in NBR, 20 in CRR/N, 15 in CRR/ and 30 in URR through funding from the WFP.	22,083	2,487			22,083	2,487
The Fish Landing Sites Project (2020 / 2022) Supporting livelihood of mainly women in Tanji, Brufut and Gunjur.	990				990	
<b>Total Reached</b>	<b>23,828</b>	<b>2,851</b>			<b>23,828</b>	<b>2,851</b>

### 3. Migration and Displacement

The GRCS migration unit has been actively engaged in capacity-strengthening activities for both internal members and external partners. The Knowledge and skills of staff and volunteers are been enhanced in several areas of migration and related matters. The NS continues to play key roles in ensuring migrants who found themselves in vulnerable situations benefit from protection services in all 5 regions implementing migration projects. Although there is a need to extend migration operations in CRR and Banjul which served as a transit point and metropolis city respectively, receiving a lot of migrants in vulnerable situations.

Although a majority of the activities are designed to directly impact the lives of migrants in vulnerable situations, the NS's migration activities drew down to community levels, supporting host population members in vulnerable situations with healthcare support, PSS, information and counseling, and other essential services. There is a need for resource mobilization equally focus on livelihood support for migrants and displaced populations in vulnerable situations.



*GRCS volunteers establishing humanitarian service point to provide shelter support to migrants and conducting information session on migrants’ rights and protection services available for migrants and host populations in vulnerable situations*

In addition, the NS continues to advocate both nationally and internationally, to ensure policies geared towards the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations, participating in the drafting of national documents around migration using our humanitarian lenses and ensuring that the rights of migrants are protected. The GRCS also contributed immensely to government’s report to the Global Compact for Migration meeting. These interventions position us well in the advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy/policy frameworks promotion and development in The Gambia. The GRCS is represented in the migration National Coordination Mechanisms/Partnership and its thematic working groups, supporting the Government of The Gambia. The NS equally synergizes nationally with ministries such as MOH, MOFA, MOI, and internationally with Partner National Societies (SRC and ITRC) and other external partners (GIZ, Global Migration Lab) to ensure comprehensive assistance and protection of migrants in vulnerable situations.

The Mixed Movement Project was to improve the **identification**, access to **information**, and **referral** of people in need of international protection in The Gambia moving within mixed flows. These persons of concern with **hampered access to protection** services remain largely unknown within the wider mixed flows. The key activities implemented during the project period were: the training of 97 GRCS staff and volunteers on international protection and the tools used to collect data from people on the move; mapping of 85 institutions that deal with the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; sessions with local authorities to inform them about the project and its benefit to the community were conducted; and screening of 3,750 people on the move using kobo collect mobile application

The BBQ/New Placement International from the southern part of Germany visited GRCS in 2022. The purpose of the visit was to discuss on possibilities of continuing of the project with the GRCS. In 2020, about 13 returnees from Germany on this partnership were successfully coached by 8 GRCS volunteers to start a livelihood in The Country .

The GRCS further ensures that part of its support to vulnerable migrants includes management response, by building the capacity of more than 122 volunteers and staff on Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) to respond to the different gender needs of vulnerable migrants at the point

of receiving them from the different border posts within The Gambia. A total of over 14,599 people were reach through migration services and assistance.

Key Activities/Interventions	Number of People Reached		Children Reached (0-18 years)		Adults Reached (19 years and above)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Training in protection gender and inclusion in emergency for vulnerable migrants	47	75	-	-	47	75
Capacity strengthening activities/training (migration management, legal frameworks in The Gambia, PSS, migration/CEA, migration/PGI, migration/RFL for volunteers and staff	34	42	-	-	34	42
Community talks /transit information sessions by volunteers	4649	5787	1208	1465	3441	4322
Advocacy sessions with local and national authorities (meetings, workshops, etc.)	90	100	N/A	N/A	90	100
Provision of essential services to migrants and community members in vulnerable situations (food, NFIs, shelter, PSS, RFL calls, First Aid, and healthcare services)	1389	1999	87	150	1302	1849
Emergency response along the Trans-Atlantic route to migrants intercepted at sea and returned migrants in WCR and NBR (Tanji GID reception centre/Amdalia border)	65	322	11	12	54	310
<b>Total Reached</b>	<b>6,274</b>	<b>8,325</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>4,968</b>	<b>6,678</b>

#### 4. Restoring Family Linking

GRCS in partnership with the ICRC in Dakar through the Cooperation Agreement promotes Restoring Family Links activities in The Gambia.

Restoring Family Links (RFL) is a mandatory service offered by all Red Cross national Societies to help restore contact between families separated by armed conflict, disaster or migration. Over the last three years, the GRCS continued to carry out tracing activities to restore family links and offer phone call services to migrants in distress.



