2013

POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

Gambia Bureau of Statistics
GBOS

NATIONAL DISABILITY REPORT

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
GBoS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
GDHS	Gambia Demography and Health Survey
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
LGA	Local Government Area
NS	Not Stated
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
GBoS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
GDHS	Gambia Demography and Health Survey
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
LGA	Local Government Area

Concepts and Definitions

Definition of Disability

For the purpose of the census, a person with disability is defined as someone who is limited in the kind or amount of activities that he or she can do because of ongoing difficulties due to long-term physical condition, mental condition, sensory impairment or health problem. It must however be noted that short-term disabilities due to temporary conditions such as a broken leg and illnesses are excluded. Only disabilities lasting for more than six months are included. It may not be enough to rely on the household head for the identification of persons with disabilities in their households but if possible, observe the persons reported to have some form of disability. The table below shows the types of disability, questions asked and description of conditions during the census.

Table 1: Classification of disability during the 2013 Population and Housing Census, questions asked and description of conditions.

No.	Types of Disability	Questions	Description of Conditions
1	Seeing/Visual	Does this person have difficulty seeing?	Difficulty seeing even with glasses
2	Hearing	Does this person have difficulty hearing?	Difficulty hearing even with hearing aid
3	Speech	Does this person have difficulty speaking?	Difficulty speaking
4	Physical	Does this person have difficulties moving in general or moving his/her hands or feet?	Difficulties walking, climbing stairs, standing, kneeling or gripping/ holding objects
5	Strange Behaviour/Mental	Does this person show strange behaviour?	Abnormal behaviour showing signs of psychological problems
6	Fits/Epilepsy	Does this person have fits?	Fits (sudden unconsciousness, sudden changes in the mental state) seizures, convulsion
7	Learning Difficulty	Does this person have difficulty learning?	Learning difficulties (intellectual difficulties, retardation)
8	Other, specify	If other, specify?	Other type of disability

NB: There may be instances where a person had more than one form of disability, in such an instance, the respondent will report the main type of disability.

Child: In this report, a child is defined as persons between 2 – 17 years.

Elderly: The definition of an elderly person is someone aged 65 years and over.

Household: In the 2013 Population and Housing Census, a household was referred to as a person or group of persons who live together in the same house or compound, share the same house- keeping arrangements and are catered for as one. It might be worth noting that members of a household are not necessarily related by blood or marriage as the case of maid/servants in some instances.

Rural: All other settlements that do not meet the below criteria are considered rural.

Urban: According to the 2013 Population and Housing Census, a settlement is considered urban if it satisfies most of the following:

- Has commercial importance
- Has institutional importance
- Majority of the population should be non-agricultural in occupation
- Population should be 5,000 and above
- Density should be high
- Some degree of infrastructure should be available

Preface

This is Volume 12 of the 2013 Population and Housing Census report. The report addresses salient benchmarks on persons with disabilities in The Gambia. The information contained in the report will enable government to not only formulate appropriate sector action plans but also monitor and assess the impact of implemented policies on persons with disabilities.

It is hoped that the information in the report would provide comparable data with the 2003 census on the various forms of disability and will complement other data to enhance policy information on persons with disabilities.

We thank Mr. Wally H. Ndow for the preparation of this report. We also thank other GBoS staff for finalizing the report.

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to The Gambia Government for providing funding for the conduct of the census, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their support both technical and financial for the conduct of the 2013 Population and Housing Census.

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Statistician General

Executive Summary

- The overall prevalence of disability in The Gambia according to the 2013 Population and Housing Census results is 1.2 per cent compared to 2.4 per cent in 2003.

- In 2013, physical disability accounted for the highest prevalence of disability with 0.4 per cent followed by seeing difficulty with 0.3 per cent. In 2003, seeing difficulty was the most prevalent type of disability with 0.9 per cent followed by physical disability with 0.5 per cent.

- In general, the prevalence of disability is slightly higher among males with 1.3 per cent and females 1.2 per cent. However, there was relatively higher proportion of females with disabilities 50.7 per cent and males 49.3 per cent.

- Prevalence of disability increases as age increases. As such, prevalence of disability seems to be positively correlated with age.

- Mansakonko Local Government Area has the highest prevalence of disability 1.7 per cent, followed by Kuntaur, Kerewan and Basse each with 1.5 per cent.

- Nationally, four in every one thousand children had some form of disability. The majority of the children with disabilities were males accounting for 54.2 per cent and females 45.8 per cent. Brikama LGA had the largest proportion of children with disabilities with 36.9 per cent.

- Overall, as expected, the elderly population has the highest prevalence of disability with 51.2 per cent.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Disability statistics in The Gambia is scanty. Until 2003, disability statistics were collected through household surveys, the most comprehensive of which was the 1998 National Disability Survey funded by the Netherlands Government through United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Two surveys were conducted, one was a household survey and the other was on children with disabilities in mainstream schools.

In 2003, for the first time in the history of census undertakings in The Gambia, a module on disability was included. The module was administered for all persons 2 years and above in all households. The 2013 Census is the second Population and Housing Census in The Gambia to have a module on disability. Also, the first ever Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) conducted in The Gambia in 2013 has a module on disability.

