



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP The Gambia Country Brief December 2021

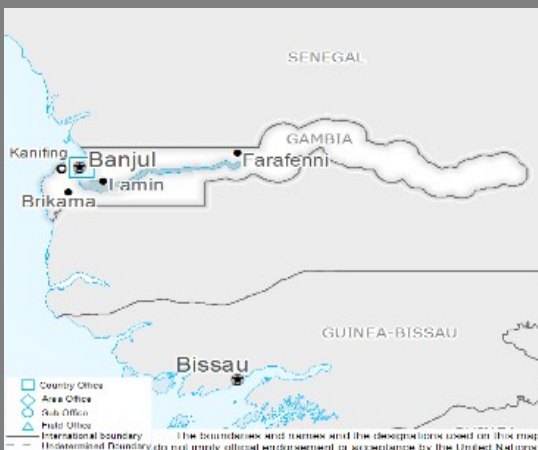


Operational Context

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.

According to the Cadre Harmonisé November 2021 analysis, it is estimated that 111,976 people are in the critical food insecurity situations of crisis for the post-harvest period (October-December), representing 4.6 percent of the total population in the analyzed regions, and 206,712 persons are projected to be in need of assistance during the lean season (June-August 2022), equivalent to 8.4 percent of the population.

COVID-19 situation update: The Gambia registered a total of 10,170 COVID-19 cases at the end of December with only 10.2 percent of the total population fully vaccinated against the virus. Active cases have remained relatively low.



Population: **2.4 million**
Population: **1.1 million**

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

Income Level: **Low**
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

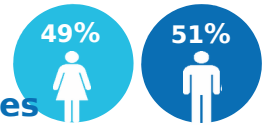
In Numbers

31 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 70,797 cash-based transfers made

USD 1.8 m six months (January 2022- June 2022) net funding requirements

56,339 people assisted
in December 2021



Operational Updates

- **Emergency response:** To support the recovery of populations affected by flash floods, WFP in partnership with Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) provided food assistance to windstorm victims for a two-month period. In December, more than 8,000 individuals received cash-based transfers and shelter support; and six communities are also benefiting from borehole water points, with construction ongoing into early 2022.
- **School feeding programme:** December is one of the shortest learning months of the year as children break for the holidays, with only 16 school days. Throughout the month, WFP assisted 49,324 children (26,791 girls and 22,533 boys) across 109 schools in the Central River Region and 34 schools in the Upper River Region. The home-grown school feeding (HGSF) model which uses local procurement continued to be applied, as a means to alleviate poverty for smallholder farmers.
- **Nutrition:** Lifesaving nutrition supplementation continues to be provided to treat moderately acute malnourished children in all provincial regions and semi-urban districts in the West Coast Region. In December, WFP supported 4,900 children aged 6 to 59 months. Other initiatives include the ongoing development of a rice fortification strategy alongside the Government, to promote a more nutritious consumption of rice as the staple food in The Gambia.
- **Resilience:** The Peacebuilding Fund project aims to reduce root causes of conflicts arising from climate change in The Gambia. As part of the project, WFP completed the construction of 9 rice drying floors and the provision of tarpaulins and tents to 6,574 women farmers in the Central River Region. This will help minimize post-harvest losses and improve grain quality and farmers' access to markets. WFP also conducted trainings in soil conservation and peacebuilding for 200 women. The trainings will benefit the communities through the protection of natural resources and watersheds, restoration of habitats for plants and wildlife, and improvement in water and soil quality.

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WFP The Gambia Country Brief
Main photo: Group photo of National Contingency Plan Review workshop, December 2021, Banjul/Jallow/WFP The Gambia

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	22.7m*	1.8 m

* The higher 2021 Available Contributions is due to a single-year entry of USD 10 million fund earmarked for Strategic Outcome 4 & 5 which in fact is meant for a multi-year (2021-2025) implementation.

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 (FAA)

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 HGFS

government entities, civil society and UN partners. The plan is being finalised by NDMA and aims to help the country better respond to the humanitarian crises including windstorms, floods, drought, fire, and epidemics, and to build the resilience of affected communities.

Challenges

- WFP faces critical resource constraints across its activities: Under **School Feeding**, with its current available funding, WFP is supporting roughly only 14 percent of its 2021 target. A total of USD 1.2 million is needed to feed 122,000 school children for the next 6 months into 2022. Under **Nutrition**, WFP immediately requires USD 354,000 to provide supplementation for the treatment and prevention of malnutrition for the next 6 months, reaching 8,900 children under 5, pregnant and lactating women and mothers with HIV.

Partnerships

- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources for the implementation of the five-year Rural Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building Project (RICAR). This will be funded by the Climate Change Adaptation Fund, with the goal to enhance adaptive capacity of vulnerable rural populations in The Gambia through support to climate-resilient and diversified livelihoods. The RICAR project will be implemented starting in March 2022.
- WFP and the University of The Gambia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate collaboration on research and data. The partnership will contribute to WFP's programme in The Gambia to provide evidence behind the climate-conflict interlinkages and a better understanding of its impact on communities in rural areas.

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 Fund.

- **Capacity strengthening:** In December, NDMA and WFP The Gambia held workshops and technical sessions to review the National Contingency Plan, with technical support from WFP and OCHA's regional offices in Dakar. The workshops involved a number of