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Contact Info

Isatou NasirCham, Programme Policy Officer
isatou.nasircham@wfp.org

Country Director
Angela Cespedes

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**Targeted Food and Nutrition Assistance
Standard Project Report 2017**

World Food Programme in Gambia, Republic of the (GM)



World Food Programme

Table Of Contents

Country Context and WFP Objectives

- Achievements at Country Level
- Country Context and Response of the Government
- WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

Country Resources and Results

- Resources for Results
- Supply Chain
- Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

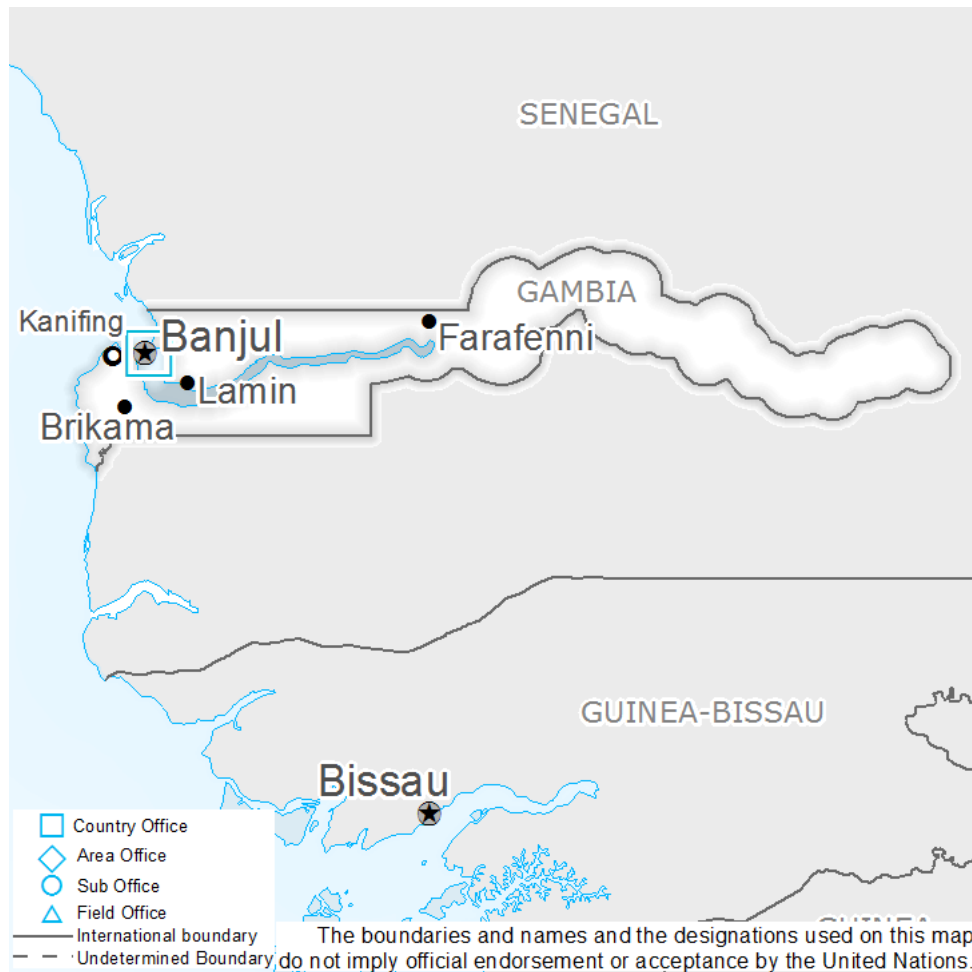
Project Results

- Activities and Operational Partnerships
- Results
- Performance Monitoring
- Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations
- Story Worth Telling: Better nutrition, healthier families and improved lives

Figures and Indicators

- Data Notes
- Overview of Project Beneficiary Information
- Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality
- Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)
- Nutrition Beneficiaries
- Project Indicators
- Resource Inputs from Donors

Country Context and WFP Objectives



Achievements at Country Level

In 2017, WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) initiated a post-crisis response to food and nutrition insecurity in The Gambia. Blanket supplementary feeding for the prevention of malnutrition reached 30,000 children aged 6-23 months, while targeted supplementary feeding, treating moderate acute malnutrition, reached 7,000 children aged 6-59 months. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Ministry of Health, the National Nutrition Agency (NaNa) and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to strengthen national coordination capacities for the implementation of such nutrition safety net programmes.

In 2017, a total of 112,778 children were fed, of which 52 percent were girls. Cash-based transfers, under the decentralised school meals community procurement model, reached 20,000 vulnerable children in all six regions of The Gambia, giving greater access to a more diversified menu. Trainings, including components on WFP policies on Gender Equality and Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations, and manuals were provided to mothers' clubs and other food management committee members to enable them to play an active role in the management of school meals at the community level. The establishment of mothers' clubs, composed entirely of women, and food management committees with equal representation of both men and women provided opportunities for women to increase their involvement in decision-making.

The national school meals policy was disseminated, supported through a National Policy and Programme forum, which will culminate in the drafting of the Policy Implementation Plan and an eventual handover plan from WFP to the Government of The Gambia which will form the basis of a National School Meals Programme. The end of 2017

marked the official handover of the Lower River and West Coast regions to the Government. For 2018, the remaining funds mobilized for these two regions will be handed over to the Government to implement food and cash transfers with technical assistance from WFP.

WFP provided technical assistance to the social protection and school meals sections of the National Development Plan. In order to boost financial capacities for such programmes, WFP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly funded a study for the creation of fiscal space in the national budget, in collaboration with the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil, the World Bank and other United Nations (UN) agencies, and under the supervision of the National Social Protection Steering Committee. The study was validated and will be followed by a high level presentation. In the study, four national programmes were modelled for funding: school meals, maternal and child nutrition and health, youth empowerment and pensions programme. The study findings indicate that a social protection programme can be funded with 0.5 percent of the national budget.