1.2 Methodology

The Census was conducted in April on a *de facto* basis (according to where people were found on census night, 15th April). The questions asked in the disability module as outlined in the questionnaire:

- Do you have any form of disability?

- What is your main disability?
  1: Seeing; 2: Hearing; 3: Speaking; 4: Physical; 5: Strange behavior; 6: Fits; 7: Learning difficulties; 8: Other

- What is the main cause of your disability? 1-Congenital / At Birth; 2-Disease / Illness; 3-Injury / Accident; 4-Spousal Violence; 5-Other Violence; 6-Don't know; 7-Other

In both the 2003 and 2013 censuses, questions on disability were administered for household members aged 2 years and over. Usually, the head of the household or an adult representative knowledgeable about other members was asked the questions for other members.

1.3 Limitations

- Some families consider disability to be a sensitive issue and as such, might not have reported persons with disabilities in their households, thus under-reporting disabilities.

- The minimum duration of six months for a condition to be considered a disability also poses problems to both the respondents and the enumerators in establishing the specific duration of the disability which may result to bias in the data collected. In practical terms, no scientific or medical methods were used to identify the types of disability and the degree of severity.

- The approach adopted for the enumeration of persons with disabilities in this census did not also account for multiple disabilities. This could lead to misreporting of types of disability.

- Difference in prevalence of disability could be due to methodology, scope of coverage, context and disability question formats amongst a host of other factors. As a result, one should bear in mind the conceptual and methodological differences when interpreting and/ or comparing the prevalence of the 2003 and 2013 Population and Housing Censuses with the 1998 National Disability Survey and the 2013 Gambia Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS).

CHAPTER 2: PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY BY VARIOUS CHARACTERISTICS

2.1 Prevalence of Disability

In 2013, the enumerated population aged 2 years and above was 1,755,829 i.e. 862,086 males and 893,743 females. This was the population to which the disability questions were asked. Of this, 21,873 persons were reported to have some form of disability which translates to a prevalence of 1.2 per cent. Compared to 2003, this shows a 50.0 per cent decline in the prevalence of disability. The prevalence in 2013 for males is 1.3 per cent compared to 1.2 per cent for females. (Table 2.1 below). Of the total population with disabilities, 49.3 per cent were males and 50.7 per cent were females.

Table 2.1: Prevalence of disability by sex

Sex	Population (2 Years and above)	Persons with disabilities	Prevalence rate
Male	862,086	10,782	1.3
Female	893,743	11,091	1.2
Total	**1,755,829**	**21,873**	**1.2**

2.2 Disability Prevalence Rate by Type of Disability, 2003 and 2013

Table 2.2 and figure 2.2 below shows the prevalence of disability by type for the 2003 and 2013 Population and Housing Censuses. It can be observed from the table be1ow that seeing was the most prevalent disability (0.9 per cent) in 2003 which decreased to 0.3 per cent in 2013. This decline over the inter-censal period could be attributed to the success of the National Eye Care Programme. The prevalence of physical disability slightly declined from 0.5 per cent in 2003 to 0.4 per cent in 2013 whilst that of hearing declined from 0.4 to 0.2 per cent over the same period. Nationally, the prevalence of disability declined by 50.0 per cent i.e. from 2.4 per cent in 2003 to 1.2 per cent in 2013.

