



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP The Gambia

Country Brief

November 2019

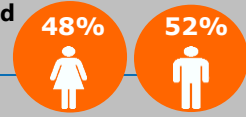
In Numbers

255.516 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 111,304 m cash-based transfers made

USD 3.8 m six months (December 2019-May 2020) net funding requirement

75,424 m people assisted in November 2019



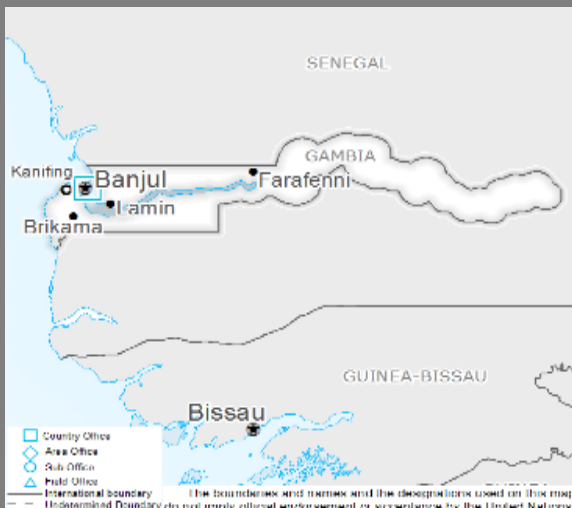
WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Operational Context

With a population of 2.2 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. 48 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line, and eight percent is food insecure.

The Gambia is ranked medium for stunting and wasting and high for underweight according to the WHO Classification of malnutrition with 15.7 percent stunting, 5.8 percent wasting and 10.6 percent underweight (GMNS 2018). WFP has been present in Gambia since 1970.



Population: **2.2 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **174 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower**

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

Operational Updates

- WFP launched the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, while also commissioning the Gender Results Network (GRN) team on 25 November 2019. The GRN is designed to shift from a gender focal point approach to a systematically inclusive scope by which each WFP unit participates actively in delivering gender transformative actions and results through a protection lens. The GRN will work closely with various experts and colleagues from different UN agencies, government partners and NGOs to deliver on cross-cutting functions of gender equality to promote advocacy for women's rights and raise awareness on the protection from gender-based violence.
- Following the appointment of WFP as the lead convenor of the SUN Business Network (SBN) by the National Nutrition Agency, the two agencies officially launched the SBN on 19 November 2019. The establishment of the SBN represents a milestone in bringing together Private Sector and business communities to support government-led multi-sectoral partnerships to act, invest, and innovate sustainable actions that can provide inspiring solutions for improving the nutrition situation in The Gambia. WFP will provide technical support to the government in formalizing private sector support on ongoing government commitments to improve nutrition outcomes as part of the 2030 agenda.
- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education held a multi-sectoral stakeholder consultation, bringing together representatives from the Government from the central and regional offices – Directors of Education, Health, Agriculture, Finance, and Women Affairs, as well as National Assembly members. During a three-day workshop held from 13 to 15 November 2019, the team debated the recommendations of the new Global School Feeding Strategy (GSFS). The GSFS advocated for an expansion from the current school feeding model's coverage of the first 1,000 days of life to the first 8,000 days of life. This is to ensure that good health and nutrition are sustained throughout children's educational path from school age to adolescence.

Contact info: Anta Kah - Janneh (anta.kahjanneh@wfp.org)

Country Director: Wanja Kaaria-Ndoho

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

Main photo Credit: WFP/Kebba Jallow

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
29.6 m	2.3 m	3.8 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations, including those impacted by seasonal shocks, in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crisis

Focus area: Crisis Response

Strategic Outcome 2: Food-insecure populations including school-aged children, in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food all year

Focus area: Resilience Building

- Activities:**
- Provide food assistance to crisis-affected populations
 - Provide school meals to vulnerable pre- and primary school children during the school year, and strengthen capacity of local government to manage school meals programmes as a national safety net

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable populations including children and pregnant and lactating women and girls and other nutritionally vulnerable individuals, in food insecure regions have improved nutritional status by 2023

Focus area: Resilience Building

- Activities:**
- Provide specialized nutritious foods to pregnant and lactating women and girls and children under five to treat and prevent acute and chronic malnutrition and provide training and technical support to national institutions to manage nutrition programmes

Strategic Result 3: Small-holder farmers increased productivity

Strategic Outcome 4: Food-insecure smallholders including vulnerable households in targeted areas have enhanced livelihoods and resilience to better support food security and nutrition needs by 2023

Focus area: Resilience Building

- Activities:**
- Provide supply chain and market support including Home-Grown School Feeding (HGFS) to farmers to increase productivity and access to markets, complemented by community asset creation through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome 5: National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacity to meet Zero Hunger Targets by 2023.

Focus area: Root causes

- Activities:**
- Provide technical assistance to the Government on the implementation of the National Social Protection Policy (NSSP), with focus on the gradual handover of the home-grown school feeding programme, resource mobilisation and disaster preparedness and shock response systems

- While other nutrition interventions have contributed to these significant improvements over the years, WFP’s nutrition prevention programme conducted via Blanket Supplementary Feeding (BSF) and Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF) interventions have undoubtedly been the central pillar. Ordinarily, the BSF is implemented during the lean season. However, in 2019, because of the delayed and erratic rains, assistance has been extended to December 2019. In November 2019, 28,560 children aged 6-23 months were provided with BSF, while 2,468 children aged 6-59 months and 1,258 pregnant and lactating women received treatment for acute malnutrition.
- As part of the EU funded “Post-Crisis Response to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in The Gambia” project’s sustainable exit strategy, 235 Community Health Nurses, Red Cross Volunteers, Officers in Charge of Health facilities with Reproductive and Child Health teams were trained in November 2019. The capacity strengthening programs enhanced the knowledge and skills on malnutrition, mitigating factors, dietary diversity, electronic data collection and ration distribution techniques as well as modalities to yield an effective and efficient Targeted and Blanket Supplementary Food Distribution.
- As a strategy to fight the prevalence of micronutrient deficiency, WFP, in close collaboration with National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) organized the first Rice Fortification workshop in The Gambia, from 20 to 21 November 2019. The main purpose was to build the capacity of relevant stakeholders through sharing best practices and relevant experiences from the globe, as well as to have stakeholders’ discussions around opportunities and challenges related to rice fortification in the local context. Experts from WFP Headquarters, Regional Bureau Dakar, key private partners as well as FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture were engaged. As a way forward, WFP, will support the government to harmonize fortification standards while working with sister organizations and partners.
- WFP welcomed two vloggers hired by the EU’s Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development through their “Faces2Hearts” programme, which reports on EU funded development projects globally, this time they were focusing on 10 countries. The vloggers visited and interviewed beneficiaries of the EU funded Home-Grown School Feeding programme at Madina Lower Basic School in Central River Region and Mbamori Lower Basic School in North Bank Region. To see and learn more about the EU vloggers’ visit, watch the [vlog](#).

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