Support is also being provided to the Government of The Gambia for the establishment of a single registry for integrated social protection programmes, in collaboration with the World Bank and other UN agencies.

Country Context and Response of the Government

The Gambia remains one of the least developed countries in the world with 48 percent of the population living on less than USD 1.25 per day, ranking 173 out of 188 countries in the 2016 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index, seven places lower than in 2014. Since gaining independence in 1965, the country's population has increased fivefold and is now close to 2 million people, 66 percent of which is under the age of 25. This rapid growth represents a challenge for the country both in terms of resources and access to employment.

The economy relies primarily on agriculture, tourism and remittances, and is prone to external shock. Climate variation can affect the traditional agricultural sector, which is mostly constituted by rain-fed agriculture. Industrialisation is nascent while low productivity activities dominate the economy.

Illegal migration is a growing issue, whereby Gambians represent an important contingent of irregular migrants found along the irregular routes across the region. Many take the “back way”, as it is commonly referred, to pass through West Africa and reach Mali or Niger before heading north to Libya, where they attempt to cross the Mediterranean Sea. In 2016, 181,436 people arrived by sea in Italy, including 11,929 Gambians (6.6 percent). Most of them were men aged 15 to 40. They account for the top three nationalities arriving on the Italian shores.

Within the country, 23 percent of the population is affected by internal migration with urbanisation heavily contributing to this phenomenon. Political uncertainty at the beginning of 2017 caused large displacement, however this was resolved with the political crisis coming to an end. Irregular migration from The Gambia seems to be on the rise as many young Gambians are choosing to follow this path. Men are most likely to embark on the irregular journey and an increasing number of minors are following the same path.

According to the November 2017 *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis, 3 percent (36,401 people) will be in a crisis situation (phase 3), while 22 percent (317,406 people) will be in stress situation (phase 2) during the 2018 lean season. The last Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CSFVA) carried out in 2016 found that food insecurity disproportionately affects households in rural areas, accounting for between 12 and 22 percent of the population. Kiang, Central River region and Upper River region are the most affected, while women are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity due to limited access to economic resources, such as land and other livelihood resources.

Half of the adult population aged 15 years and older are literate, while the gender-disaggregated literacy rates for youth aged 15 to 24 years stand at 70.8 percent for women and 75.6 percent for men (Population and Housing Census, 2013). Government policies provide for universal access to pre-primary and primary education, although the quality of education and the retention rates in schools are of concern. Whereas net enrolment in the urban areas ranges from 85.4 to 70.8 percent, it is relatively low in the rural vulnerable regions such as Kuntaur (31.7 percent), Janjanbureh (46.1 percent), Basse (55.5 percent) and Kerewan (58.1 percent). Completion rates for primary education (Grade 6) stand at 78.7 percent: 80.0 percent for girls and 77.4 percent for boys (Education Statistics Yearbook, 2017). The Gender Parity Index is, therefore, 1.05 in favour of girls. The high proportion of boys involved in irregular migration out of The Gambia may be one of the multiple reasons that boys completion rates were lower than girls in 2017.

The National Development Plan (2018–2021) prioritises governance and human capital development. It aims to improve the standard of living and provide adequate services for youth, women and children. Social sector services will be improved in terms of access to health, education and youth development programmes. There is also an emphasis on social protection programmes for the vulnerable. A capacity assessment for safety net programmes was conducted in 2016 with the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil. The report identified gaps in

coordination, planning and implementation, and financial capacities and systems at the central and regional levels, as well as inadequate community participation. Recommendations focused on the need to strengthen institutional coordination, to ensure sustainable funding and develop capacities and systems for the implementation and monitoring of programmes with greater communities involvement.

WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

In 2017, WFP implemented projects in The Gambia through three operations: an Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP) which provided targeted support to floods and windstorm affected households; a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) which provided targeted food and nutrition assistance; and a Development Project which established the foundation for a nationally owned, sustainable school meals programme. WFP activities are aligned with the national development plan as well as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and contribute towards the education, nutrition and social protection outcomes.

The PRRO supported the recovery of households from recurrent climate shocks. The goal of the operation is to enable communities that were affected by the 2011/12 drought and floods to fully recover from the shocks, meet their daily food requirements and stabilize their nutrition and health status. The main objectives were to: (i) support the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women in targeted regions; (ii) restore and rebuild the livelihoods of the most vulnerable population and support their transition to recovery; and (iii) support the national disaster risk reduction agenda and enhance government and community capacity in emergency preparedness and response. Based on these, the three components are: (i) nutrition security through prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition among children and pregnant and lactating women; (ii) disaster recovery via conditional cash transfers to flood and drought affected households during the June–October lean season; and (iii) capacity development of national institutions in disaster risk reduction, assessment and response planning. PRRO activities were designed to improve the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable households.

The Development Project's main objective was to develop capacities for a gradual handover of operations and expertise to the Government whilst maintaining the provision of food assistance to consolidate the gains made in improved access to education. WFP supported the Government in achieving universal access to pre-primary and primary education through the provision of school meals in the most vulnerable regions and districts, especially in areas where education indicators remain low. Furthermore, WFP worked alongside the Government to strengthen their policy formulation and financial capacities, reinforce inter-sectoral coordination, design and implementation, and promote community engagement to ensure sustainability. In order to improve project design, WFP utilised initiatives that link local agricultural production and the provision of school meals. Activities under this project were aligned with WFP Strategic Objectives 3 (achieve food security) and 4 (support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs]) and contributed to UNDAF 2012–2016 Objective 2, Outcome 5, "Access to high quality and relevant education and skills for youth, children and disadvantaged adults enhanced".

