



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP The Gambia Country Brief May 2022

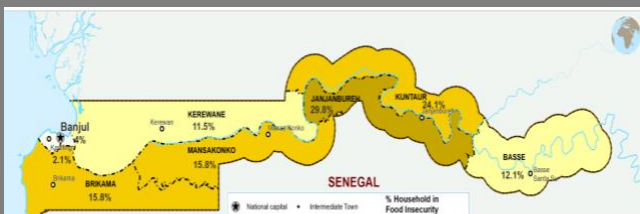


Operational Context

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%**

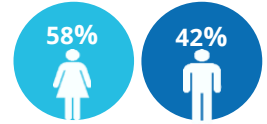
In Numbers

4.4 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 136,747 cash-based transfers made

USD 12.4 m six months (June 2022- November 2022) net funding requirements

102,187 people assisted in May 2021



Operational Updates

Emergency response:

- WFP conducted a second round of cash distributions in the Foni region, where people have been displaced or affected by the Senegalese military operation to dislodge a faction of a separatist non-state armed group (NSAG). The operation began on 13 March 2022, in the bordering area of Casamance, between The Gambia and Senegal. Of the 1,405 households targeted for assistance by WFP and partners, including refugees, internally displaced persons and host families, 85 percent of households have been reached with cash-based transfer (CBT) assistance in May. This is part of WFP's three-month assistance through its crisis response initiative, aiming to support the basic food and nutrition needs of people impacted by displacement. Approximately 15,000 people from The Gambia and Senegal have been affected by the operation.

School feeding:

- In May, WFP reached 87,637 children (55 percent girls; 45 percent boys) through its school feeding programme, in the Central River Region and Upper River Region. Despite plans to reach more school children, WFP only reached 72 percent of targeted beneficiaries in May, due to persistent funding gaps.

Nutrition:

- A total of 500 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) benefited from specialized nutrition rations to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). However, there are no remaining rations left to support distributions from June onwards. Regarding the MAM treatment programme for children under the age of five, commodities were exhausted in April. As a result, WFP was not able to reach any malnourished children in May, during a time of deepening food and nutrition insecurity across the country.

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

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

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	12.4 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.

Resilience:

- WFP continued to engage as a partner in the UN peacebuilding project called 'climate conflict: strengthening community coping mechanisms against risks of climate induced conflicts and to minimize gender related vulnerabilities and tension in The Gambia'. In May, WFP supported two communities involved in conflict over land to reclaim 13 ha of rice fields affected by saltwater intrusion. The intervention helped to increase access to land and to address the root causes of conflict within communities caused by land degradation. This activity successfully brought together 95 women from both communities to participate in the reclamation of the rice fields and strengthened social cohesion. However, due to limited resourcing, WFP could only support the reclamation of 13 out of 34 ha land affected by saltwater intrusion. The joint project is being implemented by WFP, United Nations Population Fund and the International Trade Centre, between 2020-2022.

Partnerships

- A new cabinet has been appointed by the President of The Gambia, consisting of new Ministers in Agriculture and Environment, all stakeholders of WFP. Given the importance of partnerships, WFP Representative and Country Director in The Gambia, Mr. Yasuhiro Tsumura, met with Mr. Demba Sabally, Minister of Agriculture, and Ms. Rohey John Manjang, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources, to discuss opportunities for collaboration and challenges such as local and global food security crises. Other topics included joint projects such as the Gambia Agriculture and Food Security Project and the Rural Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building Project, both five-year initiatives (beginning in 2022) that are being implemented jointly alongside respective ministries.

Donors

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