

# 2026 MIGRATION OUTLOOK

## INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING: THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

**CRITICAL UPDATE:** Q1 2026 has seen a 15% increase in irregular maritime departures compared to the same period in 2025. The creation of EU "Return Hubs" has accelerated the deportation pipeline.

### 1. FRONTLINE HUMANITARIAN DATA

#### Maritime Activity

- **Jan 1, 2026:** 44 deaths confirmed at Jinack shipwreck.
- **Interceptions:** 1,745 potential migrants intercepted in Week 1 of Jan 2026.
- **Trend:** Increased family-based migration (women and minors).

#### Return & Deportation

- **Deportation Pipeline:** 10,000+ Gambians identified for return across EU (2026).
- **Return Hubs:** New offshore detention centers in Europe targeting "failed" asylum seekers.

### 2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC & CLIMATE PUSH FACTORS

#### Climate Refugees

- **High Risk:** River flooding and coastal erosion in NBR/URR.
- **Food Insecurity:** 300,000 Gambians requiring acute assistance in 2026.

#### Youth Economic Status

- **Unemployment:** Remains at 41.5% for ages 15-35.
- **Remittance:** \$775.6M (2024) - High economic dependency on migration cycles.

### 3. THE IGDMM "SYSTEMS" RESPONSE

In response to these metrics, the IGDMM 2026 strategy prioritizes:

- **Livelihood Recovery Hub:** Deploying trauma-informed cash transfers to the 10,000+ expected returnees.
- **The Compass Framework:** Neutralizing the "Hope Deficit" by providing technical legal facts to youth.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Using these data points to negotiate more dignified return protocols with the German and EU Embassies.