The IR-EMOP was activated to assist those affected by the floods and windstorms that occurred in August 2016. The operation provided 10,000 people (51 percent women and girls and 49 percent men and boys) with food assistance for a period of three months in order to save lives and avert a possible deterioration of food and nutrition security of the affected population. Cash transfers were used since markets were functioning and food commodities available.

In 2017, an independent lead convener and a research team conducted The Gambia's Zero Hunger Strategic Review (ZHSR). The ZHSR aimed to analyse the situation of hunger, food and nutrition security as well as agriculture throughout the country. The review further looked at the extent to which current policies and programmes are effectively addressing the challenges being faced, the factors contributing to these challenges, and the changes and reforms required to end hunger in The Gambia by 2030.

The review adopted a participatory approach involving consultations with a diverse set of stakeholders from all regions, non-governmental organization (NGOs), United Nations (UN) agencies and ministries. At the regional level, stakeholders included farmer's organizations, civil society, local authorities and the private sector.

The root causes of hunger are multifaceted and stem from current gaps within government policies, the dynamics within the food supply chain and other cross-cutting themes such as gender parity and social protection mechanisms which strongly affect the most vulnerable. The review addresses the four targets under SDG 2 and provides analysis and recommendations on food insecurity stemming from access issues, malnutrition, agricultural productivity and sustainable food systems.

The ZHSR identified gaps in food and nutrition policies and prepared a roadmap for the implementation of recommendations, such as the development of more effective and cohesive food and nutrition security policies,

support for decentralising the implementation of food assistance programmes, provision of support to ensure sustainability of safety net programmes, support for productivity of smallholder agriculture and the creation of sustainable food systems.

WFP's capacity support to the Government included support for the finalisation of the school meals policy, social protection programmes and the provision of capacity development officers to support decentralised implementation of food assistance programmes at regional and community levels. The recent study for the creation of fiscal space identifies fiscal measures that enable the introduction of four main programmes in the national budget, namely: a school meals programme (in line with handover milestones), a maternal and child health programme, a pensions programme and youth empowerment programme. While WFP supported the development of the national school meals programme, follow-up support for the implementation of the recommendations for a fiscal space opens up a potential area for South-South Cooperation as part of WFP country capacity strengthening efforts towards zero hunger, particularly through the Country Strategic Plan.

Partnerships were reinforced with the University of The Gambia for a study on the costs and benefits of school meals, as well as the World Bank and European Union (EU) for social protection. To ensure efficiency of country capacity strengthening activities in linking food assistance to smallholder farmers' markets, WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) collaborated to provide technical assistance to the Government through the Purchasing from Africans for Africa initiative. The recommendations of these processes are integrated in the implementation of an EU-funded joint WFP-FAO project on food security, in support of the 11th European Development Fund National Indicative Programme.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

At the beginning of 2017, the Development Project 200327 was 26 percent funded having received USD 1 million in multi-year contributions in the previous years. By mid-2017, a new multi-year contribution had raised the resourcing level to 65 percent of the total requirement for 2017 (USD 2.6 million).

Throughout the year, rations were adjusted based on the resourcing levels while maintaining coverage to all schools in the six targeted regions. Due to in-kind contribution delays (taking up to one year to arrive), WFP implemented ration cuts during the first term of the academic year (January–March 2017). Parent's financial and in-kind contributions greatly supported filling the gap at moments like this. During the second term (April–July 2017), all targeted schools were reached with full rations. From September 2017, a local diversified food basket was introduced using a third party cooperating partner to distribute fresh produce and local cereals. This new operational modality experienced delays resulting in rations being increased with substitutions to replace the planned fresh and local products.

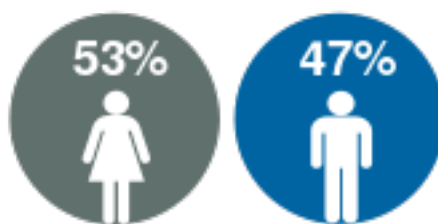
In 2017, there was a significant increase in funding for PRRO 200557, as compared to 2016, with the full requirement of the nutrition component covered for 2017 through a multi-year and multilateral contribution. The political impasse in early 2017 and subsequent changes in the Government resulted in serious delays in the transfers of funds to start the programme implementation. To overcome these challenges, funds for implementation were transferred through a Government Parastatal for the start-up activities. Due to the delay, the implementation strategy was changed to combine both treatment and prevention of malnutrition activities for children aged 6-59 months in order to fast track implementation. Activities for the prevention of malnutrition for children aged 6-23 months were planned for the lean season (June–October 2017). However, it was necessary to reschedule this activity until after the lean season in order to mitigate the nutrition situation. Actual distribution, therefore, took place from October to December 2017. In total, WFP and its counterparts carried out three distributions in 2017 compared to the initial plan of 12 months of distributions for the treatment programme and 5 months for the prevention programme. As a result 32.9 percent and 76.2 percent of beneficiaries in the treatment programme and the prevention programme were reached respectively.

An IR-EMOP responding to households affected by windstorm, heavy rainfalls and floods in mid-August 2016 was fully funded by the Immediate Response Account (IRA). These funds facilitated the purchase of equipment for SCOPE registration allowing WFP to move away from manual registration to electronic registration of beneficiaries for the first time.



Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	28,344	29,464	57,808
Children (5-18 years)	53,319	54,947	108,266
Adults (18 years plus)	3,957	12,785	16,742
Total number of beneficiaries in 2017	85,620	97,196	182,816



Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Development Project	1,584	155	402	-	60	2,201
Single Country PRRO	-	-	-	218	-	218
Total Food Distributed in 2017	1,584	155	402	218	60	2,419



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Development Project	232,580	-	-
Single Country IR-EMOP	226,411	-	-
Total Distributed in 2017	458,991	-	-

Supply Chain

The port of Banjul is the main commercial point of entry into The Gambia and serves as a transshipment point for the neighbouring members of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) including Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and Mali. WFP does not have a storage facility in the Banjul port, but has an easily accessible facility 11 km away in Kanifing.