**GRCS Volunteers offering call services to return migrants from Libya (Yarabamba August, 2022)**

The GRCS as an auxiliary institution to the Government of The Gambia, work with communities, volunteers and partners to ensure we prepare and respond to humanitarian needs and this includes restoring family links services. During these three years, the institution focused on preventing separations, restoring and maintaining contact, and building the capacities of volunteers and staff with RFL knowledge to be able to administer RFL cases in their Branches as well as disseminate the services. Most importantly, we are able to collect the DNA samples of the families of missing migrants involved in the Catania shipwreck. The RFL team offered a number of services to migrants, primarily those that have been repatriated from Libya and those that missed/lost contact with their relatives. The volunteers also distributed 2,554 leaflets and posters in different border points and communities to create awareness among people on RFL services offered by the Red Cross. This has increased the demand on the RFL services at both GRCS Branch Offices and National Headquarters. **The RFL interventions reached about 52,775 people** countrywide.

Key Activities/Interventions	Number of People Reached		Children Reached (0-18 years)		Adults Reached (19 and above years)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Achievements						
Training of volunteers in RFL knowledge and skills	67	115			67	115
Offering call services to returnee migrants	45	728			45	728
Tracing cases collected	1	152			1	152

Ad hoc assistance to migrants in distress	1	27		9	1	18
DNA collection of missing family members	6	9			6	9
Meeting with Brikama Alkalous in Catania cases and RFL services		24				24
Promotion and Sensitization on RFL in communities	18,000	33,600			18,000	33,600
<b>Total e Reached</b>	<b>18,120</b>	<b>34,655</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>18,120</b>	<b>34,646</b>

## 5. Healthcare and WASH

The GRCS continues to contribute to the national health development programmes through responding to crises, reduce vulnerability and work with communities so that they can live healthier and more dignified lives. The GRCS health programmes focuses on;

- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Pandemic and Epidemic Control
- Emergency Response and Ambulance Services
- Reproductive Health
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
- Nutrition.

The provision of Health services is usually one of the highest priorities following the onset of any emergency hence the main objective of the GRCS Health is to provide health care services during crisis situations as well as to support communities to re-build from the outset through community resilience programmes on health, WASH and nutrition.

The GRCS , in cooperation with the IEC, was present during the entire nomination process to ensure its humanitarian duty of saving lives and provide support to everyone in need with total impartiality and neutrality. The NS provided First Aid treatments and medical evacuations to those in need while at the same time distributing face masks, hand sanitizes and hand washing in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. In 2020,the MoH in collaboration with the UNFPA, WHO, GRCS ( 42 Volunteers) and NYC initiated a pilot project on the implementation of Community based surveillance in CRR and URR. The main aim of the project is to strengthen the surveillance system by building the capacity of community volunteers to be able to actively detect COVID-19 suspected cases and other priority diseases (Measles and AFP) in the communities and report to the traditional or facility-based system. Also, in 2021, CRR and URR Red Cross branch volunteers (22 and 14 volunteers respectively) worked with regional partners

through funding from the IOM on border community sensitizations in the fight against COVID-19.



***GRCS and partners supply clean water to communities, and Volunteers on Covid -19 Response.***

The 4 isolation centres which were constructed in Essau, Kuntaur, Brikama, and Farafenni to support isolated cases is supporting these health facilities in respond to health emergencies.

Volunteers from the Banjul Red Cross Branch are also attached to State House Banjul, to support the medical team of the Office of the President, and at the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital (EFSTH) in Banjul to support the staff of the main referral hospital of The Gambia and continue to build the capacity of volunteers.

The volunteers in Kanifing Municipal Red Cross launched an initiative called “Smile For Hope” geared towards contributing to national development through supporting the less privileged and most vulnerable, especially women and school going girls. The aim of the initiation is to put a smile on everyone’s face to improve their living conditions. This project will inform and educate people about menstrual hygiene and health which is the main component of the project under the Smile of Hope called ‘Pad Drive Distribution’

The GRCS built WASH infrastructure such as toilets and water facilities through the provision of 8 boreholes for domestic use in 8 different communities. The institution has also constructed latrines in 5 Open Defaction communities in CRR and URR. Hygiene promotion and behavior change activities to improve people’s knowledge of good sanitation and hygiene practices were implemented and purchased WASH contingency materials through support from UNICEF Distribution of donated items as well ass medical and school materials from charitable organizations (Ebou Mala and UNISON)

The NS also participated in the nationwide medicine recall exercise upon the outbreak of Acute Kidney Injury among children under five years and over 22,586 drugs (Paracetamol =13,321 Promethazine =2,496 Cough syrups =6,769), contaminated medications/drugs throughout the country were recalled with the active participation of over 1,700 GRCS volunteers and staff.

