GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA

Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy

GOVERNMENT OPEN DATA STRATEGY
2023 - 2026

Prepared by

e-Governance Academy (eGA) of Estonia

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1. Executive summary

The management, exchange, and publication of data in The Gambia faces many challenges posed by the absence of a centralised registry, standardisation, and a lack of software for data quality and management. The current legislative environment lacks a comprehensive legal framework for publication of open data. Access to data is limited, with no standardisation or secure solutions for data exchange, hindering access to government and public undertakings held data for citizens and companies.

To address the many challenges, Government Open Data Strategy for 2023-2026 and Action Plan for 2023-2024 were formulated. The Strategy and Action Plan were developed and formulated by the **e-Governance Academy for the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy of The Gambia** through a consultative and participatory process involving stakeholders like government agencies, civil society organisations, and the private sector. The Action Plan aligns with the Gambia's e-government strategy for 2021-2024, and with international best practices and standards for open data.

The Gambia's Government Open Data Strategy for 2023-2026 and Action Plan for 2023-2024 aims to increase the availability, disclosure, re-use, interoperability, and access of open data within the public sector of The Gambia and promote the use of open data among the private sector and NGOs. This strategy aims to facilitate responsive, efficient, and transparent government and governmental processes, support data-driven decision-making and development and use of AI analytics in all spheres of society, encourage the creation of new business models, support community-based development, improve confidence in governance and support contributions to it. As a result, the strategy aims to create an enabling environment for open data initiatives, build the foundation to produce and use open data, and establish rules and responsibilities for open data and its management.

The Action Plan for 2023-2024 outlines a set of activities to implement, including creating a legal framework covering open data, developing a Government Open Data Portal, establishment of open data standards and protocols, training data holders and digitisation of high-value data. The plan also prioritises the publication of datasets that have high societal, business, and government benefits.

This strategy aims to create an ecosystem where open data enables societal transformation from the economy to public governance, from community inclusion to education and healthcare. Through digitising high-value open data and making it available, the government can enable businesses, research institutions and civil society to create new innovative services, identify opportunities, increase their involvement in governance and boost economic growth. This strategy also aims to create an ecosystem where open data publication and re-use is the norm. Open data is used for innovation and decision-making, competencies surrounding the open data are developed, and The Gambia becomes a trendsetter in the field of open data in Africa.

Overall, the Gambia's Government Open Data Strategy and Action Plan have the potential to support the digital transformation of The Gambia. This is achieved through accelerating the publication and use of open data within The Gambia across all spheres of life.

2. Overview of the Project

This Government Open Data Strategy 2023-2026 has been developed and formulated by the e-Governance Academy (eGA) for the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (MoCDE), The Gambia, through a technical assistance project from the "African Union – European Union Digital for Development (AU-EU D4D) Hub" project[1]. The AU-EU D4D project aims to close the digital divide, leverage digital innovations for inclusive, sustainable development in Africa, and strengthen African national and regional partners' capability to identify and implement priority actions in response to digitalisation challenges. The Strategy and Action Plan were developed and formulated through a consultative and participatory process that involved various stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organisations, and the private sector. The Plan aligns with the Gambia's e-government strategy for 2021-2024 and with international best practices and standards for open data.

This Government Open Data Strategy 2023-2026 covers the following areas:

1. **Open Data Strategy and action plan for 2023-2024.**
2. **Open data portal and technological stack.**
3. **Open data communication and upskilling activities.**
4. **Target state operating model.**
5. **Roles and responsibilities.**
6. **Open data sharing principles.**
7. **Open data sharing standards and protocols.**
8. **Open data access channels.**
9. **Open data for businesses and entrepreneurs.**
10. **Open data policy, guidelines, and regulation.**

3. Overview of the Open Data Strategy

The primary objective of this strategic framework is to increase the availability, disclosure, re-use, interoperability and access of open data within the public sector of The Gambia and with third parties (private sector, research institutions, NGOs) and to facilitate responsive, efficient and transparent government and governmental processes, support better data-driven decision-making and development and use of AI and analytics in all spheres of society, encourage the creation of new business models, support community-based developments, improve the confidence in governance and support contributions to it.

Open data is machine-readable data that can be freely used, re-used, and redistributed by anyone for any reason. In the recent decade, open data has become an integral part of the open and transparent provision of public innovation and services. Open data also has a considerable impact on the economy. The data's major potential to transform all layers of society has motivated The Gambia and other countries and economies to invest and attend to the subject. This is illustrated by the adoption of the Open Data and Public Information Directive in the European Union in July 2019, defining the extent to which data should be available and how data access should be guaranteed. A European Open Data Portal review estimates that by 2025, the value of the global open data market will reach hundreds of billions of euros, and the number of open data-related jobs will reach two million. Today, the impact of open data is most evident in the public sector, science, language technology and

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[1] AU-EU D4D website: https://d4dhub.eu/au-eu-project

the transport sector. In addition, the use of open data in agriculture, insurance, healthcare, education, environmental monitoring, and real estate, among other areas, has high potential. The private sector can also use open data to create new economic value through data-driven decision-making, new value-added services, and better-planned investments.

Meanwhile, in Africa, including The Gambia, no significant developments in the field of open data have occurred. According to the Open Data Barometer, no Sub-Saharan African countries are represented within the top 40 governments on open data maturity. It has become increasingly apparent that open and available data is a strong lever for innovation, growth and democracy, and the African Data Consensus has been implemented with those principles in mind. The African Data Consensus serves as a guide for data revolution across the continent, namely, upholding the principles of official statistics as well as openness across the data value chain. This creates a vibrant data ecosystem providing timely, user-driven, and disaggregated data for the public good and inclusive development.

The Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy of The Gambia put in place this Government Open Data Strategy 2023 - 2026, which outlines the core activities for developing the field for the next two years and strategic objectives for the next four years. In preparation for the strategic action plan, eGA mapped the current situation, outlined the known problems, delineated the strategic goals, and offered possible measures to solve them through a preliminary version of an action plan. Next to the strategic initiatives, the document introduces the most important directions for developing the field of open data, including the scope and areas for implementation, open data sharing principles, data sharing standards and protocols, access channels and policy recommendations.

4. The Current State of Open Data within The Gambia

Data Management and Data Exchange

The management, exchange, and publication of data in The Gambia faces various challenges due to the absence of a centralised registry, standardization, and lack of software for data quality and management. The current legislative environment lacks a comprehensive legal framework for open data. Access to data is also limited, with no standardisation or secure solutions for data exchange, hindering access to government-held data for citizens. The e-Government strategy 2021-2024 of The Gambia aims to address some of these challenges by emphasising the importance of open data publication and re-use, proper legislation and regulation, and creating an open data platform. However, a concrete action plan covering these areas is yet to be developed. The following five sections provide a more comprehensive overview of the current state of data management and data exchange within The Gambia and how open data is covered in the e-Government strategy 2021-2024.

