



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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WFP The Gambia Country Brief April 2022

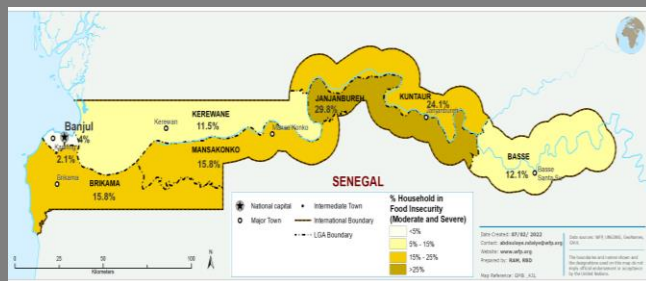


Operational Context

Despite a promising environment for improved development, growth and stability, The Gambia is faced with increasing food and nutrition insecurity due to COVID-19, climate-related shocks, rising food costs and conflict.

The results of the 2021 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) released in February 2022, reveal the worst levels of food insecurity in The Gambia during the past decade (CFSVA 2011: 5%; CFSVA 2016: 8% and CFSVA 2021: 13.4%). The IPC3+ numbers are the highest in the last five years, doubling from previous years. The number of people in IPC3+ are expected to reach 207,000 during the 2022 lean season (from June to September), with 200,000 in Phase 3 and 7,000 in Phase 4.

CFSVA 2021 results also show a steep decline in the nutritional status of children under the age of five since 2019, with stunting rates at 18.6 percent (0.6% increase), wasting rates at 9.2 percent (4.1% increase), and underweight rates of 16.8 percent (4.8% increase). The Gambia is dependent on importing many basic food items, making the country vulnerable to global price increases. As such, the Ukraine-Russia crisis is further exacerbating the food security situation.



Population: **2.4 million**

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

Income Level: **Low**

People in food insecurity: **13.4%**

In Numbers

34 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 46,105 cash-based transfers made

USD 11.4 m six months (May 2022- October 2022) net funding requirements

62,443 people assisted in April 2021



Operational Updates

Emergency response:

- On 13 March, the Senegalese military launched an operation in Casamance against the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC), in the southern region of Senegal, affecting all Gambian border communities in the Foni region and nearby districts. This has resulted in an influx of Senegalese refugees and a displacement of Gambians from the border area.

To address the immediate food need of affected populations, WFP, in coordination with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCC), has targeted approximately 14,500 people in five affected districts of Foni, West Coast Region, with cash-for-food distributions for three months, from April to June. The assistance aims to meet basic food needs and replenish destroyed or lost food stocks to those affected by the displacement.

School feeding:

- WFP's school feeding programme faced significant delays between February to April, in the arrival of funds and procured commodities. Due to shortages, only 48,334 children, or 40 percent of WFP's targeted beneficiaries, were assisted during April.

Nutrition:

- Due to a delay in food supply as well as chronic funding shortages, WFP's moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme only provided specialized nutritious food to 1,516 children aged from 6-59 months (808 girls, 718 boys) in three regions in April. A total of 2,400 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in MAM treatment received specialized nutrition rations.

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Main photo: A woman beneficiary who received cash assistance during WFP's Foni emergency response in April

Credit: ©Mamadou Jallow/WFP The Gambia

Country Strategic Plan (Jan 2019 - Dec 2022)

2022 Total Requirement (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
17.4 m	6.3 m	11.4 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 (HGSF) 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 HGSF.

- As part of the Foni emergency response, missing contact details of targeted people have caused operational challenges in being able to effectively reach beneficiaries in need of assistance. WFP is working with National Disaster Management Agency to identify the missing contacts and complete distributions in a timely manner.
- WFP's school feeding programme has faced a significant gap in assistance from February to April. With the upcoming funding and commodities procured, it is expected that the school feeding activities could resume in three regions from May 2022, however a longer-term funding solution is required.
- The Gambia is experiencing higher levels of food and nutrition insecurity, as alerted by the latest Cadre Harmonise results. Critical resource constraints are evident for the relief of food/cash distributions as well as the prevention and treatment of malnutrition. The status of food and nutrition insecurity are expected to be exacerbated by the continually high food prices in The Gambia, affected by recent global events placing pressure on the supply and cost of food.

Partnerships

- WFP, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding. It aims to allow a fully pledged collaboration on WFP's nutrition-related programme and activities over the next two years.

Donors

France Japan Association for UN WFP Latter-day Saints, The Government of The Gambia, European Commission, Japan.

Challenges