



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP The Gambia Country Brief July 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, and eight 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**

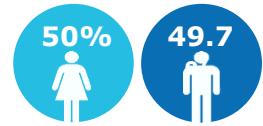
In Numbers

110.3 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 44,785 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 3.26 m six months (August-January 2019) net funding requirements, representing 42 % of total

180,848 people assisted in July 2018



Operational Updates

- Positioned as a nexus for governments, private and donors, civil societies, WFP continues to help government successfully implement home grown school meals. In July, it funded a nationwide exercise where relevant stakeholders met to review the implementation progress and chart the way to how the multiple sectors of government can accelerate their participation level in the implementation of home grown school meals. The meetings were chaired by the regional governors and hosted by the regional education directorates. All government sectors including key sectors of agriculture, health and education were in attendance plus NGOs and civil society groups.
- The monitoring and evaluation team coordinated the mid-term review of the Annual Performance Plan (APP) on the 19 July 2018. All the country office key performance indicators as well as the key deliverables were reviewed to measure progress over the period. This forms the basis for key priorities to be set for the rest of the year.
- From 23 to 27 July, the country office received a team of two consultants from the Regional Bureau to assist in next steps towards food fortification. The goal of this team was to visit local food processors, as well as key stakeholders in nutrition to determine how the country office will proceed in its role of food fortification with locally available cereals.
- 21,862 children aged 6-23 months received blanket supplementary feeding against malnutrition in Lower River, North Bank, Central and Upper River Regions. The blanket distribution is meant as a preventative measure against malnutrition during the lean season which lasts for a period of five months.

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Credit: WFP/Anta Kah Janneh

Caption: Students at Jinack lower Basic School enjoying school meals.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (Jan 2018- Dec 2018)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
7.7 m	5.3 m	2 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: School aged children in the most food-insecure areas have adequate access to safe and nutritious food throughout the year

Focus area: *Root Causes*

Activities:

- Provide daily nutritious school meals for girls and boys in pre-primary and primary schools in vulnerable, food-insecure areas
- Provide capacity strengthening support for on school meals management for national and regional institutions, and at school level
- Provide agricultural market support (including HGSP) to smallholder farmers

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Targeted children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women in The Gambia have enhanced nutritional status throughout the year.

Focus area: *Root Causes*

Activities:

- Provide targeted supplementary feeding to children 6-59 months and PLW for treatment of mal-nutrition as well as SBCC, for both PLWs, caregivers other community members
- Provide blanket supplementary feeding for children 6-23 months and SBCC for mothers, caregivers and other community members
- Provide capacity strengthening support for national institutions managing nutrition sensitive and nutrition specific activities

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome 3: National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacity to manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2030.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Assess (Zero Hunger Score/SABER) and strengthen capacity of government and other partners for disaster risk reduction and social protection

Strategic Result 6: Policies to support sustainable development are coherent

Strategic Outcome 4: Government efforts towards achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 are supported by effective (and coherent) policy frameworks.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance to the Government for the National Development Plan, creation of Fiscal Space for Social Protection, and preparation of an implementation plan for the School Meals Policy

- 1,302 moderately malnourished children aged 6-59 months received ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF). The treatment programme takes the form of the provision of monthly rations with periodic follow ups by a community Health Nurse with the support of village support groups (VSG) members.
- A mission from the African Development Bank along with a representative from ARC visited the country office in July. A decision was taken to collaborate on terms of references and feasibility study looking at the options of weather index-based insurance.
- The EU accompanied by WFP and representative from National Authorising Officer Support Unit (NAOSU) took part in a monitoring mission to the Lower River Region. Three distribution sites were visited where distributions were taking place in partnership with the Ministry of Health.
- The country office participated in the third Continental Training for the Cost of Hunger (COHA) study held in Nairobi, Kenya from 2 to 6 July 2018. WFP participated along with two Government institutions; National Nutrition agency and the Gambia Bureau of Statistic. The aim of the workshop organized by the African Union Commission (AUC), WFP Addis and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was the transfer of skills and capacity building for the Cost of Hunger Study methodology as well as share experiences with countries that have already concluded the study. The Gambia has been approved on the list of countries to undertake the study in 2018. Plans are therefore on the way in collaboration with the Government to begin implementation of the next steps to initiate the study.

Partnerships

- WFP maintains an active collaboration with government partners, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, development partners and other United Nations 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

In Alphabetical order

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