Digital data

The absence of a central registry that provides an overview of government-held data is one of the main problems faced in the country, making it challenging for organisations to understand data collection methods and quality. There are no data management policies or strategies in place that outline requirements and rules for data collection, quality assurance, metadata management, and data lifecycle management. This lack of standardisation also poses challenges

in ensuring data accuracy, validity, completeness, and consistency. Though some organisations have developed data quality assurance frameworks, they are often set up as one-off projects without a systematic approach to data quality management.

The unavailability of software for data quality, data operations, data catalogues, data profiling, master and reference data management and document and content management has made it challenging to ensure data accessibility and quality. The lack of terminological uniformity and understanding of data is also problematic, as various organisations collect data without consulting relevant agencies, leading to difficulties in monitoring and evaluating data correctness and using it for decision-making or service delivery.

While digitisation is a high priority within various ministries and government organisations, the lack of information systems and technical knowledge has resulted in reliance on paper-based data collection. Digitisation of paper-based data is, therefore, a priority to reduce errors and increase the efficiency of data analysis and reuse. Some organisations have implemented a hybrid approach, where data is collected in a paper-based format and processed electronically, or electronic forms are developed for data input until full data digitisation is carried out.

Legal framework

The current state of legislation regarding data protection and privacy in the country is lacking, with only a few specific policies in place but without a comprehensive legal framework. Although a Data Protection Bill is in the process, the absence of a Data Protection Act and a Data Protection Commission creates issues in terms of accountability and clarity in data ownership and management. Without a legal framework, there is no way to regulate data exchange or open data publication, leading to concerns about data accessibility and management. The lack of a legal framework has also resulted in reluctance among some individuals and organisations to share data, even within the government. The drafting of legislation in this area can be a slow process, with policy drafts waiting for years for review by the Ministry of Justice. The capacity within the Ministry of Justice should be expanded to facilitate the review of digitalisation-related policy, and a person assigned to oversee this process. In addition, existing legal frameworks should be reviewed to ensure that they meet the necessary requirements for data interoperability, including data collection, dissemination, data quality, and metadata.

Access to data

The lack of standardisation and secure solutions for data exchange is a significant problem for organisations within and between the government, NGOs, research institutions and the private sector. While there is a general understanding of the importance of secure data exchange, no solutions exist. Even when data is exchanged, people still print out materials, as is the case with the document registry. Thus, change management is necessary to become fully digital.

Although open data is sporadically made accessible to the public, other organisations highlighted that unclarity on who can access the data and what data should be publicly available prevents them from doing so. Citizens do not have access to information about what data the government holds or to the data itself. Private sector-held data is more readily accessible than

government-held data. Public undertakings are often more digitised and better suited for open data publication.

Organisations suggest that access to data should be prioritised based on its importance. For example, data about water quality, the cost of electricity, mobile positioning data, and education data should be classified as priority data, as it is valuable for both the public and private sectors. However, data in a machine-readable format is neither made available nor published, even though only a few technical impediments prevent doing so.

Secure data exchange

Despite the consensus on the importance of data exchange, the current system is mostly manual, and paper based. There is a need for a centralised solution to facilitate data exchange between stakeholders. Digitalisation efforts are underway in some organisations, such as PURA, to ensure timely access to data and improve its quality. One way to digitise paper-based data is using electronic forms, which can help ensure basic data quality and make data more comparable. While application programming interfaces (APIs) are sometimes used for data exchange, there is a need for more technical knowledge and trust among stakeholders, particularly in validating data re-users. Overall, there is a strong demand for the development and implementation of a data exchange layer to improve government and government-to-business data exchange.

Open data and e-Government strategy 2021-2024

The Gambia e-Government strategy 2021-2024 set the goal of **broadening open data publication for increased data usage, participation, and transparency.** The expected budget for open data-related activities within The Gambia e-Government strategy is 5 250 000 Gambian dalasi. The strategy outlined vital activities necessary to support open data publication and re-use; it highlighted the need for proper legislation, regulation, and licensing. The need for an open data publication process was emphasised, as well as training and supporting civil servants, and creating an open data platform and public expenditure monitoring portal. Further, sharing and ensuring access to open data and setting requirements for interoperability and standards were highlighted. The need for an open data publication process was emphasised, as well as training and supporting civil servants, and creating an open data platform and public expenditure monitoring portal. Further, sharing and ensuring access to open data and setting requirements for interoperability and standards were highlighted. While the strategy accentuated the importance of open data and strategic areas, a strategic approach and concrete action plan covering the areas mentioned above did not exist.

In 2022, the newly formed Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy set out to create an Open Data Strategy for 2023-2024 to ensure open data initiatives are carried out efficiently. The strategy and action plan were put in place to facilitate a strategic and systematic approach to open data and lead its development within The Gambia.

The Open Data Strategy and Action Plan aim to encourage and support all government agencies and public undertakings to open their data assets and ensure their reuse by non-governmental organisations. To ensure that the strategy aligned with the current state of open data within The Gambia, eGA experts interviewed various stakeholders within the

government, the private sector, and NGOs. The current situation and areas for improvement, along with actionable recommendations, are outlined in subsequent five sections:

Figure 1 Five areas of Open Data Strategy

Currently, the main challenges and organisational concerns in the field of open data within The Gambia are the following:

1. The Gambia has outlined the goal to broaden open data publication for increased data usage, participation, and transparency, but **the transformation has not taken place to the expected extent**. As a result, much must be done to accelerate the publication and use of open data within The Gambia to reach new levels.
2. The market demand for open data continues to grow. Still, the **lack of regulation, licensing terms, guidelines, and policy** hinders whether and to what extent open data can be made available and re-used.
3. Public information is increasingly made available, but the **information is typically not available in a machine-readable format**. As a result, open data sharing and management principles covering open data publication do not exist.
4. The Gambia has accelerated its digitalisation activities, but **only some data is available and digitised.** Best practices regarding data collection practices still need to be included.
5. Government organisations have made open data available, but **there is no government open data portal** which would enable the stakeholders to search and use the data. In addition, no requirements for open data publication have been established.