Figure 2.2: **Disability prevalence rate by type of disability, 2003 and 2013**

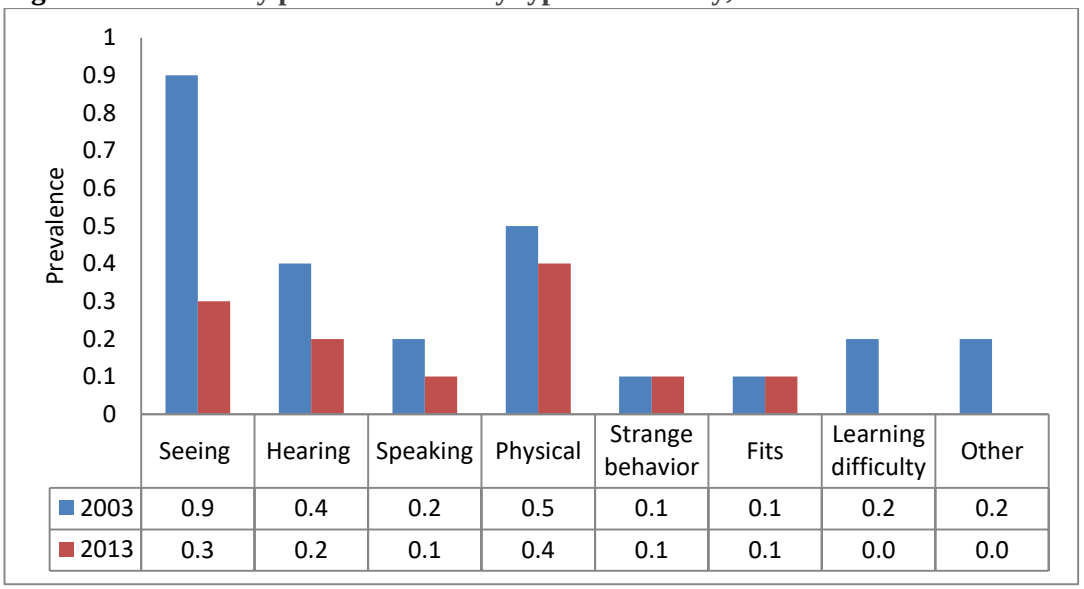

Table 2.2: Prevalence of disability by type, 2003 and 2013

	Persons with disabilities (2 years and above)		Prevalence rate	
	2003	**2013**	**2003**	**2013**
Seeing	11,250	5,782	0.9	0.3
Hearing	4,679	3,655	0.4	0.2
Speaking	2,333	1,552	0.2	0.1
Physical	6,948	7,148	0.5	0.4
Strange behavior	1,828	1,865	0.1	0.1
Fits	1,145	1,024	0.1	0.1
Learning difficulty	631	210	0.2	0.0
Other	2,201	637	0.2	0.0
Total	**31,015**	**21,873**	**2.4**	**1.2**

2.3 Persons with Disability by Age and Sex

The population enumerated with disabilities by age and sex is presented in Table 2.3 below. Among males, the age groups 25-29 and 60-64 have the highest proportion of persons with disabilities each with 7.1 per cent. Among females, the proportion with disabilities was highest for the following age –groups: 30-34, 40 -44, and 25 – 29. From 15-19 age group, the proportions increase by age reaching maximum at ages 30-34 when women are at the peak of their reproductive life.

Table 2.3: Percentage distribution of persons with disabilities by age group and sex

	Male		Female		Both sexes	
Age Group	**Count**	**Per cent**	**Count**	**Per cent**	**Count**	**Per cent**
2-4*	148	1.4	112	1.0	260	1.2
5-9	505	4.7	406	3.7	911	4.2
10-14	530	4.9	419	3.8	949	4.3
15-19	675	6.3	667	6.0	1,342	6.1
20-24	661	6.1	705	6.4	1,366	6.2
25-29	762	7.1	830	7.5	1,592	7.3
30-34	718	6.7	888	8.0	1,606	7.3
35-39	666	6.2	808	7.3	1,474	6.7
40-44	689	6.4	844	7.6	1,533	7.0
45-49	676	6.3	709	6.4	1,385	6.3
50-54	730	6.8	784	7.1	1,514	6.9
55-59	569	5.3	469	4.2	1,038	4.7
60-64	764	7.1	750	6.8	1,514	6.9
65-69	646	6.0	507	4.6	1,153	5.3
70-74	618	5.7	687	6.2	1,305	6.0
75-79	465	4.3	359	3.2	824	3.8
80-84	430	4.0	497	4.5	927	4.2
85+	525	4.9	646	5.8	1,171	5.4
NS	5	0.0	4	0.0	9	0.0
Total	**10,782**	**100.0**	**11,091**	**100.0**	**1,873**	**100.0**

*** The 2-4 age cohort is not a complete five-year age group because questions on disability was administered for persons 2 years and over**

2.4 Prevalence of Disability by Age Group and Sex

Table 2.4 below shows that prevalence of disability increases with age. This is true irrespective of sex. With the exception of the population aged 70-74, the data shows that the population below age 25 and those 65 years and above, the prevalence was higher for males than females. However, between ages 25-64, the prevalence was higher for females.

Table 2.4: Prevalence of disability by age group and sex

Age Group	Male	Female	Both Sexes
2-4*	0.2	0.1	0.1
5-9	0.4	0.3	0.3
10-14	0.5	0.4	0.4
15-19	0.7	0.6	0.6
20-24	0.8	0.7	0.7
25-29	1.0	1.0	1.0
30-34	1.3	1.4	1.3
35-39	1.5	1.7	1.6
40-44	1.9	2.3	2.1
45-49	2.4	2.6	2.5
50-54	3.2	3.5	3.3
55-59	3.9	3.9	3.9
60-64	4.9	5.2	5.0
65-69	6.6	6.1	6.3
70-74	8.3	8.5	8.4
75-79	10.6	8.3	9.5
80-84	12.6	11.3	11.9
85+	16.0	14.3	15.1
NS	0.6	0.5	0.5
Total	**1.3**	**1.2**	**1.2**

* The 2-4 age cohort is not a complete five-year age group because questions on disability was administered for persons 2 years and over

Table 2.5 below shows that prevalence of disability increases as age increases for most types of disabilities. Prevalence of 1.0 per cent and above was observed for ages 50 and above for seeing difficulty and physical disability.

Table 2.5: Prevalence of disability by age group and type of disability

Age Group	Type of Disability							
	Seeing	**Hearing**	**Speaking**	**Physical**	**Strange Behavior**	**Fits**	**Learning Difficulty**	**Other**
2-4*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5-9	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15-19	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
20-24	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
25-29	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
30-34	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
35-39	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
40-44	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
45-49	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.9	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
50-54	1.0	0.4	0.2	1.2	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
55-59	1.2	0.5	0.2	1.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1
60-64	1.7	0.7	0.2	1.7	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
65-69	2.3	1.0	0.2	2.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
70-74	3.5	1.3	0.3	2.6	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.1
75-79	3.8	1.7	0.2	3.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2
80-84	4.7	2.2	0.4	3.6	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.3
85+	6.2	3.2	0.4	4.2	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.2
NS	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.4**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**0.0**

* The 2-4 age cohort is not a complete five-year age group because questions on disability was administered for persons 2 years and over

2.6 Prevalence of Disability by LGA

Table 2.6 below shows that disability rates for Kanifing and Brikama were below the national average (0.9 per cent and 1.1 per cent respectively). The prevalence for all the other LGAs were above the national average with Mansakonko (1.7 per cent) accounting for the highest prevalence followed by Banjul, Kerewan, Kuntaur and Basse each with 1.5 per cent.

