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# ADDRESSING THE DRIVERS AND CAUSES OF VULNERABILITY IN MIGRATION AMONG BORDER COMMUNITIES ALONG THE TRANS-GAMBIA TRANSPORT CORRIDOR

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## THREE INSPIRING HUMAN INTEREST STORIES FROM THE TRANSGAMBIA TRANSPORT CORRIDOR



Migration  
Multi-Partner  
Trust Fund



International  
Trade  
Centre



unicef   
for every child



## **SUMMARY**

By connecting the northern and southern part of The Gambia, Senegal and by extension other ECOWAS countries, the construction of the Senegambia Bridge has improved accessibility and trade while also promoting regional integration.

Despite the many economic opportunities, the construction of the bridge has created, it has exposed communities along the corridor to migration-related vulnerabilities because of the increase in mobility.

To address the drivers and causes of these migration-related vulnerabilities and to enhance the cross-border trade environment along the Trans Gambia transport corridor, UN systems in The Gambia, with funding from United Nations Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, are delivering as one to support communities along the transport corridor with economic opportunities, informing them of their rights, and enhancing the operational and strategic capacity of border authorities to make migration safe, orderly and regular for all.



## IMPROVING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

### NDEY'S JOURNEY FROM MIGRATION HORROR TO TRADE SUCCESS



**NDEY FATOU CEESAY**

Ndey Fatou Ceesay once tried a dangerous journey to Europe. When that did not go as planned, she returned home and started a successful beauty business.

She is now a cross-border trader who deals in cosmetics, Gambian incense, and handcrafted beauty items. Ndey's business is located in the central town of Soma – a town along the transport corridor, where she mostly sells her products and surrounding communities, with little access to bigger markets.

But after showing her work at the National Youth and Women's Agribusiness and Tourism Trade Fair thanks to the United Nations Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, she said her customer base is growing

"I have never participated in a trade fair. That was my first time," Ndey said. "I am very happy to have participated in the trade fair because I was able to share contacts with other businesses and customers. I was also able to learn from them to support the growth of my business."

Beyond building networks and learning from other businesses, Ndey said the event also boosted her sales.

"The sales have been great. I have been able to generate over \$1,344," the 31-year-old said with a bright smile. "I never thought I was going to make that amount of money."

Ndey also benefitted from training that seeks to build the capacity of women informal cross-border traders on trade rules, procedures, and entrepreneurship.

Ndey Fatou Ceesay said: "This training is beneficial. My idea of a viable business has been shaped. I now have an in-depth knowledge of trade rules and entrepreneurship. I know how to manage the finances of my business and how to source my products in The Gambia and from the neighbouring countries without problems."

Currently, Ndey employs two young people.



**THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF FATOUMATTA JARJUSEY : FROM STREET VENDOR TO SUCCESSFUL AGRIBUSINESS ENTREPRENEUR:**



**FATOUMATTA JARJUSEY**

**IMPROVING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

Fatoumatta Jarjusey's life took a remarkable turn when she seized the opportunity to participate in the UNDP agricultural skills and entrepreneurship support training programme at The Gambia Songhai Initiative (GSI).

The programme supported her transformation from a street vendor to a thriving agribusiness woman, offering a diverse range of goods and services both online and onsite in Jarra and the Greater Banjul Areas.

Fatoumatta's journey began when she was accepted into the training programme organized by GSI in collaboration with the National Enterprise Development Initiative (NEDI).

The comprehensive training not only equipped her with valuable knowledge but also played a pivotal role in expanding her client base beyond her wildest expectations. She embarks on numerous agricultural production such as market gardening, poultry, and processing of local tea.

Empowerment through Knowledge: Speaking about her experience, Fatoumatta shared, "The agricultural skills and entrepreneurship support training equipped me with business management skills, market analysis, and knowledge of market trends in the agricultural sector. I gained insights into market demands, consumer preferences, pricing strategies, and effective value chain management. It also enabled me to identify lucrative market opportunities, adapt to evolving consumer needs, and develop targeted marketing strategies to attract potential clients."

“With increased agricultural knowledge and entrepreneurship skills, I have explored opportunities for market differentiation and value addition. By diversifying my product offerings, adding value through processing or packaging, and adopting sustainable and organic farming practices, I am now attracting niche markets and premium clients who value quality, sustainability, and uniqueness in my Wonjo (hibiscus), Moringa, and Jabakang (green) tea.”

As an aspiring agribusiness entrepreneur, Fatoumatta recognizes the value of coaching and mentorship, especially when backed by a grant from UNDP.

“Participating in the coaching and mentorship programme with a grant from the UNDP creates a supportive environment that nurtures my professional growth, expands my network, provides financial resources and most importantly, empowers me to reach my goals. I take this an investment in myself, and my future, offering valuable support and guidance on my journey towards personal and professional fulfilment.”

Fatoumatta’s journey exemplifies the transformative power of education, mentorship, and support. Through the UNDP agricultural skills and entrepreneurship support training program, she not only gained knowledge but also unlocked her potential for growth and success. Her story stands as an inspiring testimony to the positive impact of UNDP’s support to entrepreneurs affected by the construction of the Senegambia bridge.

## STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF BORDER OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITIES FOR IMPROVED SECURITY, CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION, AND SAFE MIGRATION



**IMMIGRATION OFFICER**

The nature of the borders – incapacitated posts and a plethora of the porous – along the Trans Gambia corridor and the inauguration of the Senegambia Bridge in 2019 have contributed to an overwhelming increase in migration and mobility trends in the area. The vast porous and sparse monitoring of the borders of the corridor amidst the reduced transit times and increase in the number of migrants, exacerbate vulnerabilities particularly among women and youth who use the route. “Our interventions seek to increase the safety of community members, cross-border traders including women and youth through improved border infrastructure and enhanced knowledge and skills of border officials to effectively manage and control the borders along the transport corridor,” says Sukai B. Cham, National Programme Officer, IOM The Gambia.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in close collaboration with the Gambia Immigration Department (GID) is strengthening the capacity of border officials in Kerr Ali and Misera, the north and south recognized borders of the corridor respectively, through training, refurbishment, and installation of Migration Information Data Analysis System (MIDAS) at the posts. So far, through IOM’s intervention, which is aimed at improving security, cross-border cooperation, and safe, orderly and regular migration, GID officers were trained on Basic MIDAS as frontline users, Secondary Inspectors, and Training of Trainers (ToTs). With these MIDAS trainings for officers, GID is now able to collect travellers’ information in real-time to better understand mobility patterns and provide a comprehensive statistical basis for migration policy-related planning.

“The trainings improve our skills and MIDAS enhances easier and faster registration of traveller information at the border, and these are critical in ensuring security and effective immigration and border governance,” says Yankuba Badjie, GID Officer, Misera Border Post.

Considering the important role of community members, including women and youth, and border officials’ collaboration in immigration and border governance, IOM continues to support the operationalization, through technical support of Inter-Agency Border Coordination Committees (IABCC) in Kerr Ali and Misera. The IABCCs play a leadership role in promoting cross-border security, strengthening collaboration among border officials as well as combatting cross-border crimes.

Ultimately, well-equipped point of entries (POEs), enhanced knowledge and capacity of border officials along the busy corridor and an informed community members on migration management will contribute to accelerating the realization of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) – especially Objective 11: Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner.