6. Operations and skills regarding open data exist in some government organisations, but **accountability for open data and upskilling need improvement**. In addition, there is a need to improve the understanding of the value of data for public sector organisations, public undertakings, and other stakeholders.
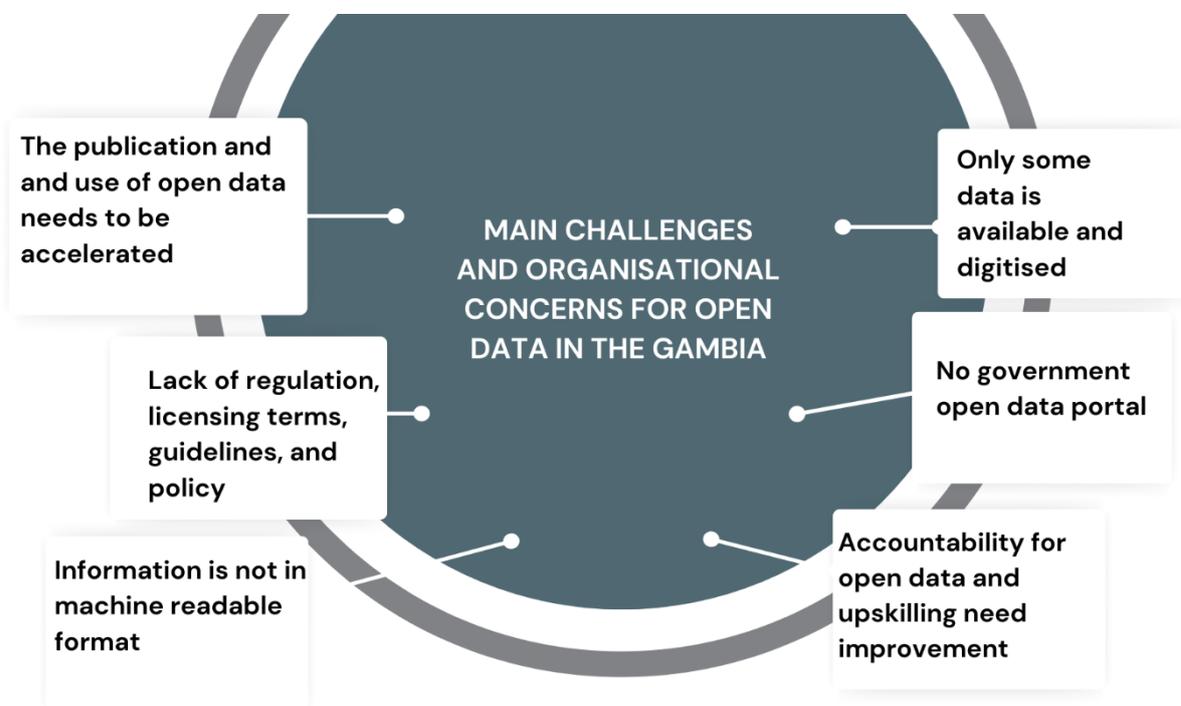

Figure 2 Overview of main challenges and organisational concerns.

To tackle the main challenges and organisational issues in the field of open data within The Gambia, the following actions could be implemented:

1. The Gambia should develop a policy that promotes open data and ensures its publication by public sector bodies and public undertakings. Expanding open data mandates to the private sector is a complex issue that warrants cautious consideration and open public discussion. Given the potential risks, competition dynamics, privacy concerns, and regulatory and commercial landscapes, the present approach does not tackle the topic of data disclosure in the private sector. The policy should establish the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders within the public sector involved with open data. To prioritise investments to digitisation, it is crucial to map high-value data and develop a plan for open data digitisation, sharing and re-use. Such planning should be carried out across the government and be led by the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy.

2. The Gambia should outline the requirements in a separate legal framework and set standards for open data publication, metadata management and data quality. Existing legal frameworks should be revised and harmonised with the open data legal framework to ensure data collection, dissemination, data quality, and metadata management-related activities are carried out across the government according to requirements.

3. Establish clear rules and requirements for open data sharing and management. The responsibility for open data publication and management should be on public sector bodies.
4. Carry out analysis to identify high-value datasets based on their societal, business and government benefits, as well as their feasibility for digitisation. Not all datasets are equally suitable for digitisation and have never actually used, and it's important to consider technical and practical factors when prioritising digitisation efforts. Establish clear criteria for prioritising digitisation, such as their impact on key sectors, e.g., tourism and fishery, demand from users, and potential for innovation and economic growth. Allocate financing for digitisation.
5. Develop a government open data portal, which serves as a central repository to search and access public sector open data.
6. Promote data literacy among government officials to raise awareness of the value of open data and to build a culture of openness and transparency. Assign responsibility for managing data and carrying out necessary training programmes.

5. **Prerequisites for open data development**

The following prerequisites for open data development ensure that open data is of high quality, findable, usable, and governed by clear policies and procedures. The following prerequisites allow for the possibility for open data to unlock social, economic, and environmental benefits by data-driven innovation and decision-making, and improved transparency and cooperation. The prerequisites for open data development to consider:

1. **Data quality:** Ensure data and metadata quality with emphasis on accuracy, completeness, consistency, validity, timeliness, uniqueness and relevance. This requires implementing processes to measure, monitor and report data quality levels and taking measures to improve the quality of data. Metadata quality must be similarly managed through the data lifecycle.
2. **Data privacy:** Open data must be protected against privacy, commercial and security infringements and misuse. This requires appropriate measures, such as impact assessment of potential risks and anonymisation of data, to protect sensitive data and ensure privacy, national security and protection of commercial interests.
3. **Data governance:** Open data must be governed by clear policies and procedures that define the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, ensure compliance with data management standards and policy, and provide mechanisms for data sharing and collaboration.
4. **Technical infrastructure:** Open data requires a robust technical infrastructure that supports data storage, sharing, and visualisation. This includes hardware, software, and network infrastructure that can handle large volumes of data and enable seamless data integration and interoperability.
5. **Stakeholder engagement:** Open data development requires active engagement and collaboration among stakeholders, including data producers and users. This includes outreach and awareness-raising activities, capacity-building initiatives, and mechanisms for feedback and evaluation.

6. Guiding principles and values

These guiding principles and values ensure the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the open data strategy, to deliver significant social, economic, and environmental benefits to stakeholders. The guiding principles and values for the Government Open Data Strategy are:

1. **Transparency:** Openness and transparency are the cornerstones of open data strategy. This means that data should be made available to the public as much as possible and that information about how data is collected, managed, and shared should be easily accessible through the government's open data portal.

2. **Accessibility:** Data should be accessible to all stakeholders, including citizens, businesses, and government agencies. This requires making open data available according to open data users' needs and removing barriers to data access, such as restrictive licensing agreements or technical barriers.

3. **Privacy:** Ensure personal privacy, commercial interests and national security is ensured. To ensure this, sensitive data is anonymised or de-identified before release, and adequate measures are in place to protect data from unauthorised use, such as licencing terms limiting the use of open data for commercial interests.