The GRCS Volunteer Aid Detachment (VAD) organized health fair in Janjangbureh which has seen nearly 450 patients both in Janjangbureh and neighboring villages (Laminkoto, Sankulay kunda, YBK and Banni). Various conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, skin conditions, Sexually transmitted infections and urinary track infections were seen and treated accordingly or referred for further management. Similar interventions were done in Njawara Village in NBR and

Latrikunda German in KM. Fumigation of Janjangbureh prison was done and the inmates were also treated based on laboratory results which was organized by the VAD team.

Over **1.5 million people** have been reached with several health interventions in both the use of software and hardware approaches across the country using different mediums.

Key Activities/Interventions	Number of People Reached		Children Reached (0-18 years)		Adults Reached (19 years and above)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Recruited and trained volunteers for the fight against Covid-19	105	140			105	140
GRCS Emergency Response Team (ERT) in KMC actively involved throughout the nomination process to provide COVID-19 prevention measures	30	25			30	25
Volunteers from the Banjul Red Cross Branch are also attached to State House, Banjul, to support the medical team of the Office of the President and be rendering first aid services	4	1			4	1
Volunteers of the Banjul Branch are on attachment at the EFSTH in Banjul. The opportunity was created by the Branch Executive to support the staff of the main referral hospital of The Gambia and continue to build the capacity of volunteers	4	6			4	6
School fumigation exercise by GRCS volunteers across the country targeting all schools under the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education	60	90			60	90
Responding to COVID-19 pandemic, the GRCS has launched a coordinated and comprehensive public	951,234	625,284	161,273	115,766	789,961	509,518

information campaign countrywide to prevent the spread of the virus						
Conducted training programmes to enhance the response of the NS on COVID-19. These training programmes include; Risk Communication Community Engagement, Community Based Surveillance, Infection Prevention Control, Safe and Dignified Burial/ Body Management, Case Management and Psychosocial Support	210	452	21	68	189	384
Implemented community surveillance and contact tracing system through health workers, volunteers, traditional healers, community leaders, etc. (CBS)	196,551	153,640	64,678	32,665	131,873	120,975
SDB and SMotD suspected, confirmed deaths of Covid - 19	150	274			150	274
Conducted nutrition interventions through Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) in non-PHC communities	12,742	11,543	1,023	845	11,719	10,698
GRCS has conducted awareness raising in vulnerable communities through hygiene promotion, sexual and reproductive health and PSS	632,369	565,926	42,234	51,354	590,135	514,572
Supported training of community health nurses in MansankonkoLRR	42	25	3	1	39	24
Conducted community sensitizations on communicable and some NCDs	73,920	52,992	12,321	10,031	61,599	42,961
Conducted social mobilization during nationwide vaccinations	243,255	287,125	19,345	17,357	223,910	269,768

on Covid-19, polio, and measles						
Supported vulnerable communities through the provision and distribution of Family Hygiene and Dignity Kits, hand washing materials in response to COVID-19, windstorms, Sanyang communal violence, Foni crises, flood affected etc	11,682				11,682	
Organized training of C volunteers in Sexual Reproductive Health - SRH (LRR, NBR, CRR and URR)	11	29	0	0	11	29
Conducted capacity building on Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Red Cross volunteers	579	608	20	33	559	575
GRCS has initiated community mobile clinics to support the vulnerable people during crisis situations	3009	1863	527	488	2482	1375

## 6. First Aid

First Aid has been at the heart of the GRCS since its inspection as a National Society in 1966 providing education, training and services to their communities. The GRCS continues to reaffirm its commitment in first aid within the changing context of global health in line with IFRC Strategy 2030. The GRCS believes that first aid skills should be accessible to all as first aid is a critical humanitarian act that empowers people to save lives and helps people recover from sudden illnesses, injuries and emotional distress. First aid skills enhance an individual's capacity to take swift action to reduce and stabilize serious injuries and improve a casualty's chance of survival.

The GRCS First Aid Unit has been actively engaged in capacity-building activities for its volunteers and staff. The knowledge and skills of staff and volunteers have been enhanced in First Aid and the number of regional trainers has increased recently which makes the unit work towards its target of meeting in **every household where there is a First Aider** by 2025. GRCS volunteers in various communities continue to support road crash and fire victims and they have saved many lives.



*GRCS volunteers on a TOT first aid training and first aid coverage during the presidential nominations at the Election House*

The NS plays a key role in ensuring the security forces have proper first aid training during their training and posting/pre-deployment mission within the region as they are the first respondents in many emergency cases for road traffic accidents. The training provided by the GRCS has impacted positively in reducing fatalities in accident scenes where trained and skilled police first aiders/officers responded on time.

