



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP The Gambia Country Brief June 2023

Operational Context

The Gambia is experiencing a looming food crisis, the worst in a decade. The November 2022 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) indicated that over 207,600 Gambians were experiencing Crisis (Phase 3) and Emergency (Phase 4) levels of food insecurity. This represented an increase of nearly 95,700 people (53 percent) compared to 2021. During the current lean season (June to August 2023), 319,628 people are projected to face high levels of food insecurity and will need emergency assistance. This represents a 64 percent increase from the 2021 figure. Key drivers of the worsening food and nutrition security situation are reportedly high food prices (heavily linked to the Ukraine crisis), loss of employment, and climate shocks which led to the decreasing purchasing power of households. The nutritional status of the population is also alarming, with stunting and wasting affecting 17.1 percent and 10.3 percent of the population respectively, thus reversing the pre-pandemic gains. WFP has been present in the Gambia since the 1970s.



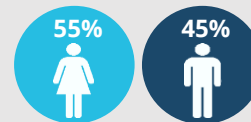
Population: **2.4 million**

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

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers



129,198 people assisted
in June 2023

104.5 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 650,344 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 8.5 million six-month (July-December 2023)
net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- The Ambassador of Japan to The Gambia launched the US\$1.5 million project from the Government and people of Japan to WFP Gambia to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance to 25,000 vulnerable Gambians affected by climate shocks and the economic fallout from COVID-19 and the Ukraine crisis.
- WFP and the French Embassy visited WFP intervention areas where activities implemented are financed by France. In 2023, the French Government continues to support WFP's critical food and nutrition assistance to over 31,500 vulnerable women and children in the Central River Region and Upper River Regions. Thanks to a recent French contribution, WFP was able to cover an additional 20,706 children with its school feeding programme, reaching about 81 schools in central and upper river Regions.
- A Training of Trainers (ToT) on Social Behavioral Change Communication regarding food fortification was conducted for 35 participants from government institutions such as the department of agriculture. The ToT aimed to gather nutrition professionals to agree on a common understanding and delivery of messages on food fortification. This cohort of trainers will provide step-down trainings for community structures such as the Village Support Group and Food Management Committees in schools to increase public awareness through influencing community motivation, attitude and behavior on the consumption of fortified foods.

Challenges

- July - September (lean season), about 319,628 people (13 percent of the population) would potentially experience acute food insecurity (CH Crisis and Emergency Phases), including some 19,527 people in the CH Emergency phase. This reflects a 64 percent increase compared to last year and a significant increase of over 162 percent compared to past five years average.



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Photo Caption: WFP Rep speaking at the Launch of the French project during donor field mission
WFP/Mamadou Jallow

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
83.7 million	46.8 million
2023 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July – December 2023)
15.8 million	8.5 million

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

Activities:

- Provide food assistance to crisis-affected populations

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Food-insecure populations including school-aged children, in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food all year

Activities:

- 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 3: Countries strengthened capacities

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 4: 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.

Donors

Donors to WFP Gambia Country Strategic Plan in 2023 include Climate Adaptation Fund, France, the Government of The Gambia, Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, Japan, Mastercard Foundation.

From Farm to Table: How WFP Empowered Gambian Smallholder Farmers and Strengthened Communities

In The Gambia, since 2014, the World Food Programme has used innovative methods to provide food to school children and families in need while supporting local farmers like Fatou Badjie.

"My name is Fatou Badjie," the 24-year-old smiles, her voice carrying the pride of a hardworking farmer and determination. "I'm a farmer at Mauro Farms, involved in everything from driving to harvesting."

Farming isn't just a livelihood for Fatou; it's her way of life. She believes that the cycle of hunger and poverty can be broken with every seed she plants and every furrow she plows. "Farming means a lot to me because this is what I do every day. And I believe that through farming, we can end hunger and poverty," she states, her conviction unwavering.

In 2014, the World Food Programme initiated a strategic approach that brought remarkable change to Gambian agriculture. The program empowered farmers like Fatou Badjie by purchasing locally produced food to feed children in schools and disaster-affected families. WFP purchased 1,150 metric tons of rice alone this year (2023) through the school feeding and crisis response programs.

One of the most heartening aspects of this endeavor is the connection between the rice produced by Gambia's farmers and the food served to their children in schools. Fatou's eyes light up when she speaks about this remarkable synergy. "I am so glad that the rice we produce here in The Gambia is bought by the World Food Programme and given to our children in schools. They feed on the same rice we produce," Fatou shares, her voice filled with pride.

The impact of WFP extended beyond the school gates. This year's crisis response program provided food assistance to about 20,000 people affected by disasters and food insecurity. The distributed rice, beans, oil, and salt were also procured locally from smallholder farmers. But WFP's involvement went beyond procurement. We provided training and equipped farmers with modern tools and techniques to increase productivity and reduce post-harvest losses, empowering individuals and strengthening entire communities.

Fatou's story is a beacon of encouragement, especially for the youth. She raises her voice in an inspiring call to action, "I encourage all young people, especially the youth, to embrace farming. Through Mauro Farms and the World Food Programme, I have overcome my financial challenges and supported my parents." she says with a sense of accomplishment. Her success shows what communities can achieve with support. Her story inspires young people to farm and create a better future. People like Fatou dream of a hunger-free world thanks to the World Food Programme.