4. **Collaboration and co-creation:** Collaboration and co-creation with stakeholders should be emphasised. This means engaging with data users and government organisations to identify high-value data sets, understand data needs, and co-work to make data available.

5. **Quality and standards:** Prioritise metadata management and data quality and adhere to standards that ensure data interoperability, compatibility, and reuse.

6. **Sustainability:** The Government Open Data Strategy and government initiatives should be designed for sustainability over the long term. This requires identifying sustainable funding sources, establishing effective governance structures, and developing mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.

7. The Vision and Mission

Vision: Accelerate the publication, use and reuse of open data within The Gambia.

The vision for The Gambia is to become a trendsetter in using open data within Africa. This strategy aims to create an ecosystem where **open data enables societal transformation** from the economy to public governance, from community inclusion to education and healthcare. Through **digitising high-value open data and making it available**, the government can enable businesses, universities, non-governmental organisations, and civil society to create new innovative services, identify opportunities, increase their involvement in governance and boost economic growth. This strategy also aims to create an ecosystem where open data publication and re-use is the norm, open data is used for innovation and decision-making, competencies surrounding the open data are developed, and The Gambia becomes a leader and trendsetter in the field of open data in Africa.

Mission: Support the digital transformation of The Gambia through open data.

The mission is to support the digital transformation of The Gambia through open data. This strategy envisages **accelerating the publication and use of open data** within The Gambia and for The Gambia to make **maximum use of open data** to **support digital transformation** across all spheres of life. This includes providing access to open data for all stakeholders to support digitisation, enable innovation across all sectors and increase efficiency and transparency. This strategy sets the pace and acts as the first step already taken to transform the field of open data. However, there is a lot more open data potential in The Gambia. Also, The Gambia has all the prerequisites to spearhead the field of open data within Africa, as there is the commitment, understanding and willingness to build the competencies and transform the field and make maximum use of open data to support the digital transformation of The Gambia and create a vibrant data ecosystem within the country.

8. Strategic Objective and Metrics

Based on the as-is situation and ambitions of The Gambia, the strategic objective of the Open Data Strategy is to create a legal framework covering open data and create clarity surrounding it, boost open data publication and reuse, bolster innovation, improve decision-making processes, increase government transparency, raise data literacy amongst the public sector, and support the economic development of the country.

Machine-readable, interoperable, freely available, accessible, and findable open data makes The Gambia more transparent, improves public-private collaboration, and enables the private sector to use the data to develop its business services, promote innovation and make better-informed decisions. At the same time, open data supports government data exchange and creates means for digital transformation to improve people's lives. The five main objectives that the current strategy addresses are:

1. **Increased transparency and accountability for open data.**
2. **Economic growth and innovation.**
3. **Private sector and NGO engagement, participation, and collaboration.**
4. **Capacity building, knowledge sharing and awareness raising.**

5. **Improved decision-making and service delivery.**

With the main objectives in mind, the **main goal of the strategy and accompanying action plan is to increase the publication of open data** and thus enable more efficient data reuse, which will aid in creating a more innovative, transparent, and knowledge-based society. Based on the focus areas, the goal is to assess the implementation of the action plan using the following **key performance indicators**, with the target levels set for 31.12.2026:

1. The number of institutions that have published open data at the government open data portal: currently 0 organisations, with the target of 45 organisations.
2. The number of open datasets published at the government open data portal: currently 0 datasets, with the target of 250 datasets.
3. The number of open data use-cases published at the government open data portal: currently 0 use-cases, with the target of 50 use-cases.

The following seven sections of the strategy outline the current situation and areas for improvement, together with actionable recommendations.

9. Critical success factors

Critical success factors for the strategy are necessities for achieving success in implementing the Government Open Data Strategy. The critical success factors for implementation are:

- **Leadership and governance:** Clear leadership and governance structures are needed to carry out the open data strategy. This includes establishing clear roles and responsibilities, securing funding and developing mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.
- **Data findability and quality**: High-quality data that meets set standards is essential for the success of an open data strategy. This requires appropriate data quality management, metadata management, and standardisation to ensure the data is findable and fit for use.
- **Infrastructure and technology:** Technical infrastructure and appropriate technological solutions are essential to support data storage, sharing, and visualisation. This requires developing a government open data portal, which enables to search and use all government open data.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** Active engagement, collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders is essential for the success of an open data strategy. This includes outreach and awareness-raising activities, capacity-building initiatives, and collecting feedback.
- **Legal and policy framework:** An appropriate legal and policy framework is essential to ensure that open data is governed by clear policies and procedures.
- **Sustainability and scalability:** The open data strategy must be designed to be sustainable and scalable over the long term. This requires appropriate resource allocation and funding mechanisms.

Overall, these critical success factors are essential for ensuring that the open data strategy is successfully carried out and can deliver significant social, economic, and environmental benefits to stakeholders.

10. Open Data Policy, Guidelines and Regulation

Currently, some legal frameworks exist (Access to Information Act 2021), and certain policies have been developed (Data Protection and Privacy Policy), but they do not cover open data. The Access to Information Act sets some requirements related to public information, for instance, article 12 outlines requirements for requesting public information, but **no clear legal framework covering the publication of open data exists**, including how and where open data should be made available, the technical requirements and costs.

The Access to Information Act does not specify requirements for data to be machine-readable, licensed, standardized, interoperable, or accompanied by comprehensive metadata. As there is no legal framework, there is uncertainty regarding what is considered open data (there does not exist a legal definition for open data), what data can be published as open data and the requirements for doing so. The lack of a legal framework prevents holding accountable parties, who either do not publish open data or provide access to data that should stay confidential. The lack of legal framework has also given rise to a situation where many consider the data they have as private and are unwilling to share it even amongst government organisations due

to concerns related to personal data, national security, and commercial secrets. Thus, while there exists open data that could be made public, the shortcomings from the policy side (i.e., unclarity on who can access the data and what data and how should be publicly available) have prevented many organisations from doing so.

One of the key objectives of the Open Data Strategy is to create clarity of data ownership, how open data publication should take place and how data should be made accessible to stakeholders. As part of the regulatory changes, public sector organisations and public undertakings would be required to assign responsibility for open data within their organisations. Instead of extending Access to Information Act, open data could be regulated through a standalone legal framework, which would outline responsibilities and requirements for publishing open data.

One argument in favour of covering open data in a standalone legal framework is to balance better the right to access open data with the need to protect certain types of sensitive data. This can include provisions for anonymizing or de-identifying data and restrictions on how data can be used or shared, e.g., through licencing terms. The standalone legal framework can also provide a consistent approach to regulating open data. This can help to ensure that all data is treated equally and that there are clear rules and guidelines governing its use. It also provides clarity on ownership and use of open data, which can encourage organisations to share their data. This, in turn, can lead to greater collaboration and innovation across different sectors.