Sea Side Rescue being a baby to the NS, the staff and volunteers has impacted the lives of many vulnerable people that are normally at the beach. The NS have been doing aggressive safety discussion with beach users, which has changed many beach users attitude towards the beach considering the safety. The intervention reduced the number of deaths in the sea compared to the previous years. To further strengthen operations stakeholders on various occasions were invited to meetings by the GRCS to find solutions to the number of increased drowning cases on beaches. The Spanish Red Cross search and rescue team trained twenty volunteers of the GRCS and the Red Dolphin life guide.

Two of our volunteers joined the Gambia Football Federation in the African Cup of Nations football competition which was held in Cameroon. The GRCS volunteers were looking after the Gambian delegation of any injuries and also do all the Covid-19 rapid test for the delegation. This has further positioned the NS well in both national and international football arena.

The GRCS continues to be part of Road Safety Committee both at the technical and strategy level. This is due to the experience and involvement in road safety activities national and globally. **The First Aid interventions, including first aid coverage during religious and social gatherings, training and sensitisations reached about 701,607 people across the country.**

Key Activities/Interventions	Number of People Reached		Children Reached (0-18 years)		Adults Reached (19 years and above)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Commercial First Aid	289	196	-	-	289	196

Training						
Internal First Aid Training for GRCS Volunteers and Staff	10,300	14,960	-	-	10,300	14,960
The Gambia Football Federation Football Matches First Aid Coverage	360	240	-	-	360	240
First Aid Coverage for the general public during private and public gatherings	250,000	370,000			250,000	370,000
First Aid Training for the Third Party (Security Officers)	70	120	-	-	70	120
World First Aid Day Celebrations including reaching out to people through social media on the importance of the day	3,000	2,000	-	-	3,000	2,000
Seaside Search and Rescue Outreach on key messages on safety	30,000	20,000	5,000	7,000	25,000	13,000
Seaside Search - Number of Deaths Recovered	4	32	2	4	2	28
Seaside Search - Number of People Rescued	7	9	4	6	3	3
Search and Rescue Training	4	16	-	-	4	16
Banjul Red Cross Branch, Through the EU/BCC Future Proof project has conducted First Aid training for BCC security Personals, BCC cleansing service for personals, Future Proof project staff, few students from senior schools within Banjul and volunteers of the Branch.	25	50			25	50
<b>Total Reached</b>	<b>294,059</b>	<b>407,623</b>	<b>5,006</b>	<b>7,010</b>	<b>289,053</b>	<b>400,623</b>

## 7. Pre-hospital Care (Emergency Response Services and Outpatient)

Gplus The Gambia Company is the Premier Emergency Medical Services Company in The Gambia owned by the GRCS that offers 24hour ambulance services, pre-hospital care services, care in transit and evacuations to Dakar. G-plus has a fleet of 9 state.of the. art ambulances, fully equipped to the standards of Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS). With a team of medical professionals as paramedics, they have a capacity to handle evacuations through a 24-hour call centre, providing pre-arrival instructions during evacuations and updates during transportation.



### *GPLUS Emergency Response Services Providing Evacuations and Health Services in Emergencies*

The company has signed fee for service contract with Westfield Clinic, MSC Shipping Company Signed up 17 of their staff together with their families, Contract Signed with InnovaRX Global, and Event Coverage at Sir Dawda Jawara International Conference Centre. The Gplus has also developed and is utilizing a digital shift hand over system, and upgraded one Ambulance Operator to Paramedic. A total of **1805 patient transfers done so far (1300 COVID-19 and 505 none COVID transfers)** while **468 patients have been seen since the inception of the clinic in 2020**. Free blood pressure check have been initiated to create awareness regarding the Clinic. The access to the toll free line 1199 for Africell and Q-Cell clients is available.

Key Activities/Interventions	Number of People Reached		Children Reached (0-18 years)		Adults Reached (19 years and above)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Achievements						
Patient Transfers and Out. Patients consultations, and treatments	1027	1246	32	18	992	1231
<b>Total Reached</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>1,231</b>

## 8. Information and Communication Technology

The NS is committed to strengthening its information and technology management systems . Over the years, they have installed 4 radio communication based (HQ, Soma, Bansang and Basse) with 99 per cent of the vehicles fitted with communication systems. In addition, a tracking and monitoring system is installed in 13 GRCS vehicles for proper fleet management.the GRCS received some data collection tablets with accessories from AGROFA through Spanish Red Cross. The NS also developed a digital transformation plan with a budget to strengthen the ICF and IT systems.

In quest for better proficiency, and efficiency the National Society in December 2021 established the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), situated at its Headquarters in Kanifing. The EOC is the focal point and centralized location for disaster and emergency response, coordination, data collection and analyses, informational sharing and emergency planning, response, monitoring evaluation and reporting. It frequently conducts regular updates on the EOC data visualization screens. A video conferencing and live field monitoring equipment for the EOC have been installed.