Table 2.6: Prevalence of disability by LGA

LGA	Population (2 years and above)	Persons with Disabilities	Prevalence
Banjul	29,719	448	1.5
Kanifing	358,527	3,294	0.9
Brikama	649,963	7,238	1.1
Mansakonko	76,667	1,279	1.7
Kerewan	207,260	3,208	1.5
Kuntaur	91,324	1,405	1.5
Janjanbureh	118,405	1,668	1.4
Basse	223,964	3,333	1.5
Total	**1,755,829**	**21,873**	**1.2**

2.7 Types of Disability by Sex

Table 2.7 below shows that, there are slight differences in the proportions of males and females with physical disabilities, seeing and learning difficulties. For hearing difficulty, fits and physical disability the proportions were higher for females (17.4 per cent, 5.5 per cent and 32.8 per cent respectively) compared to males (16.0 per cent, 3.9 per cent and 32.5 per cent respectively). However, the reverse is true for other type of disabilities (Table 2.7 below).

Table 2.7: Distribution of the population (2 years and above) with disabilities by type of disability and sex

Type of Disability	Male	Per cent	Female	Per cent	Both Sexes	Per cent
Seeing	2,873	26.6	2,909	26.2	5,782	26.4
Hearing	1,724	16.0	1,931	17.4	3,655	16.7
Speaking	850	7.9	702	6.3	1,552	7.1
Physical	3,505	32.5	3,643	32.8	7,148	32.7
Strange Behaviour	968	9.0	897	8.1	1,865	8.5
Fits	419	3.9	605	5.5	1,024	4.7
Learning Difficulty	115	1.1	95	0.9	210	1.0
Other	328	3.0	309	2.8	637	2.9

2.8 Prevalence of Disability by LGA and Sex

Presented in Table 2.8 below is the disability prevalence rate by sex and LGA. There is little variation in disability between sexes and LGAs. Similar prevalence rates are observed for both sexes in Banjul (1.5 per cent), Kanifing (0.9 per cent), Brikama (1.1 per cent) and Janjanbureh (1.4 per cent) whilst the prevalence among males is slightly higher than females in the Kerewan, Kuntaur and Basse LGAs. The data further shows that there is a higher prevalence among females than males in Mansakonko LGA.

Table 2.8: Prevalence of disability among population 2 years and above by sex and LGA

	Population (2 years and above)		Population (2 years and above) with disabilities		Prevalence Rate		
LGA	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Banjul	16,110	13,609	245	203	1.5	1.5	1.5
Kanifing	179,582	178,945	1,666	1,628	0.9	0.9	0.9
Brikama	324,851	325,112	3,547	3,691	1.1	1.1	1.1
Mansakonko	36,575	40,092	582	697	1.6	1.7	1.7
Kerewan	99,393	107,867	1,562	1,646	1.6	1.5	1.5
Kuntaur	42,987	48,337	687	718	1.6	1.5	1.5
Janjanbureh	56,581	61,824	786	882	1.4	1.4	1.4
Basse	106,007	117,957	1,707	1,626	1.6	1.4	1.5
Total	**862,086**	**893,743**	**10,782**	**11,091**	**1.3**	**1.2**	**1.2**

CHAPTER 3: CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

During the census, questions on disability were asked for all household members through the household heads or their representatives. The analysis in this chapter is on children (2-17 years). It is worth noting that measuring disabilities among children is difficult compared to adults. The characteristics of disability can easily be observed among adults, whereas for children, they are not easily noticeable or established since children undergo a process of speaking, walking, learning etc. as they grow. For example, among children aged 2-9 years, tests have to be undertaken to establish the disabilities of seeing, hearing, speaking, learning and fits. Since disability tests were not undertaken during the 2013 Population and Housing Census, the results presented in this chapter should be viewed with these caveats in mind.

3.1 Prevalence of Disability Among Children by Sex and LGA

Table 3.1 below shows the distribution of children with disabilities by sex and LGA. There were 2,885 children with disabilities out of 815,682 children aged 2-17 years. This translates into disability prevalence of 0.4 per cent or four in every one thousand children. The majority of the children with disabilities were males accounting for 54.2 per cent and females 45.8 per cent. The Brikama LGA had the highest proportion of children with disabilities (36.9 per cent) followed by Kerewan (14.6 per cent) and Basse (13.3 per cent). Banjul had the lowest proportion of children with disabilities with 2.5 per cent, followed by Mansakonko (6.6 per cent), Kuntaur and Janjanbureh each with 7.1 per cent.