To recapitulate, the current significant limitations are the following:

1. While there is an Access to Information Act in place, it lacks specific provisions for open data. This **absence of a dedicated legal framework for open data** leads to ambiguity about who is responsible for making open data available and how it should be done.
2. There are **no policies, guidelines and regulations** on how open data should be published (licencing terms, machine-readable format, platform-independent format, requirements on the use of APIs etc.).
3. The responsibility for open data within public sector organisations is not assigned, which has left **open data undermanaged** (e.g., lack of data stewards). Consequently, data re-users do not know whom to contact when they have issues, feedback, or questions regarding the data.

Based on the current situation, one of the main goals for the upcoming two years is to develop a new legal framework which would cover open data. The Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy should be responsible for drafting the new legislation. The Gambian Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) should be responsible for regulating open data-related matters through the legislation or law drafted by the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy. It was also highlighted that the legal processes take much time (in some cases, policy drafts had been waiting for close to two years), mainly due to the lengthy review process by the Ministry of Justice.

Thus, the capacity within the Ministry of Justice should either be expanded, or an agreement reached that open data-related regulation is processed efficiently. While there are legal frameworks in place for certain types of data, such as the Statistical Act, which only covers statistical data, there is a need for harmonisation and revision of these existing frameworks.

This is necessary to ensure that all types of data are included and that there is interoperability in terms of data collection, dissemination, data quality, and metadata requirements. A vital direction the data economy is facing today is establishing high-value datasets that significantly impact society and the economy.

High-value datasets define the data availability to all market participants in a machine-readable manner, in accordance with set requirements and standards, and allow The Gambia to concentrate its resources on data which creates the most impact. To identify high-value datasets, it is crucial to consult with research institutions, businesses, civil society, public undertakings, and public sector organisations to identify data that has high potential value for public good and economic development. Responsibility for the publication and management of high-value datasets will span across different government bodies depending on the data domain.

To recapitulate, the following actions need to be carried out as part of the Open Data Strategy:

1. Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy should play a key role in coordinating open data policy, guidelines, and regulation. The Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy should consider Gambia ICT Agency (GICTA) as the implementing agency and PURA as a regulator.

2. Mandate the release of public sector and public undertakings data in free and open formats by developing a legal framework covering open data. Activities and data from public undertakings that are directly exposed to competition should not be subject to the requirements. Within the legal framework, it is recommended to cover the following:

    a. Outline which organisation is coordinating the area and who is monitoring and adhering to the regulation.
    b. Develop a new legal framework which covers open data. Open data could be defined as machine-readable data that can freely be re-used by natural persons and legal persons for commercial or non-commercial purposes and which re-use is not restricted by law.
    c. Data holders shall not enter into exclusive agreements to re-use data and information unless it is necessary and justified in the public interest. The exclusive agreements should be reviewed at least every two years.
    d. If possible and appropriate, the holder of open data shall provide access to open data in a machine-readable format. That file format can easily be read and processed to identify, recognise, and extract specific data. Open data should also be in an open format, that is, a platform-independent format. If conversion of the data into the machine-readable and platform-independent format would require disproportionate effort, the open data should be provided in any format.
    e. Open data should be published with metadata describing the dataset and data contained therein. Metadata should be based on the metadata standard implemented in The Gambian government's open data portal.
    f. The machine-readable open data must be accessible through The Gambian government's open data portal.

g. Open data subject to frequent or real-time updates (hereinafter *dynamic open data*) shall be made available for re-use immediately after collection, or in the case of manual updates, immediately after the modification of the data, via an application programming interface (*API*) and, where relevant, as a bulk download. Where making dynamic data available for re-use immediately after collection would exceed the financial and technical capacities of the data holder, the data shall be made available within the shortest possible time frame and with technical restrictions that do not unduly impair the exploitation of their economic and social potential.

h. The re-use of open data shall generally not be subject to conditions. However, if imposing conditions for making the data available for re-use is necessary, such conditions shall be objective, proportionate and non-discriminatory. The requirements for re-use shall be functional in a machine-readable and open format. The conditions for re-use (hereinafter *standard licencing terms*) shall be published at The Gambian government's open data portal. Licensing terms should be applied to all open data, outlining how and for what reasons data can be used. It is recommended to use Creative Commons licencing terms[2] and/or others, including European Union Publication Office Access Rights controlled vocabulary[3]. In some circumstances, the licensing terms might outline some limitations, for instance, attributing to the initial data holder or limiting the use of the data for commercial use. When there are no limitations for reuse, zero-licencing terms shall be used (for instance, C0 licence).

i. High-value datasets are considered data with a high societal and/or economic impact on The Gambia. The Government may establish categories of high-value datasets and their conditions and re-use procedures.

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[2] Creative Commons licencing terms https://creativecommons.org
[3] European Union Publication Office Access Rights controlled vocabulary https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/dataset/-/resource?uri=http://publications.europa.eu/resource/dataset/access-right

11. Open Data Sharing and Management Principles

There are **currently no standards or principles for how open data should be made publicly available and how to manage the data.** To ensure that data is accessible and usable, requirements should be implemented. Open data should be in a machine-readable format, associated metadata should be available in an open format, and open data should be assigned licensing terms outlining its use. One of the key obstacles outlined by the public sector organisations of The Gambia today is the **lack of terminological uniformity and understanding of the data**.

Public and private sector organisations do not necessarily understand what different data means or how it was collected. Standards regarding metadata management and data quality assurance do not exist. As a result, information regarding data accuracy, validity, completeness, and consistency is lacking, especially for data re-use purposes. In some organisations, data quality assurance frameworks exist, where they exist, data quality checks are set up as one-off projects. Thus, no systematic approach to data quality management exists. In most organisations, there is no software for data quality, data operations, data catalogues, and document and content management.

To recapitulate, the current significant limitations are the following:

1. There is **limited or no coordination** to lead and supervise the development and adherence to open data and data management requirements across the public sector.
2. There **are no guiding principles for publishing open data.** Thus, the quality of open data varies significantly.
3. There are **no standards** to ensure public sector organisations publish, share, and provide access to and use of better-quality data.
4. **Data management maturity, practices and processes vary significantly** across public sector organisations, which inevitably hinders open data publishing and its re-use.

Based on the current situation, one of the main objectives is to **establish standards and protocols for open data publication and reuse**. As there are no data management processes and policies for data collection, quality assurance and metadata management, the Open Data Strategy and Action Plan also cover data management as the foundation for adequate open data publication and re-use. This help to ensure that open data is made available according to data re-users' needs, interoperability is ensured, and responsibility for open data and data management within public sector organisations is assigned.

The Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy together with Gambia ICT Agency should take a more active role in data coordination to ensure data is freely accessible according to set standards and requirements. Gambia ICT Agency should be mandated to coordinate and supervise open data publication and ensure open data standards and protocols are implemented.

To recapitulate, the following actions are necessary to carry out as part of the Open Data Strategy:

1. Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy should play a key role in establishing open data sharing and management principles. The Ministry of Communications and

Digital Economy should consider Gambia ICT Agency as the implementing agency and PURA as a regulator.

2. Ensuring that published datasets are always accompanied by a data description that meet the required metadata standard. All relevant information related to its use has been added to the datasets. For metadata standard, it is recommended to adapt DCAT-AP[4]. DCAT-AP provides a common specification for describing public sector datasets in Europe, which enables the exchange of descriptions of datasets between data portals and is based on Data Catalogue Vocabulary (DCAT) specifications developed by W3C.

3. Use controlled vocabularies within the government open data portal to standardise metadata. If DCAT-AP is adapted, these could be based to an extent on DCAT-AP-OP[5].

4. Adopt an open data protocol, which would allow standardising, creating, and consuming open data via interoperable REST APIs. Using community-developed and freely available open data protocols, for instance, OData (https://www.odata.org/), is recommended. OData defines a set of best practices for building and consuming RESTful APIs and is ISO/IEC approved.

5. All public sector organisations should designate a responsible person(s) who deal with data administration and communication with users.

6. Data management is developed, and best practices are implemented in all major public sector organisations. This is achieved through capacity and knowledge building and providing tools to all major stakeholders. Open-source solutions could be used for data management, for example, Amundsen[6] and Egeria[7]which can be considered for data management. In addition, online learning resources could be utilised to support knowledge and capacity building. For instance, edX[8], Coursera[9] and other online platforms offer great programs for learning the basics.

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[4] DCAT-AP https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/semantic-interoperability-community-semic/solution/dcat-application-profile-data-portals-europe
[5] DCAT-AP-OP https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/dcat-ap-op
[6] Amundsen https://atlan.com/amundsen-lyft-open-source-data-catalog
[7] Egeria https://egeria-project.org/
[8] edX https://www.edx.org/course/enterprise-data-management
[9] Coursera https://www.coursera.org/learn/foundations-data

12. **Open Data Collection and Availability**

The Gambia is currently undergoing digital transformation, whereby various services and processes that previously were paper based are being digitised. Although many processes are already digitised, there are multiple areas where data still needs to be available in a digital format. **To improve data accessibility and quality, it is crucial to ensure data is digitised and accessible via electronic formats.** Digitisation is a prerequisite for open data. To this day, only up to 25% of registers, databases and services are digitised in The Gambia. Digitisation is a high priority within various ministries and government organisations, but there is still a firm reliance on paper-form data. Thus, digitisation of paper form data should be a high priority.

More mature organisations have implemented a hybrid form of data organisation, whereby data is either collected in a paper-based format and processed electronically, or electronic forms are developed for data input. Such an approach would be optimal until data digitisation is fully carried out. As there are various data categories where digital data does not exist, it is essential to prioritise digitisation activities to data that could be labelled as high-value datasets. Examples of data to prioritise are data about water quality, cost of electricity, mobile positioning data and education. Such data is valuable both for the public and for the private sector. One possible way to currently digitise paper-based data is to use electronic forms. This helps to ensure basic data quality and make data more comparable.

Data exchange is not standardised, and there are no standardised solutions for secure data exchange. While open data doesn't solve the lack of data exchange, it helps overcome some of the problems arising. Open data allows the publication and consumption of data without necessarily requiring a secure data exchange layer. However, when data consumption becomes regular, it is necessary to create application programming interfaces (APIs) for more efficient data integration. One solution would be to extend government open data portal functionalities with native open data API, which allows consuming tabular data via the government open data portal. Additionally, while public information is sometimes made publicly available, the data in a machine-readable format is not made available, even though only a few technical impediments are preventing it.

To recapitulate, the current significant limitations are the following:

1. Digitisation is currently underway; thus, data is not available in an electronic form.
2. Data is published in various formats, which do not support efficient data reuse.
3. No standardised solutions for secure data exchange exist. As a result, data is seldom provided via APIs, which leads to inefficiency in data consumption.
4. Data collection is carried out without consulting relevant agencies, making it difficult to evaluate and monitor data quality.

Based on the previously outlined situation, the **focus must be on digitisation and ensuring data is available in a machine-readable format**. To prioritise digitisation, **data should be classified as "high-value datasets" based on their priority**. The government should prioritise activities related to high-value datasets. This helps ensure that data made available creates a significant impact and is widely re-used. **To classify the data as high-value datasets, the impact of open data must be analysed from the public and private sector, NGO, research and educational institutions, and citizen perspectives**. **A pilot project for a secure data exchange solution could be**

implemented to support government-to-government and government-to-business data exchange.

To recapitulate, the following actions are necessary to carry out as part of the Open Data Strategy:

1. The Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy should play a key role in ensuring open data is made available and coordinating the requirements for data collection. Regarding data collection, the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy should consider Gambia ICT Agency as the implementing agency and PURA as a regulator. Gambia Bureau of Statistics should be consulted on data collection regarding statistics.

2. Carry out analysis to identify high-value datasets based on their societal, business and government benefits. Based on the analysis, prioritise the digitisation of data that have not been digitised. Allocate financing for digitisation.

3. Priority data sets should be published at minimum at a three-star level as outlined by 5 ★ OPEN DATA guidelines[10]. This helps to ensure that everyone can process and use the data in any way.

4. Carry out a pilot project on secure data exchange. Based on the results, plan for a wide-scale implementation across the government and enforce its use to increase trust and transparency of data exchange. For instance, the open-source solution X-Road Data Exchange Layer[11] could be used.

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[10] 5 ★ OPEN DATA guidelines https://5stardata.info/en/
[11] X-Road Data Exchange Layer https://x-road.global/

13. Open Data Access Channels

To utilise data and build new products and services, it is important that open data can be easily found. It is, therefore, crucial that all open data published by the central government, local authorities and public bodies are easily accessible from one place. A common way to improve access to open data is through **setting up a government open data portal.** The government open data portal aims to provide a holistic overview of public sector data, which can be freely reused and shared by anyone. Government open data portals serve as a central registry for the whole government.

These portals can function either as a government-wide repository or linking to various existing portals. Both approaches help to avoid duplicative investments, ensure data re-users find the relevant data and ensure that open data standards (for example, a metadata standard) and requirements (machine-readable formats, licensing terms) are implemented. As The Gambia currently does not have different existing open data portals, it is recommended for the government open data portal to also serve as a repository.