**GRCS Emergency Operations Centre Radio Communication Housed at HQs**

The GRCS always updates and prepositions all data collection tools in preparation for an effective response to disasters in the raining season and beyond. A five.day experience sharing was conducted for a delegate from the Malian Red Cross to the GRCS on management of EOC.

Orientation for 90 volunteers in WCR on the ethics of data collection, especially during disasters was conducted. The WCR Youth Committee developed partnership with WONMA TECH Group, Currently five GRCS volunteers are given scholarships to study at SMART PROFESSIONAL COLLEGE through the partnership. The NBR RC Branch took part in the Media Information Literacy (MIL) organized by the Regional Youth Office for two days while 2 NBR volunteers from the Albreda Link participated in a training programme on data collection organized by ActionAid International The Gambia held at the Sitanunku Camp.

Key Activities/Interventions	Number of People Reached		Children Reached (0-18 years)		Adults Reached (19 and above years)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Through the NDMA, GRCS volunteers were trained in information management by the NDMA to handle their call centre in Kanifing during government rice distribution for COVID-19 national food intervention	9	6			9	6
<b>Total Reached</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>

## 9. Humanitarian Education and Diplomacy

The GRCS has on a regular basis been providing training in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) to the Gambia Armed Forces during the past years. The period under review sees the GRCS trained and oriented more than **740 GAF officer** on IHL. In continuing its dissemination of the IHL, GRCS has been providing annual training to the Gambia Police Force, and also having sessions for their personnel who are due for deployment to another country. A total of **560 Police officers** were also trained.

Over the past 3 years, ICRC and GRCS has been providing support to the Ministry of Justice to establish a National IHL Commission. The process is ongoing and the GRCS will also be available to give that support needed. Already a committee has been established under the leadership of the Justice Ministry.



*GRCS Volunteers on Humanitarian Education and Diplomacy to strengthen knowledge on RCRC & IHL.*

The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day has been celebrated every year with different themes, and the GRCS has always used the platform to thank its staff and volunteers and pay tribute to the founder of the Red Cross Movement. The GRCS has also used this time to reflect on the humanitarian services it has been rendering and its protection. It also continues to produce and disseminate to the public the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and emblem. Actions were also taken to control the misuse of the emblem and this will be strengthened further. The National Society continues to conduct training programmes and awareness raising among its volunteers and the public for better understanding of the RCRC Movement.

The GRCS has received an award from The Gambia Armed Forces (GAF) in recognition of its immense contribution towards humanitarian diplomacy and the dissemination of the International Humanitarian Laws (IHL). The GRCS DM Coordinator (Andrew Jarjou) was also given a certificate of appreciation by The Gambia Armed Forces in recognizing his efforts in training the Armed Forces personnel in IHL for the previous years.

**Through humanitarian education and diplomacy over 159,800 people were reached to better under the work of the RCRC and our principles.**

Key Activities/Interventions	Number of People Reached		Children Reached (0-18 years)		Adults Reached (19 years and above)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Achievements						
International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Training for the Police Force	196	364			196	364
IHL Training for the Gambia Armed Forces	259	481			259	481
Celebration of World Red Cross Day	62,500	96,000	17,500	36,000	45,000	60,000
<b>Total the Reached</b>	<b>62,955</b>	<b>96,845</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>45,455</b>	<b>60,845</b>

### 3. Volunteers and Branch Management/Development

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021, the pending GRCS Youth Assembly to elect the National Youth Chairperson and Vice was conducted by the GRCS -Election committee and 5 Youth Commission meetings were held over the period under review. The National Youth Commission has been actively coordinating and supporting the engagement of volunteers across the regions. The youth commission with the support of the first Aid Department organized the World First Aid Day in a form of First Aid Competition, with participation from all branches/regions. The NS continues to establish Red Cross Links in schools and communities.



World Red Cross & Red Crescent Day 2022

*GRCS Volunteers continue to inspire young people and provide humanitarian assistance*

The GRCS Youth Commission was invited to participate at the Youth Connekt Gambia Summit from the 16th -18th September 2022 at the Sir Dawda Kairaba International Conference Centre . GRCS was represented by the National Youth Chairperson and Volunteer Management Coordinator (VMC). Production of membership cards ongoing with support of a volunteer on duty Lamin Kejera. So far the total number of 4,326 membership cards were produced. **The key activities undertaken by the Volunteer Management and Development reached over 16,013 people.**