In 2017, the Banjul port improved its customs and port clearance mechanisms with humanitarian cargoes being given priority during clearing processes. Furthermore, reductions in transport tariffs for the clearance of incoming goods received at the port and their transport to the extended delivery points (WFP Kanifing warehouses) were reflected in the revision of the Country Programme 200327 and PRRO 200557 landside transport, storage and handling (LTSH) matrices. There was a significant reduction in LTSH rates for both projects. The drop in fuel prices and their instability, as well as fluctuating exchange rates, were also in favour of these competitive tariffs. With a view to improving efficiency, customs clearance of incoming WFP cargoes are handled by the contracted and experienced forwarding agents to avoid any storage and demurrage charges which are usually a result of delays in processing documents.

WFP's two warehouses, each with a capacity of 2,500 mt, are used as transshipment points to several distribution points in six regions. WFP directly manages one warehouse whilst the other is managed by the Government of The Gambia. Food is managed according to WFP standard procedures, and regular monitoring of inventory is carried out jointly by the Government and WFP staff.

WFP's Supply Chain Unit updates its shortlist of transport, clearing and forwarding agents annually. A revision of the shortlisted transporters made it possible to increase the quality of service for food deliveries. Contracts were awarded based on past satisfactory performances and tariff systems allowing significant cost reductions. Meetings with all shortlisted service providers offering logistics services were organized to discuss and address the operational shortcomings experienced in previous contracting periods. The country office redesigned its contracting strategy by using the In-Tend platform encouraging competition among service providers resulting in cost efficient food delivery to the final delivery points.

In 2017, a total of 2,279 mt of foods were transported to beneficiaries of the school meals programme across the six regions including 1,653.120 mt of rice, 405 mt of peas/beans, 32.975 mt of iodised salt, 43.98 mt of canned fish and 144.054 mt of vegetable oil. WFP purchased 521 mt of beans and 34 mt of iodised salt locally. Due to availability constraints and delivery lead times, the remaining foods were purchased from the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF). In line with its commitment to stimulate local production, the country office will endeavour to increase local purchases in 2018.

Persistent monitoring of food quality helped in achieving zero post-delivery losses in 2017. Monthly physical inventory is conducted by the programme and finance units with the assistance of WFP partners in order to detect commodities with upcoming expiry dates.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Beans	521	-	521
Canned Fish	-	104	104
Iodised Salt	34	-	34
Total	555	104	658
Percentage	84.3%	15.7%	

Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

Commodity	Total
Corn Soya Blend	407
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	539
Rice	225
Split Peas	52
Vegetable Oil	63
Total	1,286

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

An evaluation carried out in 2016 on the PRRO established a series of recommendations and lessons learnt to improve the effectiveness and efficiency in WFP's operations in The Gambia. In response to the recommendations, the number of distribution points was increased to 230, ensuring timely distributions, lesser travel and waiting periods and the application of crowd control measures. Additional points will be established to further reduce time spent travelling to the various centres. In addition, to avoid pipeline breaks during the distribution exercise, three month rations were delivered.

During distributions, social and behavioural change communications provided basic health and nutrition messages as well as the need to avoid sharing of rations. Village Support Groups (VSGs) were also trained to follow up with beneficiaries for the proper use of rations, household screening of children aged 6-59 months for enrolment in the treatment programme and referrals to health facilities. Furthermore, WFP advocated for greater participation of women in food distribution exercises with the involvement of 50 percent women in the VSGs.

Monitoring and evaluation was strengthened with the participation of partners through joint monitoring exercises that reinforced ownership and developed capacities. Cooperating partner reports were simplified to capture basic data, in addition to partners being trained on how to use the monitoring tools. In order to reduce the burden on health workers, VSGs were also trained on the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.

WFP's nutrition project is currently working with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to determine how support, especially to women farmers, can be directed to the communities with high malnutrition rates. This will provide vulnerable families with the opportunity to increase their agricultural production and productivity. Local purchase of food items through the home-grown school meals is also another opportunity that provides a ready market.

The Millennium Development Goals 1c Project's final evaluation report released in June 2017 highlighted the need to address stunting as an indicator as assessing levels of underweight children was not appropriate for the school meals programme. Although it was not possible to monitor the impact on stunting through school meals, a more diversified food basket was established with the basket increasing from four items (rice, oil, beans and salt) to include groundnuts, dark green leaves, locust beans and maize/millet, bringing the total number of items in the new food basket to eight.

For school meals, to improve the timing and availability of food items from local farmers, quarterly disbursements were made to communities to purchase the necessary food items at a local level. This eased the burden of obtaining all required quantities of the different food items at the appropriate time at the central level. This approach has gone a long way in trying to address the shortage encountered. The use of cash transfers successfully brought cash closer to the communities, therefore reducing the transaction time for local purchases.

WFP is continuing to work alongside the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), the lead partner in Disaster Risk Reduction, to review the national contingency plan and develop community level gender-responsive contingency plans. These plans are to be developed in the most vulnerable regions of The Gambia.

Project Results

Activities and Operational Partnerships

The PRRO in The Gambia aimed to re-establish food and nutrition security after recurrent shocks. In line with WFP's Strategic Objectives 3 and 4, the operation sought to: support the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women in targeted regions; build the livelihoods of the most vulnerable population and support their transition to recovery in a post-disaster context through recovery-oriented asset creation activities; and, support the national disaster risk reduction agenda and enhance government capacity in emergency preparedness and response. Funding for the livelihoods and asset creation component of the PRRO was not received in 2017, and thus these activities were not implemented as planned.

The project design was aligned with the government strategies on food security and the latest national nutrition protocol, and supported the National Disaster Risk Reduction agenda to enhance government capacity in emergency preparedness and response. The PRRO contributed to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017–2021.

