



# WFP The Gambia Country Brief

May 2018

## In Numbers

**423.808 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD\$1.3 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$3.4 m** six months (June-November 2018) net funding requirements (**44% of total**)

**116,779 people** assisted in May 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**

### Operational Updates

- On 9 May, WFP participated in the Europe Day fair. An information stand showcased WFP-EU partnership with particular focus on cash-based transfers in school meals to raise public awareness. Schoolchildren also took the stage and dramatized the cash transfer model and how it has increased community participation and ownership. Several EU partners including UNICEF and FAO participated. The event was covered by local and international media.
- In partnership with the EU Delegation, the Gambia Government organized an international donor conference in Brussels to mobilize resources for the country's development plan (2017-2021). WFP was invited to participate as a partner supporting the government meet its development priorities. WFP took the opportunity to update donors (ECHO and DEVCO) on the Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021).
- An active screening and registration of all children aged 6-59 months in four regions of The Gambia (Lower River, North Bank, Upper River and Central River Region) was conducted from 6 May to 2 June 2018 for malnutrition. During the process, 67,329 children were screened from 1,516 communities. The exercise was conducted in collaboration with UNICEF, and coordinated by the National Nutrition Agency, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and Gambia Red Cross Society. Community Health Nurses from the regions conducted the exercise using computer tablets to collect data on each child, increasing data reliability and reducing processing time.
- The treatment for moderately acute malnourished children continues with 3,235 children receiving Plumpy'Sup as supplementary feeding during the month of May.

# WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
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## Interim Country Strategic Plan (Jan 2018- Dec 2018)

7.7 m	5.3 m	1.85 m
<b>Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food</b>		
<b>Strategic Outcome 1: School aged children in the most food-insecure areas have adequate access to safe and nutritious food throughout the year</b> <i>Focus area: Root Causes</i>		
4.1 m	5.3 m	1.89 m
<b>Strategic Outcome 2: Targeted children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women in the Gambia have enhanced nutritional status throughout the year</b> <i>Focus area: Root Causes</i>		
3.1 m	3.2 m	0.07 m
<b>Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition</b>		
<b>Strategic Outcome 3: National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacity to manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2030</b> <i>Focus area: Resilience Building</i>		
0.3 m	0.3 m	0.16 m
<b>Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities</b>		
<b>Strategic Outcome 4: Government efforts towards achieving zero hunger by 2030 are supported by effective (and coherent) policy frameworks</b> <i>Focus area: Resilience Building</i>		

## 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)
- SO 1** Provide capacity strengthening support for on school meals management for national and regional institutions, and school level (CS)  
Provide agricultural market support (including HGSGF) to smallholder farmers (CS)
- 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)
- SO 2** 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)  
Provide capacity strengthening support for national institutions managing nutrition sensitive and nutrition specific activities (CS)
- SO 3** Assess (Zero Hunger Score/SABER) and strengthen capacity of government and other partners for disaster risk reduction and social protection (CS)

- In May 2018, the country office conducted an assessment of the school meals cash transfer. The tool used captures quantitative data on quantities and qualities distributed, while discussions with the communities and local vendors provided valuable qualitative information. Surveys were conducted on school meals interventions for 2016 and 2017 using cash transfers. Data was collected on the amount of cash disbursed, food purchased from smallholder farmers, retailers and markets in and around the regions and districts. Although the mission found that additional time needs to be spent with schools to ensure proper record keeping among other issues, respondents visited noted some positive outcomes such as the fact that smallholder farmers are encouraged to produce more given the potential in terms of increased market size. Women in the villages where community procurement is implemented no longer experience spoilt or rotten vegetables due to lack of a market; school meals has now become the weekly market for female vegetable farmers. The assessment will conclude by providing recommendations to improve cash transfer interventions.

- The country office is in the early stages of getting The Gambia situated to undertake the Cost of Hunger Study (COHA) in 2018. A meeting was held with the Executive Director of the National Nutrition Agency to inform the Government of the next steps. A training is scheduled to be held in Kenya in early July for all participating countries. The COHA will bring to the attention of policy makers the magnitude and consequence that child undernutrition can have on health, education, productivity, and ultimately the impact on the national economy.

## 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 Disaster Risk Reduction Group.

## Donors

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