



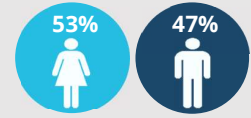
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP The Gambia Country Brief June - July 2024



In Numbers



144,951 people assisted in June and July 2024

US\$ 1,303,585 cash-based transfers made from March to July 2024

US\$ 7.1 million six-month (August 2024-January 2025) net funding requirements

Operational Context

The Gambia, the smallest country in mainland Africa, is also one of the most densely populated. Its economy is highly exposed to shocks and relies heavily on remittances, tourism, and agriculture. Agriculture contributes 25 percent of the country's gross domestic product, employs 70 percent of the population, and is the source of livelihoods for 80 percent of the rural population. However, it covers less than 50 percent of its food requirements. Thus, the country relies significantly on imported food, making it susceptible to price volatility. As a result, despite improvements over the years, increased levels of food insecurity persist. In more detail, as per the latest Cadre Harmonise Analysis (October 2023), in the current lean season (June–August 2024), 226,724 people (9 percent of the population) are projected to be in Crisis and Emergency phases (1,580 in Emergency phase), indicating a strong need of food and nutrition emergency assistance.

In this context, WFP's new Country Strategic Plan 2024–2028 started in March 2024. It constitutes a continuation of WFP's support for shock response, human capital development, climate resilience, and technical assistance, mainly to strengthen the national social protection system.

WFP is present in the country since 1970.



Population: **2.7 million**

2023/2024 Human Development Report: **174 out of 193**

Income Level: **Low**

People in food insecurity: **9 percent of the population**

Operational Updates

- WFP continues to support 421 schools across the country's four most vulnerable regions, including the Upper River, Central River North and South, and North Bank Regions through its Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme. This initiative provides daily meals to a total of 144,951 children, including 67,866 boys and 77,085 girls throughout the academic year. More than US\$ 1.3 million was provided to schools from March to July 2024 through cash-based transfers (CBT), supporting the procurement of locally produced commodities. During this time, WFP assisted the Government in its ambitions to promote HGSF in the East and West Regions of the West Coast as well as Lower River Regions. HGSF will resume in September 2024 once the new school year begins.
- The introduction of new procedures for school food solicitation and finance management by WFP has enabled gradual steps to improve local procurement. It will further enhance accountability, transparency, and protection for both beneficiaries and donors.
- The pilot phase of the WFP online data monitoring tool School Connect, recently launched to enhance monitoring of the HGSF programme in The Gambia, ended in July. It involved 50 schools in the North Bank, Central River North and South, and Upper River Regions. A detailed report on the successes and challenges of the roll-out is currently being prepared and will soon be released to guide a potential scale-up of the tool in September 2024.
- A Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) Exercise, aimed at analysing the HGSF programme, identifying strengths and gaps, fostering dialogue, and improving planning, is currently being prepared to commence in August 2024. WFP will soon conduct interviews and focus group discussions with stakeholders across the board.
- WFP welcomed Mr. Isaac Mensah from the Latter-Day Saints (LDS) Charity in July 2024. He was accompanied to a HGSF beneficiary school to observe meal distribution firsthand and personally speak with children, parents, and teachers about the benefits of the programme. He positively recognized WFP's work. WFP is looking forward to further funding opportunities from LDS.

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Photo Caption: *Interacting with students at Bassick Lower Basic School in the North Bank Region during a Latter-day Saints Charity mission*
Photo Credit: WFP/Louise Alsan

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)	
Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
95.2 million	16.9 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (August 2024–January 2025)
18.7 million	7.1 million

SO1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations in the Gambia, including those affected by seasonal shocks, can meet their basic food and nutrition requirements during and in the aftermath of shocks.

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

- Activities:**
- Provide a food and nutrition assistance package to crisis-affected populations mainly through the social protection system.

SO2: People have better nutrition, health & education outcomes

Strategic Outcome 2: Children, PBW/G, vulnerable populations, and people at risk of malnutrition in the Gambia benefit from better access to healthy diets and essential services that improve their health, nutritional, and educational status by 2028.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

- Activities:**
- Provide nutritious school meals and foster complementary health and nutrition interventions for improved health, nutrition, and education outcomes.

SO3: People have improved & sustainable livelihoods

Strategic Outcome 3: Communities whose livelihoods are at risk in the Gambia, including smallholder farmers and other actors in nutrition-sensitive value-chains, have improved livelihoods and increased resilience to the impacts of climate change and other socioeconomic shocks by 2028.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

- Activities:**
- Provide integrated nutrition-sensitive value chain support, including risk transfer and community asset creation, to smallholder farmers and other value chain actors.

SO4: National programmes & systems are strengthened

Strategic Outcome 4: National systems, institutions, and actors have strengthened capacities to achieve zero hunger, tackle vulnerability and increase the human capital of the Gambia by 2028.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

- Activities:**
- Provide technical support to government institutions to strengthen national social protection systems that integrate shock responsiveness and nutrition.

- WFP launched its Deworming and Vitamin A Campaign on 8 July at Koba Kunda Lower Basic School in Basse, in attendance of the Regional Governor, Regional Education and Health Directors, and other Senior Education Officers. The campaign targeted 421 schools across the Upper River, Central River North and South, and North Bank Regions to address worm infestation and nutrition deficiency among children. Following prior sensitisation of schools and communities on the campaign's importance, a total of 77,482 children were successfully supplemented.

- A training on biofortified crops and compost making was organised by WFP in collaboration with the Government in June 2024. Thirty school garden masters and mistresses, 3 agricultural extension workers, and 3 school feeding focal points from the Upper River, Central River North and South, and North Bank Regions were successfully trained and equipped with the necessary skills to enhance crop productivity and soil fertility through suitable cultivation practices and effective composting methods.
- WFP is currently preparing and will soon commence the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) Analysis to identify the barriers to adequate nutrient intake in the country.
- In partnership with the Government, a Food Safety and Quality (FSQ) Monitoring was conducted in 30 schools in the Upper River, Central River North and South, and North Bank Regions to monitor hygienic food practices.
- WFP continued to strengthen disaster preparedness and reduction through the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA). To this end, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Platform, comprising national mechanisms for policy guidance and coordination, has been revitalised, in line with the country's National Disaster Management Policy and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) obligations.
- WFP conducted 3 trainings with Regional Disaster Management Committees (RDMC) to orient them in their role and enhance their disaster management knowledge and skills. For this purpose, a training of trainers was held to effectively disseminate knowledge from the national to the regional level.
- WFP also supported the training of 100 voluntary data collectors across all eight local government areas to better ensure the timely and real time availability of data during the current lean season, which is anticipated to come with above normal rainfall.
- WFP supported the review of the National Drought Plan. The plan is intended to improve the country's disaster preparedness and management through risk-based national drought policies and interventions. It will facilitate the delivery of macro-insurance.

Challenges

In the current lean season (June–August 2024), 226,724 people (9 percent of the population) are projected to be in Crisis and Emergency phases (1,580 in Emergency phase). Furthermore, 605,460 people are projected to be in the Stressed phase, with households having a minimally adequate level of food consumption, unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies. In the absence of humanitarian support, people in the Stressed phase are at risk of moving into the Crisis phase.

Donors

Donors to WFP Gambia Country Strategic Plan in 2024 include Climate Adaptation Fund, France, Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, Government of The Gambia, Japan, Latter-day Saints Charity, and Mastercard Foundation.