Table 3.1: Distribution of children with disability by LGA and sex

LGA	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Banjul	51	21	72	3.3	1.0	2.5
Kanifing	159	183	342	10.2	13.9	11.9
Brikama	560	505	1,065	35.8	38.3	36.9
Mansakonko	106	84	190	6.8	6.4	6.6
Kerewan	236	185	421	15.1	14.0	14.6
Kuntaur	113	92	205	7.2	7.0	7.1
Janjanbureh	116	90	206	7.4	6.8	7.1
Basse	224	160	384	14.3	12.1	13.3
Total	**1,565**	**1,320**	**2,885**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Table 3.1.1 below shows disability prevalence among children by sex and LGA. The disability prevalence range from 0.7 per cent in Banjul to 0.2 per cent in Kanifing. Analyzing the data by sex shows that males (0.4 per cent) have slightly higher prevalence than females (0.3 per cent). At the LGA level, disability prevalence are higher among males in Banjul (1.0 per cent), Brikama (0.4 per cent), Kuntaur (0.5 per cent), Janjanbureh (0.4 per cent) and Basse (0.4 per cent) but higher among females in Kanifing (0.3 per cent) and of equal proportions in Kerewan for both sexes (0.4 per cent).

Table 3.1.1: Prevalence of disability among children by LGA and sex

LGA	Male	Female	Prevalence rate
Banjul	1.0	0.4	0.7
Kanifing	0.2	0.3	0.2
Brikama	0.4	0.3	0.4
Mansakonko	0.5	0.4	0.5
Kerewan	0.4	0.4	0.4
Kuntaur	0.5	0.4	0.4
Janjanbureh	0.4	0.3	0.3
Basse	0.4	0.3	0.3
Total	**0.4**	**0.3**	**0.4**
Count	**1,565**	**1,320**	**2,855**

3.2 Percentage Distribution of Children with Disabilities by Type, Sex and Residence

Overall, hearing difficulties was the most prevalent disability among children (28.2 per cent). Those with physical disability constitute 23.7 per cent, seeing 16.6 per cent, speaking 12.9 per cent and strange behavior 8.0 per cent. The proportion of children with fits and other type of disabilities are 5.3 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively. Only 2.6 per cent of the children had learning difficulties. (Table 3.2.1).

Analysis of the data by place of residence shows that in the urban areas, male children with disabilities constitute (50.2 per cent) and females (49.8 per cent). The majority of the children with disabilities in the urban areas had hearing difficulties (32.2 per cent), followed by those with physical disabilities (20.2 per cent), seeing difficulty (17.1 per cent) and speaking difficulty (11.4 per cent).

Over half of the children, 56.5 per cent, with disabilities in the rural areas were males and the remaining 43.5 per cent were females. In all places of residence, hearing difficulties was the most prevalent type of disability, followed by physical disability and seeing difficulty. (Table 3.2.1).

Table 3.2.1: Percentage distribution of children with disability by sex, residence and type of disability

Type of Disability	Urban			Rural			Total
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	
Seeing	18.1	16.1	17.1	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.6
Hearing	30.7	33.8	32.2	26.7	24.9	25.9	28.2
Speaking	13.3	9.4	11.4	15.0	12.2	13.7	12.9
Physical	19.6	20.7	20.2	25.1	26.4	25.7	23.7
Strange behavior	6.9	10..0	8.4	7.2	8.4	7.7	8.0
Fits	5.7	4.4	5.1	4.0	7.4	5.5	5.3
Learning difficulty	3.2	3.1	3.2	2.9	1.5	2.3	2.6
Other	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.7
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

3.3 Percentage Distribution of Children with Disabilities by Type and LGA

The table below shows that Brikama LGA has the highest proportion of children with disabilities (37.0 per cent), followed by Kerewan (14.6 per cent), Basse (13.3 per cent), Kanifing (11.9 per cent), Kuntaur (7.1 per cent), Janjanbureh (7.0 per cent) and Mansakonko (6.6 per cent). Banjul had the lowest proportion of children with disabilities with 2.5 per cent (Table 3.3.1).

Hearing difficulties was the most common type of disability among children with disabilities and was highest in Brikama with 37.2 per cent, Kanifing (15.0 per cent), Basse (12.9 per cent) and Kerewan (12.6 per cent). The second most common type of disability among children was physical disability of which Brikama had the largest proportion with 35.2 per cent, followed by Kerewan (16.0 per cent) and Basse (15.2 per cent).

Brikama LGA has the highest proportion in all types of disabilities; seeing accounting for the highest proportion with 41.8 per cent, hearing (37.2 per cent), speaking (38.3 per cent), physical (35.2 per cent), strange behaviour (30.9 per cent), fits (30.1 per cent) and learning difficulties (37.3 per cent). It is also observed that 46.2 per cent of children who were reported to have other types of disabilities were from Brikama LGA (Table 3.3.1).