The project aimed at preventing malnutrition through blanket supplement feeding for children aged 6-23 months during the lean seasons, targeted supplementary feeding for children aged 6-59 months who are moderately malnourished and pregnant and lactating women. Beneficiaries and caregivers also receive education in key health and nutrition practices, such as dietary diversity, better utilisation of local nutritious foods, appropriate infant and young child feeding, use of clean water, sanitation and hygiene through social and behaviour change communication.

A rigorous assessment was conducted to determine potential cooperating partners for successful implementation of the PRRO 200557 through the anticipated cooperating partners' involvement and participation to build ownership and subsequently sustain results gained. At a national level, WFP Gambia works in collaboration with four main cooperating partners, the National Nutrition Agency (NaNA), Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and the Gambia Red Cross Society for the implementation of the malnutrition prevention and treatment activities. Furthermore, to enhance synergy of results towards increasing the recovery rates of severely and moderately malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women, WFP executed a joint implementation approach with other United Nations (UN) Agencies, most notably the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The project is implemented in four regions in The Gambia, namely: North Bank Region, Central River Region, Lower River Region and Upper River Region. At the regional level, coordination and implementation are carried out by cooperating partners regional representatives (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare Regional Health Directorates, NaNA nutrition focal officers, NDMA and Gambia Red Cross Society regional coordinators), who simultaneously do the supervision and monthly reporting.

At the community level, the team is comprised of community health nurses, NDMA and Gambia Red Cross Society volunteers, who are responsible for the implementation. This team sensitizes and mobilizes communities, carries out active and passive screening of malnutrition, while registering beneficiaries, conducting the distribution of nutritious foods, follow up visits, as well as reporting.

To ensure suitable storage facilities in the communities, stores were assessed for appropriateness, accessibility and security by WFP in close collaboration with community structures and regional cooperating partners while community health nurses served as primary consignee to ensure safe delivery of the food commodities. At community levels, the Village Support Groups (VSGs) serve on food management committees in most of the communities assisted with active screening, rationing and crowd controls. They further ensure that children within the targeted age bracket benefited from the food assistance. Most of these VSGs have participated in a series of trainings and have supported several screening programmes. Despite their experience in surveillance, the volunteers were given re-fresher training to better equip them with screening skills and techniques, thus improving the quality of data collected, contributing to communities taking greater responsibility of improving their own health and nutritional status in a sustainable manner.

In the effort to support the Government in its national disaster risk reduction and capacity development efforts, WFP supported the NDMA staff to attend the Fourth Global platform on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Cancun Mexico from the 22–26th May 2017. The aim of the meeting was to bring together people from different sectors to shape the global disaster risk reduction agenda that will improve individual lives and wealth of nations. WFP also supported the NDMA in celebrating the International Day of Disaster Reduction on the 13 October. However, funds

were not available for all the activities to be implemented under Strategic Objective 3, including the livelihoods and asset creation component.

Results

Although the prevention and treatment programmes started a few months behind schedule, some impressive results were realized. A mass screening exercise was conducted for all children aged 6-59 months in every village of the four targeted regions. The purpose was to identify children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) with the aim of registering them on the treatment programme and to identify those aged 6-23 months with a normal nutritional status to protect them from becoming malnourished, especially during the lean season when hunger is very prevalent. At the end of the exercise in August, 4,521 children were found to be moderately malnourished and 24,864 children registered in the prevention programme. Three monthly distributions were conducted in each distribution points, implemented by the cooperating partners, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA).

Distribution was conducted by cooperating partners at the 230 sites identified by the Regional Health Directorates in the four targeted regions. In the month of October, 5,498 children benefited from the treatment programme while 27,924 children from the prevention programmes. In December, the treatment included pregnant and lactating women with 7,821 women receiving their first ration of Super Cereal.

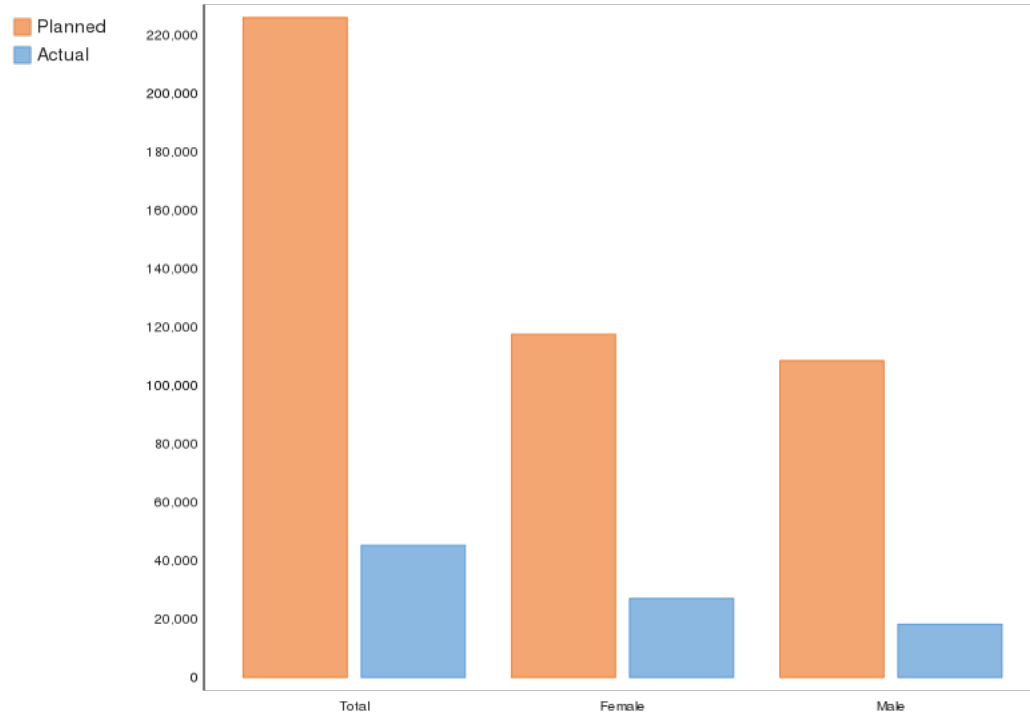
Results from the post-distribution monitoring conducted in December 2017 revealed promising achievements demonstrated towards the reduction of MAM. The treatment mortality rate was 1 percent compared to the 3 percent corporate target with the MAM treatment default rate decreasing from 30 percent to 7 percent. The percentage of households with a poor food consumption score (FCS) fell from 5 percent to 1.3 percent and those with borderline FCS from 14 percent to 7 percent. Moreover, the MAM treatment recovery rate increased from the 60 percent baseline to 82 percent.

