



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



DAYS OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

WFP The Gambia

Country Brief
November 2022



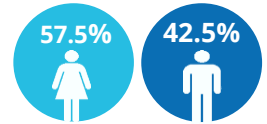
In Numbers

124.05 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 41,000 cash-based transfers made

USD 3.5 million six-month (December 2022 – May 2023) net funding requirements

130,083 people assisted
in November 2022

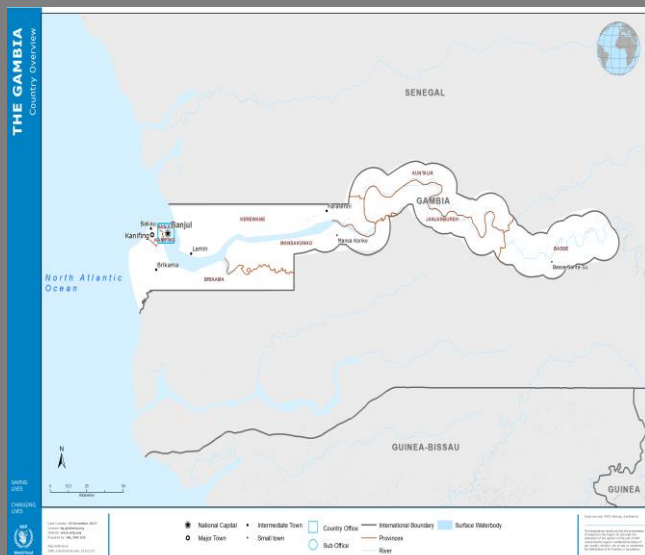


Operational Context

The Gambia is experiencing a looming food crisis, the worst in a decade. The Cadre Harmonisé findings of November 2022 indicated that 207,666 Gambians are currently in “crisis” (IPC3) and “emergency” (IPC4) food security situations. This figure has increased by 95,690 (53 percent) compared to the 2021 figure of 111,976. For the next lean season (June to August 2023), a projected 319,628 people would be facing food insecurity and in need of emergency assistance which is a 112,916 increase from the 2021 figure of 206,712.

According to the report, key drivers impacting the worsening food and nutrition security situation are high food prices; heavily linked to the Ukraine crisis, loss of employment, climate shocks which led to the reduction of purchasing power of households.

The nutritional status of the population is also alarming in The Gambia (stunting 17.1 percent and wasting 10.3 percent - National Nutrition Surveillance 2022) reversing the pre-pandemic gains. Stunting and wasting are major public health problems in The Gambia and have been exacerbated by COVID-19 and now the negative impacts of the Russia-Ukraine crisis.



Population: **2.4 million**

2021 Human Development Index ranking: **174 out of 191**

Income Level: **Low**

People in food insecurity: **13 percent of the population**

Operational Updates

Emergency response:

- WFP, in partnership with QMoney and the National Disaster Management Authority, completed its three-month support, which consisted of providing unconditional cash transfers to flood-affected families and severely food-insecure households in all six regions. In November, 5,341 households received a sum of D 2,350 (USD 40) to support their households in meeting basic food needs.
- On 23 November, clashes were reported between Senegalese soldiers and non-state armed groups in the southern region of Casamance, causing displacement of Senegalese villagers close to the border into The Gambia. The displaced people are being hosted as cross-border migrants. The situation continues to be closely monitored by WFP and Partners. WFP provided 3-month cash-based transfer support to vulnerable families to cross-border migrants in this region earlier this year.

School feeding:

- School Feeding is ongoing, reaching some 96,100 children in November, bringing the total beneficiaries to nearly 119,000, of which 53 percent are girls.
- Discussions are ongoing between WFP and The Gambia's Government through the Ministry of Basic Education and the NGO-Catholic Relief Services (CRS), who are the recipients of this year's McGovern Dole grant supporting school feeding. As CRS is a new stakeholder in the provision of school meals in The Gambia, discussions are underway to ensure coordination and harmonization of all interventions and intervention sites to avoid duplication of efforts.

Nutrition:

- Targeted Supplementary Feeding Distributions continues in three regions: Upper River, Central River North, and Lower River for children 6-59 months and Pregnant and Lactating Women/Girls. Supporting some 3500 children and 2300 women/girls with monthly rations.

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

Main photo: WFP CD with Country Office Staff commemorating 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

Credit: ©Mamadou Jallow/WFP The Gambia

Country Strategic Plan (2019 - 2022)

2022 Total Requirement (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
17.4 m	10.56 m	3.5 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 HGFS.

Resilience:

- A two-day regional sensitization of all support societies in five health regions of The Gambia (NBRE, NBRW, LRR, CRR and URR) was organised. Support society members were sensitised on the importance of good nutrition while on antiretroviral therapy (ART), exclusive breastfeeding of infants born to HIV-positive mothers and the importance of utilisation of family planning services. A total of 45 PLHIVs were trained, and they will further disseminate what they learnt to their various societies during their monthly and quarterly meetings.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, 356 cooks from 178 schools were trained in food safety and hygiene, Nutrition education, and Kitchen management. They received a Practical demonstration on the processing of selected school meals, including the use of biofortified food.
- WFP held a meeting with the Central Bank of The Gambia to discuss the regulatory framework and the way forward regarding implementing micro-insurance in The Gambia. The Central Bank is the regulatory body of the insurance sector in The Gambia and is at the final stages of having the regulatory framework approved. The bank and WFP will collaborate in the roll-out of their micro-insurance projects in The Gambia in 2023.
- WFP participated in the Disaster Risk Financing Strategy workshop with the Africa Risk Capacity Replica Thematic Working Group and Africa Disaster Risk Financing Programme team from the African Development Bank to improve the Disaster Risk Financing Strategy. The strategy will incorporate Micro, Meso, and Macro insurance, as well as Forecast Based Financing, and WFP will play a vital role in the implementation of the strategy.

Partnerships

- To further enhance the partnership between WFP and the University of The Gambia, WFP Country Director held discussions with the Vice Chancellor of the University to map out priority areas based on the memorandum of understanding signed between the two institutions in 2021.

Donors

Donors to WFP Gambia in 2022 include the Government of The Gambia, France, UN CERF, Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, Climate Adaptation Fund, UN Secretariat (SDG fund)