**UNDP Briefing Note**

**COVID-19 Socioeconomic Impacts and Recovery Efforts in the Gambia**

2nd April 2020

**When will The Gambia tourism recover?**

**Impacts**

**ECONOMIC**
- Individuals and families
  - Financial distress
  - Job losses
- Businesses
  - Business bankruptcies
  - Store closures
- Local and national economies
  - Postponed investments
  - Supply chain disruptions

**CONTINUITY**
- Online learning
- Internet connectivity

**POLITICAL GOVERNANCE**
- Elections
- Prisons

**SOCIAL COHESION**
- Messaging on impacts
- Relations
- Sports

**Mitigation & Recovery**

- Tax relief measures
  - Utilities
  - Essential goods
- Food relief
  - Cities, towns, district
  - Operation procedures
- Extra cash
  - Elderly
  - Employees
- Mobile money
  - Charges
  - Taxes
- Retirement funds
  - Share % savings
  - Critical infrastructure
- Rent and loans
  - Restructure loans + loans
  - Fasten loan request

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**Graph:**

Air chartered tourist arrivals, number of arrivals

- 1999: 74,000
- 2009: 134,560
- 2019: 235,710

**Table:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Tourists to The Gambia, %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe, 67.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa, 7.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others, 22.1</td>
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**Figure:**

- Flattening the curve
- Number of cases
- Days since first case

**Impact on COVID-19 containment**

- On face value, this may not have significant impact on flattening the curve but it does.
- The more people struggle to meet their basic needs, the more they feel it is not worth it. It is therefore important that COVID-19 Business Tracker informs this effort too.

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**Impact on jobs and businesses**

- Tourism related jobs and business have already had a hit, but many – especially indigenous ones – may struggle to recover.
- We have to get the diagnostics right to know which businesses are and who these people are, as well as the challenge they face.
- COVID-19 Business Tracker will provide the need data to undertake appropriate diagnostics. It will also inform the needed support if they are to return to their feet.

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- Experts think the European economy will take around two years for GDP to get back to recent levels. That is assuming COVID-19 is contained.