



WFP The Gambia Country Brief November 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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.

Key takeaways from the Cadre Harmonisé November 2021 analysis:

- It is estimated that 111,976 people are in the acute food insecurity phase ('crisis') for the current period (October-December), representing 4.6 percent of the total population in the analysed regions. A total of 206,712 are projected to be acutely food insecure for the period June-August 2022, equivalent to 8.4 percent of the analysed population.
- There is a significant worsening of the nutritional status of children in 2021 with the prevalence of acute malnutrition (GAM) high in Basse (10.2 percent), Kuntaur (11.7 percent) and Mansa Konko (11.3 percent), which is attributed to poor food consumption as well as poor hygiene.

COVID-19 situation update: The Gambia registered a total of 9,998 COVID-19 cases at the end of November with only 9.4 percent of the total population fully vaccinated against the virus. Active cases have remained relatively low.



Population: **2.4 million**

2020 Human Development Index ranking: **172 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-23 months**

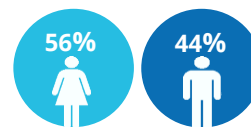
In Numbers

24.6 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 5,421.79 cash-based transfers made

USD 2.2 m six months (December 2021- May 2022) net funding requirements

81,213 people assisted
in November 2021



Operational Updates

- **Emergency response:** The ECOWAS-funded flood emergency response was launched in Brikama of the West Coastal Region in the presence of representatives of the WFP, the Government and beneficiaries. The project aims to support victims affected by the heavy flash floods of July 2020. The assistance covers three areas: food assistance in the form of cash transfers; shelter support through the provision of roofing materials and; and the provision of safe water sources by creating boreholes for the communities. In November, a total of 1,246 beneficiaries received cash and shelter support. The assistance is for two-month period and will continue in December.
- **Emergency preparedness:** In preparation for the presidential elections in December 2021, and legislative elections in April 2022, WFP, as the United Nations lead agency for the Disaster and Risk Management portfolio in the Gambia, has supported the development of electoral contingency plan. Meanwhile, WFP has taken steps to review its preparedness by updating the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and Minimum Preparedness Actions (MPAs), which aim to ensure the WFP's capacity to mitigate the adverse impacts of disruptive incidents and deliver uninterrupted programme implementation.
- **School feeding programme:** In November, the programme assisted 49,324 children (26,791 girls and 22,533 boys) in 109 schools in the Central River Region and 34 schools in the Upper River Region. Through the home-grown school feeding programme, 976 metric tons of locally grown commodities including rice, beans and salt were purchased, contributing to the local economy and livelihoods.
- **Nutrition:** In November, the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition programme reached 4,200 children aged 6-59 months in provincial regions and part of the West Coast Region. These children were provided Super Cereal Plus alongside social, while WFP's social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) activity promoted dietary diversity and appropriate infant and young child feeding practices.

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

Main photo: Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition distributing CBS+ in Sinchu Madado, Central River Region.

Country Strategic Plan (Jan 2019 - Dec 2022)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
13.7 m	21.6 m	2.2 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: 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 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-

- **Resilience:** WFP trained 30 women as part of its ‘trainer of trainers’ activity in the Central River Region, North Bank Region and Upper River Region, focusing on agricultural production techniques, drought resilient crops, environmental protection, and livelihood technologies. After completion of the training, the 30 trainers delivered step-down training to 150 women within their communities in the same regions. WFP is currently in the process of organizing another training for 200 women in alternative energy-saving technology and eco-stoves.

Challenges

- WFP faces critical resource constraints across its activities, especially under the **school feeding programme**. The currently available resources are only sufficient to cover 143 out of 312 schools targeted by WFP, a total of 49,324 children out of 115,880 until the end of December 2021. **WFP immediately requires USD 1.2 million to ensure all targeted children receive assistance for the next six months.**

Communications

- WFP’s country office in The Gambia received a visit from British daily newspaper The Guardian. The journalist and WFP conducted field interviews in the storm-affected area of Jalambang. The resulting article [Blowing down houses. Life on the front lines of extreme weather in The Gambia](#) documented the stories of victims and remarks by Mr. Yasuhiro Tsumura, WFP Country Director. The article helps raise public attention to the climate-conflict-hunger nexus in the disaster-prone country of The Gambia.

Donors

Top five donors to WFP Gambia CSP 2019-2022 include: UN Funds and Agencies, The Government of The Gambia, European Commission, Japan, and the UN Peacebuilding Funds.