The findings of the on-site supervisory reports and progress reports from the cooperating partners indicated improvements in the nutritional status of the targeted children for both stunting prevention and MAM treatment, and relative stability during the two-month period as a result of continued supply of specialised nutritious foods for the management of MAM. There was adherence to MAM treatment guidelines by health workers, delivery of services by trained health workers, and absentee and defaulter tracing by health workers.

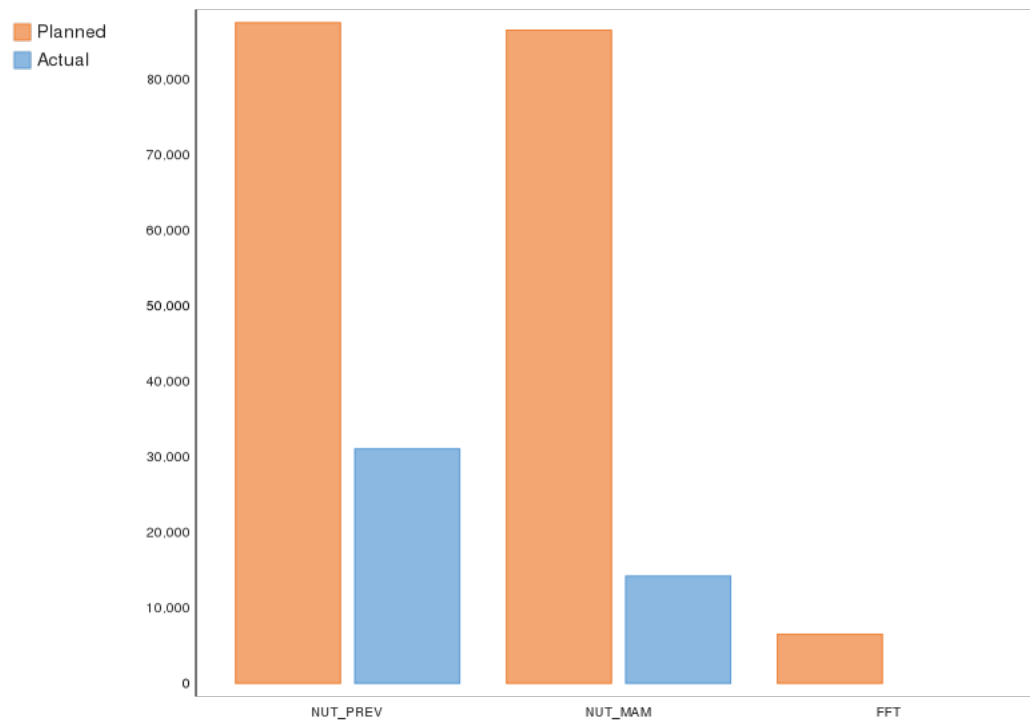
Based on these trends, there are indications that the project has contributed to reduced stunting and malnutrition for children aged 6-59 months in food-insecure households.

Funding did not materialise with the livelihoods and asset creation activities, which were not implemented. Funds were materialised in the latter part of 2017 for disaster risk reduction capacity development activities, which will gain momentum in 2018.

Annual Project Beneficiaries



Annual Project Beneficiaries by Activity



NUT_PREV: Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition
 NUT_MAM: Nutrition: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition
 FFT: Food-Assistance-for-Training

Modality of Transfer by Activity



NUT_MAM: Nutrition: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition
 NUT_PREV: Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition



Annual Project Food Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Corn Soya Blend	540	47	8.7%
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	705	171	24.2%
Vegetable Oil	54	-	-
Total	1,299	218	16.8%



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution for the Project (USD)

Modality	Planned (USD)	Actual (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	375,000	-	-
Total	375,000	-	-

Performance Monitoring

Performance monitoring for the project was in conformance with the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategy of the country office. The M&E strategy provides a detailed data collection plan, frequency, data sources and data

collection methods in order to measure project results and adequately report. The M&E system has significantly. Training was conducted for WFP staff and cooperating partners on effective use of the Country Office Tool for Managing Effectively (COMET) and monthly cooperating partner reporting respectively.

To ensure mobility for the field monitoring teams, laptops and motorcycles were procured for the Directorate of Health Promotion and Education of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to strengthen social and behaviour change communication in communities and facilitate timely monitoring and reporting on the nutrition programme.

Distribution process and facility monitoring was conducted during the second distribution cycle for both blanket and targeted supplementary feeding programmes to confirm if beneficiaries received the right rations, and distribution and handling of commodities conformed to the right procedure. Process monitoring focused on food deliveries and standard storage compliance, distribution timeliness, community involvement, implementation structures, beneficiaries' entitlement verification and perceptions on programme service quality, to better understand and support programme implementation in a manner that reflects operational achievements and gaps, and suggest opportunities for improvement.

