



# WFP The Gambia Country Brief

March 2018

## Operational Context

With a population of 1.9 million, the Republic of The Gambia is faced with rising food insecurity, poverty and malnutrition, despite a promising environment for improved growth, stability and partnerships.

Progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 is limited, given the high level of vulnerability to food insecurity coupled with the high prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in children aged 6-59 months and stunting rates above the national average, with a high of 24.9 percent in four districts. Forty-eight percent of the population lives below the national poverty line, 8 percent is food insecure.

According to the 2015 Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey, the prevalence of GAM increased to 10.3 percent, up from 9.9 percent in the 2012 survey. WFP has been present in Gambia since 1970.



Population: **1.9 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **173 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower**

Chronic malnutrition: **22.9% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**384 mt** of food assistance distributed (in March)

**USD 24,238** cash-based transfers made

**USD 2,452,709** six months (April-September 2018) net funding requirements

**137,907 people assisted** in March 2018

## Operational Updates

- The March 2018 *Cadre Harmonisé* held from 12-16 March 2018 estimated 268,000 people are currently (March-May) 'under pressure' and 45,000 are in 'crisis' and as the lean season (June-August) approaches; an upward trend in vulnerability is anticipated of up to 350,000 will be classified as 'under pressure' and 63,000 people will be in 'crisis' phase. This results from reduced/low food reserves in households during the lean season, due to decreased crop production in 2017 and fluctuating market prices for basic food commodities.
- The Joint WFP/FAO A-Envelop project, funded by the EU from the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF programme funds for The Gambia was officially launched this month. In addition to supporting smallholder farmers and value chain activities (FAO) the project will ensure the provision of daily school meals for 64,000 children in North Bank and Central River regions, as well as support the establishment of early warning systems and contingency plans for disaster risk reduction.
- On 6-7 March, the country office management held consultations in Dakar with the embassies of Japan, Canada and Germany, as well as USAID and ECHO to brief them on the Country Strategic Plan 2019–2021 and explore potential areas of mutual interests in line with achieving zero hunger in The Gambia. The meetings also served as an opportunity to establish/maintain relations for information sharing.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Isatou Njai Cham  
Caption: Launch of Envelope A project, Farafenni

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WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>Interim Country Strategic Plan (Jan 2018- Dec 2018)</b>		
7.7 m	5.3 m	TBD
<b>Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food</b>		
<b>Strategic Outcome 1:</b> School aged children in the most food-insecure areas have adequate access to safe and nutritious food throughout the year <i>Focus area: Root Causes</i>		
4.1 m	5.3 m	TBD
<b>Strategic Outcome 2:</b> Targeted children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women in the Gambia have enhanced nutritional status throughout the year <i>Focus area: Root Causes</i>		
3.1 m	3.2 m	TBD
<b>Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition</b>		
<b>Strategic Outcome 3:</b> National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacity to manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2030 <i>Focus area: Resilience Building</i>		
0.3 m	0.3 m	TBD
<b>Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities</b>		
<b>Strategic Outcome 4:</b> Government efforts towards achieving zero hunger by 2030 are supported by effective (and coherent) policy frameworks <i>Focus area: Resilience Building</i>		
0.1 m	0.1 m	TBD
<b>Strategic Result 6: Policies to support sustainable development are coherent</b>		

- WFP is providing assistance to the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education for the operationalisation of school meals in the regions handed over to the Government in 2018. The Government has allocated GMD 30 million, which will form the basis of the planning efforts. A handover plan was finalised for full handover of school meals, and the next step is the development of a handover agreement to be jointly signed by WFP and Gambia Government.
- A week long joint post-distribution monitoring (PDM) mission by WFP and the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education to 54 WFP-assisted schools in Greater Banjul, North Bank Region, Central River Region and Upper River Region was successfully concluded on 24 March. Internal exit debriefings, where preliminary findings were shared with stakeholders were held at school, regional and central levels. Report writing is currently ongoing and the first draft report is expected from the school feeding unit of the ministry team in mid-April.

## Partnerships

- WFP maintains an active collaboration with government partners, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, development partners and other United Nations (UN) Agencies, particularly the Rome-based Agencies, to ensure the harmonization of activities in food security and nutrition.
- WFP participates in working groups in key sectors such as education and social protection, and chairs the UN Programme Coordination Group.

## Donors

European Commission, The Gambia, Japan, Canada, Australia, Korea, and Multilateral



## WFP Country Activities

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
|             | Provide daily nutritious school meals for girls and boys in pre-primary and primary schools in vulnerable, food-insecure areas. (Food/CBT/Capacity Strengthening-CS)   |
| <b>SO 1</b> | Provide capacity strengthening support for on school meals management for national and regional institutions, and school level (CS)<br>Provide agricultural market support (including HGSP) to smallholder farmers (CS)  |
| <b>SO 2</b> | Provide targeted supplementary feeding to children aged 6-59 months and PLW for treatment of malnutrition as well as SBCC, for both PLWs, caregivers and other community members (Food/CS)<br>Provide blanket supplementary feeding for children aged 6-23 months and Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) for mothers, caregivers and other community members (Food/CS)<br>Provide capacity strengthening support for national institutions managing nutrition sensitive and nutrition specific activities (CS) |
| <b>SO 3</b> | Assess (Zero Hunger Score/SABER) and strengthen capacity of government and other partners for disaster risk reduction and social protection (CS)   |