## 11. Protection, Gender & Inclusion

The NS in its quest to strengthen the protection of vulnerable children, the NS implemented interventions on protection and assistance to child labourers that are connected to the streets. This has enhanced the NS capacity on child protection in two regions (Kanifing Municipality and North Bank Region) were targeted for the pilot phase. A total of 100 children were supported through provision of cash support to cover the cost of learning materials, and food supply for 3 months. Awareness raising on child protection, sexual Gender based violence, and referral partway in case of emergency (GVB), provision of dignity kits, and sensitization on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) to adolescent girls in 4 schools were also conducted with funding from the IFRC Protection, Gender and Inclusion Unit of the GRCS



***Handing over of Dignity kits to adolescent girls funded by IFRC***

The GRCS ensured that protection issues were considered and beneficiaries from all the households were assisted during the disaster response regardless of their age, gender, disabilities, statues, nationality, or minority background. They were provided with protection support as needed. The National Society conducted awareness raising, training and orientation sessions on protection with regard to inclusion. The engagement with people affected in the distribution centre was prioritized to ensure that assistance was distributed equitably and impartially. **In total over 9,095 people were reached through PGI information sessions and Sexual Gender Based Violence referral part ways** in the intervention areas within the country.

Key Activities/Interventions	Number of People Reached		Children Reached (0-18 years)		Adults Reached (19 years and above)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Capacity building training in gender mainstreaming in emergency response (staff & Volunteers).	12	13	5	4	7	9
Training of 30 volunteers in protection gender & inclusion in emergency operation	12	18	3	5	9	13
Training of 60 adolescent girls on Menstrual Hygiene supported by IFRC	60	-	10		50	-
Distribution of Dignity kits to 60m Adolescent Girls	60	-	10	-	50	-
Cash Transfer to 50 vulnerable children in the	25	25	25	25	-	-

informal schools in Farafenni, NBR, under the child protection project supported by IFRC						
Cash in envelope support to vulnerable children with special needs in the formal schools GOVI & St Johns School for the Deaf within KMC supported by IFRC	25	25	25	25	-	-
3 days capacity building in child protection, protection gender, inclusion and referral pathways for teachers in the special needy schools GOVI & St Johns School for the Deaf, and volunteers from KMC & NBR	5	15	1	2	4	13
Capacity-building training for volunteers in various information Sessions on PGI components, Sexual Gender Based Violence referral part ways, child protection, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse	4000	4,500	1000	1400	3000	3,100
Distribution of dignity kits and buckets to vulnerable women and girls in CRR and URR with funding from UNFPA.	300		160		140	
<b>Total Reached</b>	<b>4,499</b>	<b>4,596</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,461</b>	<b>3,260</b>	<b>3,135</b>

#### 4. Community Engagement and Accountability

During the period under review, the GRCS has trained its volunteers in community engagement and accountability (CEA) and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) in all its branches/regions. The aim was to better equip the volunteers with the technics and approaches of involving the community to participate in planning, implementation and evaluation of all GRCS activities. The training programmes have been very successful as more

than 500 volunteers were trained during the period under review. These volunteers were used to implement all CEA related activities. In the Sanyang crisis/communal tension, the GRCS through the IFRC DREF support deployed its volunteers to engage the community of Sanyang about peace and acceptance. The engagement with other partners was successful as peace was restored and the Senegalese migrants were accepted back to community.

In response to COVID-19, The GRCS responded with utmost professionalism, and dedication. GRCS was able to effect behavioural change in the country through rigorous CEA and RCCE activities countrywide. The activities included:

- Production of information materials ( 2500 leaflet, 6000 posters, 2800 fliers, 2000 GRCS stickers)
- Production of Radio and TV spots ( 6 radio spots in 6 languages and 5 TV spots in 5 languages produced)
- Production of Music Video on COVID-19;
- Social Mobilization and Community Engagement (240 community meetings, 300 road shows, 950 communities reached)
- Radio Programmes (74 Radio Programmes Conducted)
- TV Programmes (15 TV Programmes are conducted).



***GRCS Volunteers use kindness in order to reach communities with life-changing information***

To better engage and change the behaviour of community members, build trust and acceptance, the GRCS engaged and trained religious, traditional, influential and opinion leaders in all the regions to support the sensitization activities. These people play key roles in the behaviours of their community members and are also respected by their people. Thus empowering them to support in the sensitization of COVID-19 and the work of the Red Cross was very paramount and yielded dividend. The GRCS trained 115 influential leaders on risk Communication and Community engagement who have led supported the Community Engagement activities at the community level. These people supported our volunteers' throughout the process of community sensitization.

The GRCS also used CEA to engage and support the windstorm affected households during the 2021 Windstorms operations. The windstorms affected all the regions of The Gambia and the GRCS played a critical role in responding to their needs. Furthermore, during the population movement in Foni as a result of the Casamance crisis, the GRCS used CEA to assess and provide support to the affected households. Although the situation was very complex, the GRCS was able to have access to the affected people through dialogue and engagement. The 2022 Floods in The Gambia were the heaviest for the past 30 to 50 years, this led to many people losing their properties and livelihoods. The flood caused displacement of people and traumatized many of them, as a result the GRCS through its CEA interventions supported the affected population.