Table 3.3.1: Percentage distribution of children with disabilities by type and LGA

	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Physical	Strange behavior	Fits	Learning difficulty	Other	Total
Banjul	2.1	4.7	1.4	1.3	1.7	2.0	2.7	1.3	2.5
Kanifing	11.3	15.0	10.8	9.1	13.9	8.5	14.7	10.3	11.9
Brikama	41.7	37.0	38.3	35.2	30.9	30.1	37.3	46.2	36.9
Mansakonko	6.0	5.3	7.6	7.8	6.5	8.5	9.3	2.6	6.6
Kerewan	14.4	12.5	16.2	16.0	18.3	14.4	12.0	10.3	14.6
Kuntaur	7.5	7.5	7.0	6.2	6.5	3.3	14.7	11.5	7.1
Janjanbureh	6.7	5.3	5.1	9.2	7.8	15.7	6.7	2.6	7.1
Basse	10.4	12.9	13.8	15.3	14.4	17.7	2.7	15.4	13.3
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

CHAPTER 4: DISABILITY AMONG THE ELDERLY

4.1 The Elderly Population

The elderly population is defined as those aged 65 years and above. In the 2013 Population and Housing Census, the elderly constituted 3.1 per cent of the total population of which 48.9 per cent are males and 51.1 per cent are females. As expected, the elderly also had the highest prevalence of disabilities among the overall population, as 51.2 per cent of them had some form of disability.

4.1.1 Elderly Population by Type of Disability

Table 4.1.1 below shows percentage distribution of the elderly population with disabilities by age group, type of disability and sex. Seeing difficulty was the most reported type of disability and was highest among those aged 70-74 (41.1 per cent) and 85 years and over (41.0 per cent) and was lowest among those aged 65-69 (35.7 per cent). It is also observed that hearing difficulty also increases with age. The prevalence increased from 15.0 per cent among the population aged 65-69 years to 21.0 per cent among those aged 85 years and above. Analysis of the data by sex shows that the proportion of the elderly with seeing difficulties was higher for males with 41.0 per cent and 38.1 per cent for females. Among the elderly males, seeing difficulty is highest among the population aged 85 and above, while for females, the proportion was highest among the age group 80-84.

Hearing difficulties was highest for the population aged 85 and above for both sexes. Learning difficulty was reported to be least prevalent type of disability among the elderly and the proportion was 0.5 per cent for males and 0.4 per cent for females. Overall, the most prevalent type of disability reported among the elderly population was seeing difficulty (39.6 per cent) followed by physical disability with (31.2 per cent) and hearing difficulty (17.5 per cent). The data further shows that hearing difficulty among the elderly population increases with age. The prevalence of physical disability and strange behaviour was highest amongst those aged 65-69 years.

Figure 4.1.1 below shows that seeing, physical and hearing difficulties were the most common types of disabilities among the elderly. The most common type of disability was seeing difficulty (39.6 per cent) followed by physical disability (31.2 per cent) and hearing difficulty (17.5 per cent). Those with learning difficulties accounted for the lowest proportion with less than 1.0 per cent.

Figure 4.1.1: Percentage distribution of the elderly population by type of disability

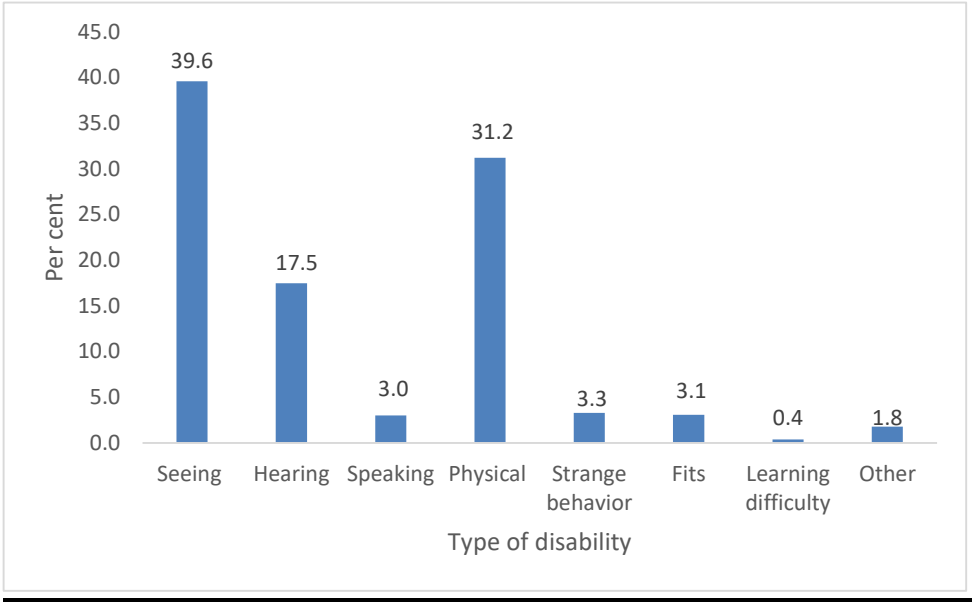

Table 4.1.1: Percentage distribution of the elderly population by age group, sex and type of disability

