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.

The COVID-19 pandemic coincides with and exacerbates a deteriorating food and nutrition insecurity situation which follows an early onset of lean season and successive years of bad harvests. According to the March 2021 CH analysis 65,500 people have fallen into crisis situation, and about 365,300 are under stress (phase 2). For the period from June until August 2021, it was projected that the 113,720 people were be in crisis and needed food assistance and resilience building activities during the lean season to save lives, protect livelihoods, and prevent loss of assets.

COVID-19 situation update: The Gambia registered a total of 9,973 COVID-19 cases at the end of October with only 11 percent of the population fully vaccinated against the virus. Active cases have remained relatively low.

The second round of WFP’s immediate emergency response commenced in October to further assist the victims of the windstorm and flash floods which occurred in July 2021. The assistance included food and cash-based transfers to 31,000 people for three months. Each targeted household received a mixed ration of 50 kilograms of rice and GMD 1,350 per month (USD 27).

World Food Day 2021 was commemorated in Banjul on 16th October in the Upper River Region in conjunction with the International Day of Rural Women Celebrations. The event was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture with support from WFP, FAO and other humanitarian and development partners under the theme “Our actions are our future. Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life”.

The Government’s ‘The Gambia Agriculture and Food Security Project’ proposal was approved by the African Development Bank. The project, jointly implemented with WFP, is now expected to be launched in early 2022 for a period of five years.

Operational Updates

- WFP, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Agency, launched a post-emergency response providing support to vulnerable populations who were affected by heavy floods in July 2020. Funded by ECOWAS, the support will provide assistance to about 1,200 households in West Coast Regional (WCR) and Upper River Region (URR) affected by the floods. The assistance includes an unconditional cash transfer of GMD 1,600 (USD 32) for each household per month (for October and November), as well as vouchers worth GMD 3,000 (USD 59) for shelter rehabilitation. Lastly, the response will include the rehabilitation and securing of clean water access points and safe sanitary facilities.

- For the period from June to August 2021, it was projected that the 113,720 people were in crisis and needed food assistance and resilience building activities during the lean season to save lives, protect livelihoods, and prevent loss of assets.

In Numbers

- 224 mt of food assistance distributed
- USD 86,300 cash-based transfers made
- USD 3.1 m six months (November 2021- April 2022) net funding requirements
- 112,238 people assisted in October 2021

Operational Context

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Main photo Credit: ©Mamadoujallow/WFP The Gambia
Caption: WFP Country Director with the Ambassador of Japan, PS Ministry of Health and a beneficiary during the ceremony to mark Japanese support to WFP’s nutrition programme.
**WFP Country Strategy**

### Country Strategic Plan (Jan 2019- Dec 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>2021 Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>2021 Available Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food</td>
<td>13.7 m</td>
<td>21.6 m</td>
<td>3.1 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategic Result 1:** Everyone has access to food

**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 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 specialized nutritious foods to pregnant and lactating women 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:** Countries strengthened capacities

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

**Strategic Result 4:** Countries strengthened capacities

**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 technical assistance to the Government on the implementation of the National Social Protection Policy (NSSP), with focus on the gradual handover of the home-

**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-

- The 7th National Social Protection Forum was held on 5 and 6 October. The two-day forum discussed strategies to strengthen the country's social protection systems. WFP is supporting the Government in reaching its social protection goals as stipulated in the National Social Protection Policy and the National Development Plan which seek to establish an inclusive integrated and comprehensive social protection system.

- The four-year EU Grant (Envelope A) supporting school meals and disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities has received approval for a one-year extension to July 2022 after delays in implementation of mainly DRR activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The extension will allow for the implementation of activities such as enhancing the national coordination of early warning information systems, providing telecommunications support to communities for early warning, as well as strengthening district and community-level capacities in contingency planning.

### Challenges

- WFP faces critical resource constraints across its activities, especially under the school feeding programme. The current available resources are sufficient to cover only one region and three districts in another region out of the four regions targeted by WFP - a total of 41,781 children until the end of December 2021. With currently available resources, WFP will reach 67,000 children in total leaving 40 percent of targeted children without meals. WFP immediately requires USD 0.9 million to ensure all targeted children receive assistance.

### Partnerships

- H.E Arai Tatsuo, Ambassador of Japan to The Gambia visited The Gambia from 20 to 22 October 2021. During his visit, WFP discussed its collaboration with the Government of Japan in the area of food and nutrition security in The Gambia, and also expressed its gratitude for Japanese contributions to WFP operations which aimed to improve the nutrition status of vulnerable malnourished groups in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting with the Ambassador involved key government stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health and the National Nutrition Agency.

- 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 chairs the UN Disaster Risk Management group and participates in working groups in key sectors such as education and social protection.

### Donors

Donors to WFP The Gambia in 2021 include: the Government of The Gambia, European Union, ECOWAS, Japan and UN Peacebuilding Fund.