Currently, there does not exist government open data portal which provides an overview of government-held open data. The Gambian Bureau of Statistics has an open data portal[12], but it is mainly used to publish statistics. The portal needs more technical functionalities to ensure efficient data reuse and publication. The African Development Bank manages the existing Gambian Bureau of Statistics open data portal; thus, the development capacity of the portal is limited. Open data in The Gambia is sporadically made accessible to the public. In most circumstances, the data is made available in non-machine-readable formats. Consequently, government and private sector organisations, citizens and non-governmental organisations do not have an overview of what open data is made publicly available and how to re-use the data.

To recapitulate, the current significant limitations are the following:

1. No overview of data has been made available as open data.
2. There is no government open data portal to ensure data is findable, searchable, and accessible from one place.
3. The existing Gambian Bureau of Statistics open data portal is inconvenient to use, focuses only on statistical data, is not designed based on users' needs, does not have ways to enforce standardisation, and data accessibility functions need improvement. In addition, the capacity for maintenance and further development is limited.
4. There are no existing solutions to support data exchange, for example, through open data portal native APIs.

One of the objectives is to develop a government open data portal which enables users to search and access public sector data. Various community-driven open-source open data platforms exist; thus, it is recommended to use them. For example, CKAN is the world's leading open-source data management system and is used among others, by the Government of Canada[13], the Australian government and U.S.

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[12] Gambian Bureau of Statistics open data portal https://gambia.opendataforafrica.org/
[13] Government of Canada open-source data management system https://open.canada.ca/en/open-data

To recapitulate, the following actions are necessary to carry out as part of the Open Data Strategy:

1. Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy together with Gambia ICT Agency should play a key role in coordinating the development of the government open data portal and establishing the requirements for open data publication.
2. Develop a government open data portal, which serves as a central repository to search and access public sector data. The open data portal should be set up using CKAN to reduce costs and carry out the installation in an efficient manner.
3. Ensure machine-readable open data is accessible through the government open data portal.
4. Agree on open data thematic categories to simplify the search and usability of the open data. Implement the thematic categorisation within the new government open data portal as it helps to filter data based on its relevance. The categorisation could be based on European Publication Office data theme-controlled vocabulary[14] or any other data theme-controlled vocabulary.
5. Analyse the requirements and needs of data analysis/visualisation by ordinary users. Data analysis and visualisation could provide additional means for ordinary users to derive value from the data. Based on the analysis, implement the functionality within the government open data portal.

14. Open Data Communication, Upskilling and Community Development

Open data provides a unique opportunity for public and private sector cooperation. As data is made publicly available, many data-driven developments need not be duplicated, meaning that the private sector may develop IT and software that the public sector can later utilise and vice versa. Cooperation between the public, private and third parties exists in The Gambia, but there is a need for community-led development of the field. There is much data that the interested stakeholders within the public and third sectors cannot find or access. The reasons for this are the lack of available valuable data, low awareness of open data and its benefits, and low data useability. Basic data literacy is lacking among public officials. Competences related to open data and data management are low. Roles responsible for data management often do not exist or exist only at a minimal level. Data management is handled mainly by IT; business representatives have limited awareness and contribution to the area. In most public organisations, processes for data operations, document and content, data sharing, data security, data quality, data architecture and modelling, reference and master data management, open data, public information, and data lifecycle management do not exist.

To recapitulate, the current significant limitations are the following:

1. Cooperation between the public, private and third sectors works to some extent, but there is a need for community-led development of the field.

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[14] European Publication Office data theme controlled vocabulary https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/dataset/-/resource?uri=http://publications.europa.eu/resource/dataset/data-theme

2. A few awareness-raising activities are taking place to involve the public, private and third-sector stakeholders. Consequently, their needs are not always considered when creating datasets.
3. The competencies regarding open data and data management are low.
4. While the private sector and NGOs are involved in various government initiatives, there is a lack of focus on open data. Thus, more systematic involvement is necessary for community development.
5. The private sector and NGOs lack information on available open data and where to find it.

Overall, the community trusts public sector organisations, and there is some cooperation between them. Therefore, The Gambian open data ecosystem development will likely to be led by the public sector. However, it is crucial that the private sector can utilise the data to its fullest potential. While the government's focus is typically on the publication of open data, it is important to pay attention to data use. To do that, it must be understood that the needs of the private sector and NGOs differ significantly and are constantly changing. There is an opportunity to increase open data use by actively involving the public and private sectors and NGOs. While the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy has already involved external stakeholders, there is a need to focus on open data to prioritise government activities and ensure that open data meets the needs of its users. In the end, open data is valuable only when it is used. Thus, the government must ensure that data is useful for everyone.

To recapitulate, the following actions are necessary to carry out as part of the Open Data Strategy to improve:

1. Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy together with Gambia ICT Agency should play a vital role in open data communication, upskilling, community development and involvement.
2. Carry out training in the public sector to upskill and raise awareness of the importance of data, including open data, data management and data analysis.
3. Create a communication plan to publish information regarding new open data and its potential impact to raise awareness amongst the general population and potential data re-users.
4. Implement a yearly awards program for the best data publisher and owner of the best data story / use case to highlight the significant contribution to the field.
5. Actively collect and follow up on stakeholder feedback regarding their data needs. Then, based on the stakeholder needs, prioritise open data publication. For example, GitHub could be used for such involvement.

Involving stakeholders in the process of open data publication is critical for ensuring that the data meets their needs and can be used effectively. By involving stakeholders in the process of open data publication, organisations can ensure that the data meets their needs, is being used, and delivers significant social, economic, and environmental benefits.
The following six steps can ensure that stakeholders are involved in the open data publication process:
- Identify key stakeholders: Identify the key stakeholders likely to benefit from open data publication, such as citizens, businesses, researchers, and government organisations.
- Understand stakeholders' needs: Engage with stakeholders to understand their data needs, how they might use the data, and what specific data they would require. This

can be done through surveys, focus groups, or other forms of consultation, e.g., through forums or GitHub.

- Co-create solutions: Collaborate with stakeholders when publishing new data, improving existing data sets, or developing tools, e.g., the government open data portal, that makes data more accessible and useful.
- Build capacity: Build the capacity of stakeholders to publish and use open data effectively. This could involve providing training and support for data management, data analysis, and visualisation.
- Communicate regularly: Keep stakeholders informed and engaged throughout the open data publication process. This could involve providing regular updates on major changes, collecting feedback on the data, and addressing concerns as they arise.
- Evaluate and iterate: Continuously evaluate the effectiveness of open data publication and make adjustments as needed. Measure data usage, gather feedback from data users, and make changes based on user feedback.