In order for the migration volunteers and staff to conduct their community engagement successfully, a CEA training programme was conducted for them. The main aim was to expose the volunteers on key community engagement approaches and techniques. These trainings were done in the 3 regions where the migration project is being implemented, that is KM, WCR and URR. **The CEA activities were able to reach over 1,266,341 people countrywide.**

Key Activities/Interventions	Number of People Reached		Children Reached (0-18 years)		Adults Reached	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Achievements						
Community Engagement and Accountability Training	150	300			150	300
CEA activities during the Sanyang population movement	2,600	3,200			2,600	3,200
CEA activities during the Covid -19 response and other emergencies	480,000	720,000	190,000	288,000	290,000	432,000
CEA Training for Influential leaders	3	112			3	112
CEA activities during windstorm response	10,974	16,460			10,974	16,460
CEA activities during the foni crisis response	1,255	1,881			1,255	1,881
CEA activities during the flood responses	15,155	14,226			15,155	14,226
CEA Training for Migration Volunteer and Staff	10	15			10	15
<b>Total the Reached</b>	<b>510,147</b>	<b>756,194</b>	<b>190,000</b>	<b>288,000</b>	<b>320,147</b>	<b>468,194</b>

### 13. Human Resource and Staff Capacity Building

Based on the Transformation Process and New Organizational Chart of the GRCS, the Programme Manager based on his performance was re-designated to the Position of Director of Programmes and Operations and a Director of Finance and Administration was also appointed in 2021 but later resigned in 2022 after serving for 1 year few months. However, another person was recruited in August 2022 to fill the position of Director of Finance and Administration.

Recruitment of five Branch Officers was completed, they were posted to the various branches (West Coast Region, Central River Region, Banjul, North Bank Region and Lower River Region).

One Project Coordinator and three Focal Points for the Migration Project were appointed in 2020 however one of the Focal Points resigned and she was replaced with a new appointee. Bubacarr Singhateh, former Project Coordinator for the Migration Project, now moved to IFRC Sahel Cluster as Migration Officer (Staff on Loan) for a period of one year but based in The Gambia. Mr Musa Suso, former Migration Project Focal Point, is now appointed as the Project Coordinator for the Migration Project, replacing Bubacarr Singhateh.

After the departure of Buba Darboe for studies, Mr Andrew Jarjou was recruited for one year on contract as the Disaster Management Coordinator of GRCS.

During the period under review, the NS also recruited staff for Logistics and IT/IM Units to strengthen the operations. It also continues to engage GRCS volunteers and other students on internship to allow them to shape their knowledge and skills in a real working environment.

Three GRCS Branch Officers and the Project Coordinator for Healthcare Support and Strengthening in the Gambia Project proceeded on retirement in 2021 and 2022 respectively while one Branch Officer resigned.

Ismaila Badjie resigned from the position of Project Coordinator Livelihood for the *Covid* -19 Project in 2021 and Mr Yaya Pito Kassama was recruited to complete the project period which ended in August 2022.

Buba Darboe the Disaster Management Coordinator in 2021 applied for a one-year study leave and after one year (February 2022) he applied for an extension of another four years which was disapproved. During the fact that did not report to work for about 7 months, he was served with a termination letter on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

In order to strengthen the NS's capacities and support operations both in The Gambia and beyond the following actions were taken:

- Secondment of Deputy Disaster Management Coordinator to IFRC Turkey as CVA Rotational Delegate from January – May 2022 to support the ESSN programme in Turkey
- The RFL Focal Point also participated in ICRC Regional Training and Meetings on RFL

- Deployment of the GRCS Director of Programmes and Operations by the IFRC Regional Office in Nairobi to support Ugandan Red Cross Operation Population Movement Emergency Appeal, and the Floods and Landslide Disaster Relief Emergency Response as the IFRC Rapid Response Field Coordinator
- Volunteer Management Coordinator attended Level 2 Cash and Voucher Programming in Emergency online training with Livelihood Centre, supported by IFRC and Spanish Red Cross
- Director of Programmes and Operations attended training in Nairobi on Nature-based Solutions
- VLP Training in Spain was attended by Volunteer Management Coordinator Edrisa Manneh,
- Volunteer/Intern Binta Sillah and Branch Officer Sheriffo Mboge; and Deputy Disaster Management Coordinator and Director of Programmes and Operations attended training in Turkey and the UK in Practical Emergency Cash Transfer (PECT) which is supported by IFRC and the British Red Cross which has boosted the capacity of the GRCS in the field of CVA.
- Emergency Team Leaders training attended by the Deputy Disaster Management Coordinator of the NS
- GRCS First Aid Officer completed his Paramedic studies funded by Kenya Red Cross and now waiting for his final assessment

#### **14. Monitoring and Evaluation**

In order to track and build the gains, programme tools including monitoring, assessment and survey tools were developed to facilitate programme implementation and reporting. The programme technical staff, Senior Management and Governing Board of NS embarked on several monitoring visits to gauge the progress of implementation, sought the views of the beneficiaries on interventions and make recommendations for improvements. Based on the monitoring visits, results and outcome of the feedback collected, communities and beneficiaries have expressed high satisfaction with the timely and quality interventions of the GRCS for the past years.