Age Group	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Physical	Strange behavior	Fits	Learning difficulty	Other	Total
Both Sexes									
65-69	35.7	15.0	2.9	35.6	4.4	3.6	0.5	2.2	1,153
70-74	41.1	15.7	3.9	30.9	3.5	3.1	0.1	1.7	1,305
75-79	40.4	17.5	2.3	31.6	3.0	2.8	0.6	1.8	824
80-84	39.8	18.9	3.0	30.0	3.1	2.7	0.3	2.2	927
85+	41.0	21.0	2.6	28.0	2.4	3.2	0.8	1.1	1,171
Total	**39.6**	**17.5**	**3.0**	**31.2**	**3.3**	**3.1**	**0.4**	**1.8**	**5,380**
Male									
65-69	36.4	14.4	2.9	35.9	4.5	2.5	0.6	2.8	646
70-74	44.2	12.1	5.0	32.2	2.3	2.6	0.0	1.6	618
75-79	40.9	15.1	3.2	33.8	2.4	2.4	0.6	1.7	465
80-84	39.8	18.1	4.4	30.0	3.3	3.3	0.0	1.2	430
85+	44.4	18.5	2.3	27.8	2.1	3.0	1.1	0.8	525
Total	**41.0**	**15.4**	**3.6**	**32.2**	**2.9**	**2.7**	**0.5**	**1.7**	**2,684**
Female									
65-69	34.9	15.8	2.8	35.3	4.3	5.1	0.4	1.4	507
70-74	38.4	18.9	2.9	29.7	4.7	3.5	0.1	1.7	687
75-79	39.8	20.6	1.1	28.7	3.9	3.3	0.6	1.9	359
80-84	39.8	19.5	1.8	30.0	3.0	2.2	0.6	3.0	497
85+	38.2	23.1	2.8	28.2	2.6	3.3	0.5	1.4	646
Total	**38.1**	**19.7**	**2.4**	**30.3**	**3.7**	**3.5**	**0.4**	**1.9**	**2,696**

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

Population and housing censuses being complete counts of the population provide an opportunity for countries to take stock of the size of persons with disabilities in the country. In the Gambia, results of the 2013 Population and Housing Census provide an insight into the size of the population with disabilities, by type of disability, sex of the population living with disabilities and Local Government Area of enumeration. The results generated from the census are however not without limitations as articulated in previous sections of this report. In addition to the potential for under-reporting of persons living with disabilities, the reliance on respondents to report cases of disability in their households and the calibre of enumerators used in the conduct of the census could have compromised the data quality. Notwithstanding, the census results are, largely, likely to reflect the true national prevalence of disability in the country.

Overall, the 2013 census results when compared to that of the 2003 showed a decline in the national prevalence by 1.2 percentage points. This scenario may be difficult to explain considering the increase in life expectancy which could have led to an increase in age related disabilities. However, disabilities related to seeing difficulties and physical disability continue to be the most prevalent forms of disability.

A review of the census results showed that disability rates are slightly higher for males than females but the disability rates tend to increase with age for both sexes. This trend is expected considering the fact that the elderly are more prone to disability than the younger generation. Also, evident in the census results is the fact that rates of disability related to seeing difficulties and physical disability are highest for those aged 55 years and above than amongst the younger population.

On regional variations in the prevalence of disability, the census results show that with the exception of Kanifing and Brikama Local Government Areas where the prevalence was lowest (0.9 per cent and 1.1 per cent), observed differences in prevalence were insignificant as the rates ranged from 1.4 per cent in Janjanbureh to 1.7 per cent in Mansakonko Local Government Area. This finding tends to lend credence to the assertion that the census results are likely to be a true reflection of disability prevalence across the country.

Regarding the types of disabilities that are prevalent in the country, the census results showed that disabilities related to seeing (26.4 per cent) and physical mobility (32.7 per cent) are the most prevalent types. This observation holds for both males and females. As would be expected, the rates of disability are lowest amongst children (aged 2-17 years) with the observed prevalence across Local Government Areas ranging from 0.2 per cent to 0.7 per cent for Kanifing and Banjul, respectively. In both rural and urban areas and for both sexes

the most common types of disability amongst children are those related to hearing difficulties and physical disabilities.

Evident from the census results shows that majority of the elderly population living with disabilities either have vision problems, physical disability related problems or hearing difficulties. It is worth noting that this observation holds for both sexes.

It is worth noting that even though the estimates of disability for the 2013 Population and Housing Census point to very low prevalence rates, the increase in life expectancy amongst the population has the potential to significantly increase disabilities related to old age in the future. In addition, the likelihood of disabilities being under-reported by respondents during the census count might have resulted in the under-count of the population living with disabilities. On account of these considerations, it is imperative that there is need for appropriate policies to be put in place to cater for the needs of an increasing population of those living with disabilities. Such policies should aim at addressing the needs of the population living with disabilities as it relates to the size of the population living with various type of disabilities.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the census on the type of disabilities affecting the population and the size of the population living with disabilities, the following recommendations are being advanced to both increase national knowledge on the population living with disabilities and also for the formulation of appropriate policies and programmes to address the needs of this population;

- To ensure improvements in the quality of data on the population living with disabilities in subsequent population censuses, it is recommended that service providers and advocacy groups in the area of disability be involved in training of trainers for the census. Involvement of experts at this level could drastically improve the quality of training and subsequently improve the quality of data on disability;

- Collecting information on disability, requires adapting the UN and WHO's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). Increase knowledge on this classification could improve data quality and engender comparability of the census results with results from similar research on disability.