15. Governance Structure

The open data governance structure is essential to carry out the Government's Open Data Strategy and Action Plan. It is recommended to create one position at the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy for strategic coordination of the activities. To support implementation, Gambia ICT Agency could be used to provide support and advice on data collection, management and dissemination. It is recommended that the initial team at the Gambia ICT Agency would consist of three people, namely: open data advisor, data management specialist and data quality expert.

All other functionalities and support can be outsourced from the private sector, and gradually competencies and skills can be built within the government. The end goal would be to have a separate agency that would be responsible for data governance, including data dissemination. To support open data publication across the government, it is also crucial to assign separate roles and/or responsibilities for open data management. Each government organisation should have a person responsible for open data management and publication.

To support the specialists working across government, it is important to launch an Open Data Working Group, which meets at least four times a year to share experiences, and the latest news/changes and discusses concerns related to open data. In addition, non-governmental organisations should be involved in at least half of the working group meetings to discuss their concerns and expectations. The Non-Governmental Organisations could also be involved separately from the Open Data Working Group.

16. Open Data Strategy Implementation Plan for 2023-2024

The Gambian Open Data Action Plan for 2023-2025 outlines the main activities necessary to implement the Open Data Strategy. The action plan aims to **accelerate the open data ecosystem within The Gambia, including in the public sector, private sector, academy, and legislation.** The implementation is managed and monitored on an ongoing basis by the open data working group, including discussing and planning additional activities if necessary.

The working group comprises representatives of state institutions and key partners and is managed by the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy. Once a year, an overview of the implementation advancements shall be given to the government and open data working group. After the successful completion of the open data action plan, an analysis of the actions taken, and their results will be carried out. The analysis is the basis for creating the next open data action plan. The indicative budget for the 2023-2024 activities is reflected in the action plan and does not indicate whether the funds exist for the activities. According to the open data action plan, the budget is around 65,5 million Gambian dalasi across all directions.

	Background	Responsibility	Deadline	Budget
Open Data Policy, Guidelines and Regulation				
1.1 Develop a legal framework covering open data	Mandate the release of public sector and public undertakings data in free and open formats and outline requirements. Develop a new legal framework covering open data.	MOCDE	2024 Q2	3 500 000 GMD
1.2 Create guidelines to define open data	Develop an interactive guideline to help decide whether the data is open data or not.	MOCDE	2024 Q2	300 000 GMD
Open Data Sharing and Management Principles				
2.1 Develop open data metadata standard	For the metadata standard, it is recommended to adapt DCAT-AP.	MOCDE	2023 Q3	900 000 GMD
2.2 Define controlled vocabularies for open data	Use controlled vocabularies within the government open data portal to standardise metadata. If DCAT-AP is adapted, these could be based to an extent on DCAT-AP-OP.	MOCDE	2023 Q4	700 000 GMD
2.3 Adopt an open data protocol	Adopt an open data protocol to allow standardising, creating and consuming open data via interoperable REST APIs. It is recommended to use community-developed and freely available open data protocols, for example, OData.	MOCDE	2023 Q4	450 000 GMD
2.4 All public sector organisations have a person	All public sector organisations should designate a responsible person(s) who handles the	MOCDE	2024 Q4	6 400 000 GMD

	administration of data and communication with users.			
2.5 Support the development of data management practices	Developing data management practices is achieved through capacity and knowledge building. Free online learning resources could be utilised to support knowledge and capacity building.	MOCDE	Continuous work	1 040 000 GMD
2.6 Carry out a data management pilot project	To support data management, provide tools to all major stakeholders. Open-source solutions could be used for data management. As a first step, a pilot project should be carried out	MOCDE	2024 Q4	275 000 GMD (1120 hours)
Open data collection and availability				
3.1 Identify high-value datasets	Carry out analysis to identify high-value datasets based on their societal, business and government benefits. Based on the analysis, prioritise the digitisation of data that have not been digitised. Allocate financing for digitisation.	MOCDE	2023 Q4	157 000 GMD (670 hours)
3.2 Ensure high-value data is published at a three-star level	High-value data sets should be published at minimum at a three-star level as outlined by 5 ★ OPEN DATA guidelines. This helps to ensure everyone can process and use the data in any way.	MOCDE	Continuous work	20 000 000 GMD
3.3 Carry out a pilot project on secure data exchange	Based on the results, plan for a wide-scale implementation across the government and enforce its use to increase trust and transparency of data exchange. For instance, the open-source solution X-Road Data Exchange Layer could be used.	MOCDE	2024 Q3	9 796 235 GMD (4600 hours)
3.4 Create a funding scheme to support the digitisation of open data	Funding would ensure that most critical digitisation projects receive funding. Funding projects should be evaluated based on their societal and economic impact.	MOCDE	2024 Q4	20 000 000 GMD
3.5 Provide support regarding data collection and management	Provide support and advice on data collection and management. This can be done in cooperation with GICTA. The team would consist of three people, namely: open data advisor, data management specialist and data quality expert	MOCDE / GICTA	Continuous work	940 438 GMD
3.6 Create instructional materials and recommendations	The instructions and recommendations should cover how to publish data, assign a license, how to maintain data quality, and how to implement metadata standards.	MOCDE	Continuous work	97 962 GMD

Open Data Access Channels				
4.1 Develop a government open data portal	The open data portal would serve as a central repository to search and access public sector data. The open data portal should be set up using CKAN, to reduce costs and carry out the installation in an efficient manner.	MOCDE	2023 Q4	275 000 GMD (1120 hours)
4.2 Existing machine-readable open data is accessible through the government open data portal	Ensuring machine-readable open data is accessible through the government open data portal is continuous work. To ensure this an open data advisor should be employed at MOCDE. After the development of the government open data portal, all existing data should be migrated to the open data portal.	MOCDE	2024 Q2	465 000 GMD
4.3 Agree on open data thematic categories	This allows for simplifying the search and usability of the open data portal. The categorisation could be based on European Publication Office data theme-controlled vocabulary.	MOCDE	2023 Q3	47 500 GMD
4.4 Analyse the requirements and needs of data analysis and visualisation by ordinary users	Data analysis and visualisation could provide additional means for ordinary users to derive value from the data. Based on the analysis, implement the functionality within the government open data portal.	MOCDE	2024 Q3	130 616 GMD (680 hours)
4.5 Require open data publication from all IT projects	When developing new projects, demand that open data publication is considered as part of the development. The initial work is to define requirements that all IT projects funded by the government should meet.	MOCDE	2024 Q4 / Continuous work	65 000 GMD

To learn more about Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, The Gambia and its policy, projects and programs, please kindly visit its Website :

https://mocde.gov.gm/ or contact via email at : info@mocde.gov.gm

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