



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP The Gambia Country Brief September 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**

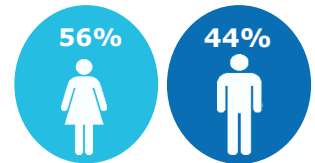
In Numbers

875 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 3 m six months (October 2018-March 2019) net funding requirements, representing 42 % of total

159,000 people assisted in September 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP provided supplementary feeding to 26,000 children aged 6-23 months as part of its nutrition prevention activities. Of this number 4,823 were new enrolments into the programme. In addition, 1,400 moderately malnourished children aged 6-59 months received targeted supplementary feeding for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, and 19,250 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) received monthly rations in the form of super cereal and fortified oil (including 1,200 PLWs newly enrolled in this category).
- On 18 September, the Vice President and chair of the National Food Security Council called an emergency meeting to declare an emergency food crisis situation for the cropping season 2018/2019. He also informed of the outbreak of food and mouth disease threatening livestock. During the meeting, the Minister of Agriculture presented findings of a rapid assessment of the food security situation of The Gambia indicating an estimated 1.7 million people projected to be under pressure due to inadequate rainfall resulting in decreased yield. The Government made a plea to development partners to come to the aid of the Gambia Government and its people.
- Following the food crisis declaration by the Government, the country office M&E team is working with Government technical representatives and other partners on a pre-harvest assessment to get a better understanding of the situation on the ground. There was a VAM mission from RBD to work with the M&E team to provide technical support to the Government in designing a robust methodology in a bid to understand the vulnerability and impact based on the Government declaration of potential crop failure due to erratic rains.

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Main photo

Credit: WFP/Isatou Njai Cham

Caption: Students 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	10.8 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

- on 6 September, the Vice President of The Republic of The Gambia and Minister of Women's Affairs successfully launched the Zero Hunger Strategic Review Report. The Vice President who is also the chair of the Zero Hunger Advisory Board along with partners highlighted the challenges and opportunities in realizing the SDG 2 to Zero Hunger. WFP Deputy Regional Director, Mr. Peter Musoko, senior government official, heads of UN agencies, and other stakeholders attended the meeting.
- WFP, IOM and the National Disaster Management Agency jointly organized a training of trainers on contingency planning. During the four-day training, seven regional disaster management coordinators, five Red Cross Branch officers, five Community and two Rural Development officers were trained and certified. The objective of the training was to identify the mechanisms in place at national, regional and district level and augment capacities to ensure an effective response to emergencies. Based on the risk analysis/mapping carried out during the training, elements of the national contingency plan will be implemented at regional and district level.
- The country office Supply chain unit received a LESS support mission from HQ in September who trained staff to reinforce the country office capacity in planning activities with regards to stock movements at the port and warehouse. The staff was also trained to increase efficiency in the handling of stock.

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

European Commission, The Gambia, Japan, Korea Multilateral and UN Funds.