Findings from on-site distribution monitoring were presented to the cooperating partners and recommendations followed for performance improvement. To facilitate reliable and accurate data collection, smartphones were used for monitoring and supervision of the nutrition programme. In order to improve beneficiary and data management for this project, WFP Gambia is exploring the use of SCOPE, WFP's corporate digital beneficiary and transfer-management platform, to collect, manage and provide reliable data and operational information about beneficiaries, enabling better decision-making and targeting.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Of the total beneficiaries reached for targeted and blanket supplementary feeding, 52 and 51 percent respectively were women and girls. The targeting of pregnant and lactating women to reduce malnutrition and vulnerabilities is a fully gender-sensitive approach. The food management committees, comprised of the village support groups, were gender-balanced.

Accountability towards affected populations was guaranteed by involving and engaging gender-sensitive food management committees that were in existence for previous food assistance programmes. The composition of the food management committees was updated ensuring continuous and active participation in decisions that affect their lives. Training was conducted for the food management committee members and other local government authorities prior to commencement of implementation. This equipped them with the prerequisite knowledge on beneficiary targeting (inclusion and exclusion criteria), entitlements, the use of the products, complaints and feedback mechanisms and distribution schedules. These activities were coupled with sensitisation in their respective communities through village meetings and household approaches. For wider coverage, Regional Health Promotion and Education Officers accompanied by other regional staff utilised available communication channels including community radios to spread social and behaviour change communication.

On-site distribution process and facility monitoring was conducted in November taking into consideration protection and accountability related questionnaires. These sought to compile information on indicators such as distribution timeliness, distance and distribution point management. Despite operational successes, there were issues such as travel distance, overwhelming internal stock movements due to delivery errors, long waiting hours, the late closure of distributions and inadequacies in distribution schedule information transmission to mothers and caregivers. Debriefing meetings on these monitoring findings led to the provision of immediate remedial measures to address shortcomings. Recommendations from the process monitoring were subsequently taken on board and, by December, WFP had made significant progress towards overcoming these issues.

Community mobilization and health education sessions were conducted prior to the start of every distribution. Distributions took place at identified distribution points, under the shade with adequate lighting and ventilation. Women travelled to these points in groups. Committees were used as one of the channels to collect and respond to feedback and complaints. There were no reported safety or security complaints from beneficiaries or cooperating partners. Consequently, WFP assistance was delivered and utilised in safe, accountable and dignified conditions.

Story Worth Telling: Better nutrition, healthier families and improved lives

It is morning in Kerewan, Keur Omar Saine, a small village in the Gambian region of the North Bank not far from the Amdalai border with Senegal. Karou, a mother of four children, is taking her six month old set of twins – Fatou and Lamin – to a nutrition support centre for the first time.

“My twins have now reached the stage when they cannot depend only on breastfeeding to fill their bellies but I do not have the right food to give them in addition to breast milk,” Karou says. “When I heard about the nutrition programme I decided to head early to the centre so that my children can benefit from the support,” she adds.

At the centre, both Fatou and Lamin are screened for malnutrition. They are very weak and weigh far below the average for their age. They are immediately enrolled for malnutrition treatment where they will receive specialised nutritious foods. Karou’s twins are amongst many vulnerable children in the rural parts of The Gambia who have limited access to nutritious complementary foods putting them at risk of malnutrition which, in its chronic stage, can cause irreversible damage to a child’s health and development.

With resources received in 2017, WFP scaled up its prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition in the country. There was a focus on the Lower River, Central River, Upper and North Bank regions, home to most of the malnourished children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women in the country.

WFP and its partners provided specialised nutritious foods including fortified ready-to-use supplementary food for children affected by moderate acute malnutrition in all four regions. Karou’s twins received this specialised assistance.

“With this support, I will be able to feed my children better and I am happy to know that they will become healthier and stronger,” says Karou.

WFP, partnering with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the National Nutrition Agency, the National Disaster Management Agency and the Gambia Red Cross Society, plans to provide pregnant and lactating women who are malnourished with fortified nutritious cereals and vegetable oil every month.

This project assists more than 60,000 women and children affected by malnutrition exacerbated by increasing poverty, food insecurity and poor dietary habits in The Gambia.

WFP is working with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to respond to food and nutrition security in The Gambia.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

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At Kerewan, North Bank region, WFP and partners including community volunteers provide specialised nutritious foods, fight malnutrition thanks to the European Union.

Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Total Beneficiaries	108,480	117,520	226,000	18,186	27,053	45,239	16.8%	23.0%	20.0%
By Age-group:									
Children (6-23 months)	54,240	58,760	113,000	16,738	17,598	34,336	30.9%	29.9%	30.4%
Children (24-59 months)	54,240	58,760	113,000	1,448	1,402	2,850	2.7%	2.4%	2.5%
Adults (18 years plus)	-	-	-	-	8,053	8,053	-	-	-
By Residence status:									
Residents	108,480	117,520	226,000	18,186	27,053	45,239	16.8%	23.0%	20.0%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Food-Assistance-for-Training	-	6,500	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nutrition: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition	86,500	-	86,500	14,200	-	14,200	16.4%	-	16.4%
Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition	87,500	-	87,500	31,039	-	31,039	35.5%	-	35.5%

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Food-Assistance-for-Training	-	6,500	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nutrition: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition	86,500	-	86,500	14,200	-	14,200	16.4%	-	16.4%
Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition	87,500	-	87,500	31,039	-	31,039	35.5%	-	35.5%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Food-Assistance-for-Training									
People participating in trainings	3,185	3,315	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total participants	3,185	3,315	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total beneficiaries	3,185	3,315	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	-

Nutrition Beneficiaries

Nutrition Beneficiaries

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Nutrition: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition									
Children (6-23 months)	14,496	15,704	30,200	1,531	1,658	3,189	10.6%	10.6%	10.6%
Children (24-59 months)	14,496	15,704	30,200	1,531	1,659	3,190	10.6%	10.6%	10.6%
Pregnant and lactating women (18 plus)	-	26,100	26,100	-	7,821	7,821	-	30.0%	30.0%
Total beneficiaries	28,992	57,508	86,500	3,062	11,138	14,200	10.6%	19.4%	16.4%
Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition									