#### **15. Resource Mobilization**

The GRCS has diversified and increased its sources of funding from 2020 to 2022 which has increased the volume of income of more than 383 per cent compared to 2017 to 2019. This excludes other resources that are directly spent by partners through procurement and supplies. The GRCS was able to procure 12 standard vehicles (8 vehicles from IFRC and EU Funding 4 vehicles) and also procured 7 ambulances (5 BLS from IFRC and 2 ALS through EU funding). The WFP and Senegalese Red Cross each donated one used vehicle which is supporting the operation of the NS. In addition, we procured 13 DT125 motorbikes and 1 tricycle Tuk Tuk from IFRC Funds and 8 DT 125 Motorbikes from the EU COVID-19 Initiative Project. The GRCS also procured Bicycles while other partners donated bicycles (137 bicycles) to facilitate the movement of volunteers during operations. The details of the resources generated will be outlined in the Financial Report for the period under review.

## **16. Challenges/Recommendations**

The NS needs to strengthen its ability to mobilize un-earmarked resources to cover the core costs of the GRCS and also review upwards the staff salaries and benefits as the GRCS is now experiencing a high staff turnover which is mainly due to unattractive remuneration package and benefits in comparison to similar organizations in The Gambia. As much it as are transforming the NS this should cut across all sectors of the organisation including infrastructure, and human resource capacity and welfare. The NS should continue to diversify its sources of funding as the demand for humanitarian assistance and services increases daily and most affected communities have high hopes on the Red Cross to respond.

## **17. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the GRCS has been actively responding to numerous emergency situations using its widespread network of volunteers and staff throughout the country. Taking cognizance of GRCS recognition and credibility in the field of disaster management, health services, response to other emergencies, volunteerism, empowerment of volunteers and communities, emphasis be put on increasing its national scope and intervention for many years to come by effectively conducting diversified intervention programmes encompassing healthcare and pre-hospital care strengthening, gender empowerment among volunteers and communities, disaster organizational preparedness and response, mitigation and recovery, community-based disaster preparedness and risk reduction, addressing migration issues, and strengthening partnership in order to prevent and reduce the harmful effects of hazards in the country.

Special appreciations goes to Our Partners: the Government of The Gambia and its Tiers including Local Governments Authorities, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the European Union, the Italian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross, Kenya Red Cross, Senegalese Red Cross, Sahel Plus, AROFA, Japanese Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Saudi Arabia Red Crescent, World Food Programme (WFP), IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, WHO, Government of Canada, The American Government/ USAID, RedRose, SolHEALTH, UB-ONE, MRC, Cantabria Spain, Action Against Hunger, GIZ, Global Migration Lab, TIKA, National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) West Africa Network for Peace Building (WANEP), the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare (MGCSW), the Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources (MFWR), Rotary Clubs, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE), Actionaid International The Gambia, Child Fund The Gambia, Regional Governors and Councils, Philanthropist Individuals and Organizations, Ngrir GAMBIA, Africa Infrastructure Fund, AGERA, Paradise Suites Hotel, The Oba of Nigeria, United Foundations The Gambia (VSG), New Gambia Platform, EMCCF, Senegambian Association of Alaska, Norwegian-Gambian Association, Gambian living in the Diaspora, UNISON, NGOs, Czech Bikes, Civil Society Organizations, all other partners, and local communities as well as the disaster survivors themselves. Special thanks to the GRCS Goodwill Ambassador Ms Audery Gardner for her support and attracting partners to the NS. Our special regards goes to all the Electronic and Print Medias in country especially GRTS, QTV, QRadio,

Eye Africa TV, Paradise TV, Paradise Radio, Star TV, The Point Newspaper, The Standard Newspaper, Foroyaa Newspaper, Teranga FM, and also Fulladu Publishers for their continues support and availability in publishing our work.

Thanks to the GRCS dynamic humanitarian heroes and heroines and the champion of humanity that makes the National Society has the ability and capacity to respond to the disasters and emergency situations, in accordance to acceptable standards, the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross, Humanitarian Principles, Code of Conducts, Safe Access Framework, SoPs among others.