



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP The Gambia Country Brief August 2018

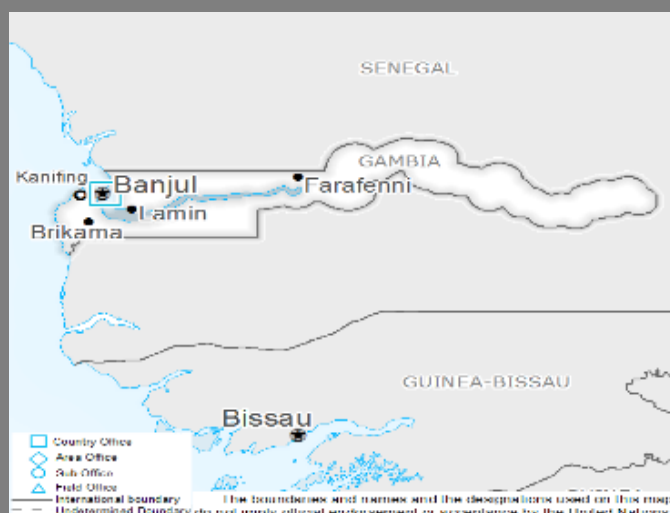


Operational Context

With a population of 2.1 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: **2.1 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **174 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower**

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

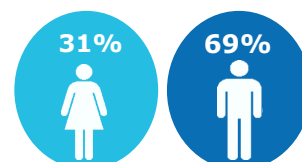
In Numbers

175 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 3.17 m six months (September 2018-February 2019) net funding requirements, representing 42 % of total

47,000 people assisted
in August 2018



Operational Updates

In August, WFP provided nutrition food assistance for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition to over 26,000 vulnerable children aged 6-23 months through blanket supplementary feeding including over 18,000 pregnant and lactating women. A total of 2,400 people were assisted through targeted supplementary feeding.

In early August, WFP's new representative and country director for the Gambia office, Ms. Wanja Kaaria, presented her credentials to the Gambia Foreign Minister and assumed her duties. Ms Kaaria comes with more than 20 years of experience with WFP, most recently having served as the Deputy Director of the WFP Office to the African Union and UN Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

An inaugural project steering committee meeting for the EU funded project; "Agriculture for Economic Growth and Nutrition to mitigate flow to Europe" (Envelope A) was held on 30 August at FAO. The meeting – which was chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Vice President – reviewed the achievements over the last year and highlighted challenges and ways forward. The Envelope A project is just over EUR 4 million and funds school meals and Disaster Risk Reduction activities in two regions (North Bank and Central River Region) and will continue until 2021.

Main photo

Credit: WFP/Anta Kah Janneh

Caption: Wanja Kaaria and Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs- at the presentation of her credentials

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/gambia

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	11 m	3.2 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 HGSF) 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

- Monitoring of the food distribution process for pregnant and lactating women by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare was conducted from 13 to 18 August in partnership with WFP. The exercise involved administering structured questions directed to beneficiaries and Food management committees and includes issues for direct observation. Questionnaires captured key indicators such as distribution timeliness, distribution point management, sensitization and feedback, beneficiary and entitlement verifications, and food commodity management. This monitoring covered 10 percent of the overall number of facilities. A total of 30 facilities were visited. Onsite distribution and facility monitoring is a primary exercise that allows WFP to ensure that food distribution activities are implemented according to standard WFP procedures and agreements with partners. The report has been finalised and shared.

- In August, under its school meals programme WFP finalized partnership agreements with three Non-Governmental Organizations. The agreements are based on strengthening school meals management capacity at the decentralized level.

- For the September-December 2018 period, WFP will transfer a total of 702 mt of food and US\$178,363 to support the food security and nutrition of over 80,000 children under the school meals programme.

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- FAO and IFAD, 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

European Commission, Gambia, Japan and Multilateral