

# HOW ARE THE GAMBIA'S CHILDREN?

The Gambia has ratified (pledged to follow) the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This means that The Gambia must respect the rights of the child and listen what children have to say. Are the rights of the child respected in The Gambia? You and other children in The Gambia are the experts.



## 941,000 CHILDREN

1.8 million people live in The Gambia. 941,000 are children, and 329,000 of the children are under five years old.



## NAME AND NATIONALITY

From the day you are born you have the right to a name and to be registered as a citizen in your country. 77,000 children are born every year in The Gambia. Half of them are never registered. There is no documented proof that they exist!



## SURVIVE AND GROW

You have the right to life. The Gambia must do all it can to allow children to survive and develop. More than 1 of 13 children in The Gambia (5,000 every year) dies before the age of 5, usually due to causes that could have been prevented. The number of children who die has decreased, but is still high.



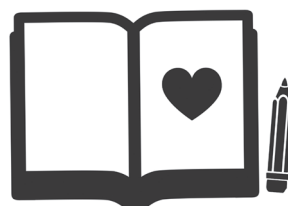
## HEALTH

You have the right to food, clean water, medical care and to privacy when consulting an adult about any health problem. 4 of 5 children in The Gambia have water from improved water sources. 7 out of 10 children have access to adequate sanitation facilities.



## A HOME, CLOTHING, FOOD AND SECURITY

You have the right to a home, food and security. 3 out of 10 children in The Gambia live in extreme poverty with less than 1.25 US-dollar (53 Gambian Dalasi) a day to live on.



## EDUCATION

You have the right to go to school. Primary and secondary schools should be free. Primary and secondary schools should be free for everyone. 7 out of 10 children in The Gambia go to school, but many of them leave school too early.



## PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE

You have the right to protection against all forms of violence, including neglect, maltreatment and abuse. Only 48 countries have forbidden all forms of corporal punishment for children. The Gambia has not. Many schools still allow caning.



## HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR

You have the right to be protected against both economic exploitation and work that is hazardous to your health or which prevents you from going to school. All work is prohibited for children under 12. . Some children are forced into the worst forms of child labour, such as being debt slaves, child soldiers or used for commercial sexual exploitation. An estimated 89,000 children (2 out of 10 children aged 5-14) in The Gambia have to work.



## YOUR VOICE MUST BE HEARD

You have the right to say what you think about any issue that affects you. The adults should listen to the child's opinion before they make decisions, which must always be made in the best interest of the child!