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Children (6-23 months)	42,875	44,625	87,500	15,209	15,830	31,039	35.5%	35.5%	35.5%
Total beneficiaries	42,875	44,625	87,500	15,209	15,830	31,039	35.5%	35.5%	35.5%

Project Indicators

Outcome Indicators

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO2 Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies				
Adequate food consumption reached or maintained over assistance period for targeted households				
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2013.10, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.04, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Post Distribution Outcome Monitoring</i>	<1.00	5.00	1.33	1.30
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2013.10, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.04, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Post Distribution Outcome Monitoring</i>	=3.00	14.00	4.20	6.80
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2013.10, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.04, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Post Distribution Outcome Monitoring</i>	=80.00	81.00	94.40	95.50
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2013.10, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.02, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Post Distribution Outcome Monitoring</i>	<1.00	6.00	0.30	1.40
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2013.10, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.04, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Post Distribution Outcome Monitoring</i>	<1.00	5.00	1.00	1.20
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2013.10, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.04, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Post Distribution Outcome Monitoring</i>	=3.00	14.00	1.95	2.70

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2013.10, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.04, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Post Distribution Outcome Monitoring</i>	=3.00	14.00	2.30	3.60
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2013.10, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.04, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Post Distribution Outcome Monitoring</i>	=97.00	81.00	52.80	95.20
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2013.10, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.04, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Post Distribution Outcome Monitoring</i>	=97.00	81.00	41.54	95.20
Diet Diversity Score				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2013.10, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.04, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Post Distribution Outcome Monitoring</i>	>6.00	5.00	6.00	6.46
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2013.10, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.04, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Post Distribution Outcome Monitoring</i>	>6.00	5.00	6.00	6.29
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2013.10, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.04, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Post Distribution Outcome Monitoring</i>	>6.00	5.00	6.00	6.63
CSI (Food): Percentage of households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2018.03, Base value: 2016.04, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Post Distribution Outcome Monitoring</i>	=80.00	61.30	-	68.30
CSI (Food): Percentage of female-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2016.04, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Post Distribution Outcome Monitoring</i>	=80.00	61.80	-	68.60
CSI (Food): Percentage of male-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2018.03, Base value: 2016.04, WFP survey, CFSVA, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring</i>	=80.00	61.20	-	68.20
SO3 Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs				
Risk reduction capacity of countries, communities and institutions strengthened				

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Number of WFP-supported national food security and other policies, plans, and mechanisms that improve disaster risk management and climate change adaptation				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2018.03, Base value: 2013.07, WFP programme monitoring, Previous Follow-up: 2016.04, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring</i>	=2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
SO4 Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Reduced undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies among children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women, and school-aged children				
MAM treatment recovery rate (%)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2018.03, Base value: 2014.02, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, Secondary data, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare MAM statistics</i>	>75.00	60.00	-	82.00
MAM treatment mortality rate (%)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2018.03, Base value: 2014.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, Secondary data, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare MAM statistics</i>	<3.00	0.30	-	1.00
MAM treatment default rate (%)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2018.03, Base value: 2014.02, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, Secondary data, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare MAM statistics</i>	<15.00	30.00	-	7.00
MAM treatment non-response rate (%)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2018.03, Base value: 2014.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, Secondary data, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare MAM Statistics</i>	<15.00	0.40	-	1.00
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2018.03, Base value: 2013.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Monthly Distribution Coverage Reports</i>	>70.00	33.00	-	72.00
Prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under 5 (weight-for-height as %)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2018.03, Base value: 2013.01, Secondary data, Previous Follow-up: 2015.10, Secondary data, SMART Survey, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, Secondary data, SMART Survey</i>	<5.00	9.90	10.30	10.30
Project-specific				
Proportion of target population who participate in an adequate number of distributions				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2018.03, Base value: 2014.12, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Monthly distribution coverage reports</i>	>66.00	93.00	-	69.00
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)				
<i>GAMBIA, Project End Target: 2018.03, Base value: 2013.12, WFP programme monitoring, Previous Follow-up: 2016.02, WFP programme monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, Monthly distributions coverage reports</i>	>70.00	95.00	17.00	91.00

Gender Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>GAMBIA, Nutrition, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=50.00	50.00	-	66.40
Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>GAMBIA, Nutrition, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2016.01, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=25.00	20.00	-	15.10
Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>GAMBIA, Nutrition, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2016.01, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=25.00	30.00	-	18.50
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
<i>GAMBIA, Nutrition, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2016.01, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	>60.00	50.00	-	46.00
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
<i>GAMBIA, Nutrition, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2016.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=50.00	50.00	-	25.00

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>GAMBIA, Nutrition, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2016.02, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=100.00	100.00	-	98.20
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>GAMBIA, Food-Assistance-for-Assets, Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=100.00	-	-	-
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>GAMBIA, Nutrition, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2016.02, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=100.00	100.00	-	100.00

Partnership Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)		
<i>GAMBIA, Food-Assistance-for-Assets, Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=250,000.00	-
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)		
<i>GAMBIA, Nutrition, Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=250,000.00	0.00
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>GAMBIA, Capacity Development - Strengthening National Capacities, Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=3.00	4.00
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>GAMBIA, Food-Assistance-for-Assets, Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=100.00	-
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>GAMBIA, Nutrition, Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=100.00	100.00

Resource Inputs from Donors

Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Purchased in 2017 (mt)	
			In-Kind	Cash
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Corn Soya Blend	-	47
UN Common Funds and Agencies (excl. CERF)	001-C-01553-01	Corn Soya Blend	-	360
UN Common Funds and Agencies (excl. CERF)	001-C-01553-01	Ready To Use Supplementary Food	-	442
UN Common Funds and Agencies (excl. CERF)	001-C-01553-01	Vegetable Oil	-	29
		Total	-	878