- Since it may be difficult if not impossible to conduct disability tests to gauge the severity of disability during the conduct of a census, it is being recommended that a disability survey be conducted where such tests and in-depth interviews could be conducted to derive more accurate estimates of the prevalence of disability and also

determine the extent of disabilities among the population. Such a survey would also provide an opportunity for levels of disability among children to be more accurately determined;

- Review and revise existing legislation and policies on disability for consistency with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) with specific focus on compliance and enforcement mechanisms;

- Mainstream issues affecting persons living with disabilities in all national policies and programmes;

- Develop a national disability strategy and action plan, clearly defining responsibilities and mechanisms for coordination, monitoring and reporting across sectors;

- Allocate adequate resources to existing publicly-funded services for persons living with disabilities and appropriately fund the implementation of the national disability strategy and plan of action;

- Adopt national accessibility standards and ensure compliance in new buildings, in transport, and in information and communication;

- Introduce measures to ensure that people living with disabilities are protected from poverty and benefit adequately from poverty alleviation programmes;

- Include disability in national data collection systems and provide disability-disaggregated data wherever possible;

- Implement communication campaigns to increase public knowledge and understanding of the needs of the population living with disabilities and how they can contribute to national development;

- Include disability in development aid programmes, using the twin-track approach (mainstreaming and targeted).

Annexes

Table A1: Prevalence of disability among the population aged 2 years and above

Age Group	Population (2 years and above)	Persons with disabilities	Prevalence
2-4*	190,502	260	0.1
5-9	280,066	911	0.3
10-14	220,145	949	0.4
15-19	214,264	1,342	0.6
20-24	183,939	1,366	0.7
25-29	159,356	1,592	1.0
30-34	122,169	1,606	1.3
35-39	94,566	1,474	1.6
40-44	73,029	1,533	2.1
45-49	55,610	1,385	2.5
50-54	45,573	1,514	3.3
55-59	26,596	1,038	3.9
60-64	30,298	1,514	5.0
65-69	18,197	1,153	6.3
70-74	15,558	1,305	8.4
75-79	8,700	824	9.5
80-84	7,821	927	11.9
85+	7,779	1,171	15.1
NS	1,661	9	0.5
Total	**1,755,829**	**21,873**	**1.2**

* The 2-4 age cohort is not a complete five-year age group because questions on disability was administered for persons 2 years and over

Table A2: Prevalence rates of disability among males by age group

Age Group	Male Population	Persons with disabilities	Prevalence
2-4*	96,083	148	0.2
5-9	141,334	505	0.4
10-14	110,434	530	0.5
15-19	102,995	675	0.7
20-24	86,075	661	0.8
25-29	74,341	762	1.0
30-34	56,957	718	1.3
35-39	45,922	666	1.5
40-44	36,485	689	1.9
45-49	28,616	676	2.4
50-54	23,169	730	3.2
55-59	14,677	569	3.9
60-64	15,738	764	4.9
65-69	9,824	646	6.6
70-74	7,472	618	8.3
75-79	4,387	465	10.6
80-84	3,404	430	12.6
85+	3,275	525	16.0
NS	898	5	0.6
Total	**862,086**	**10,782**	**1.3**

* The 2-4 age cohort is not a complete five-year age group because questions on disability was administered for persons 2 years and over

Table A3: Prevalence of disability among females by age group

Age Group	Female Population	Persons with Disabilities	Prevalence
2-4*	94,419	112	0.1
5-9	138,732	406	0.3
10-14	109,711	419	0.4
15-19	111,269	667	0.6
20-24	97,864	705	0.7
25-29	85,015	830	1.0
30-34	65,212	888	1.4
35-39	48,644	808	1.7
40-44	36,544	844	2.3
45-49	26,994	709	2.6
50-54	22,404	784	3.5
55-59	11,919	469	3.9
60-64	14,560	750	5.2
65-69	8,373	507	6.1
70-74	8,086	687	8.5
75-79	4,313	359	8.3
80-84	4,417	497	11.3
85+	4,504	646	14.3
NS	763	4	0.5
Total	**893,743**	**11,091**	**1.2**

* The 2-4 age cohort is not a complete five-year age group because questions on disability was administered for persons 2 years and over

Table A4: Prevalence of disability by age group and type of disability

Age Group	Population	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Physical	Strange behavior	Fits	Learning difficulty	Other
2-4*	190,502	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5-9	280,066	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-14	220,145	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15-19	214,264	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
20-24	183,939	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
25-29	159,356	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
30-34	122,169	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
35-39	94,566	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
40-44	73,029	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
45-49	55,610	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.9	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
50-54	45,573	1.0	0.4	0.2	1.2	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
55-59	26,596	1.2	0.5	0.2	1.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1
60-64	30,298	1.7	0.7	0.2	1.7	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
65-69	18,197	2.3	1.0	0.2	2.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
70-74	15,558	3.5	1.3	0.3	2.6	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.1
75-79	8,700	3.8	1.7	0.2	3.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2
80-84	7,821	4.7	2.2	0.4	3.6	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.3
85+	7,779	6.2	3.2	0.4	4.2	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.2
NS	1,661	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total	**1,755,829**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.4**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**0.0**

* The 2-4 age cohort is not a complete five-year age group because questions on disability was administered for persons 2 years and over