



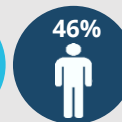
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP The Gambia Country Brief August – September 2024

In Numbers



151,378 people assisted in August and September 2024

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

US\$ 4.9 million six-month (October 2024-March 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 (November 2023), during the recent lean season (June–August 2024), 226,724 people (9 percent of the population) were in the Crisis (IPC 3) and Emergency (IPC 4) 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: **2.4 million**

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

Income Level: **Low**

People in food insecurity (IPC 3 and IPC 4): **9 percent of the population**

Operational Updates

- With the start of the new school year in September 2024, WFP continued its support to 422 schools across the country's Upper River, Central River North and South, and North Bank Regions to provide children with a nutritious meal a day through its Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme.
- The total number of children enrolled increased from 144,961 in the previous academic year to a total of 151,378, including 70,159 boys and 81,219 girls, thus expanding the programme's reach. This underlines the important role HGSF plays in improving access to primary education and encouraging school attendance.
- To evaluate the capacity, quality, and reliability of suppliers involved in the HGSF programme, a School Feeding Suppliers Assessment was conducted in September. It aimed at ensuring that producers consistently meet the nutritional and operational requirements of the programme, thereby supporting the health and academic performance of the students.
- WFP is making progress in supporting the conduct of the national Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) Exercise to analyse the HGSF programme, identify strengths and gaps, foster dialogue, and improve planning. Discussions with the World Bank to collaborate during the exercise and cover all modules in the areas of health and nutrition; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); and school feeding, are currently ongoing.
- WFP participated in the Global Shield in-country workshop in September, as part of efforts to establish pre-arranged and trigger-based finance for climate change adaptation in The Gambia. WFP presented its current disaster-related initiatives and engaged in discussions with partners.
- In September, the Country Office welcomed Ms. Evelyn Etti, Deputy Regional Director at the WFP Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa, who came to The Gambia to get an overview of WFP's work in the country, ascertain challenges and needs, as well as strengthen collaboration between the two offices. She visited two project sites supported by WFP and its partners, including the Brufut fish landing site and the Bakau women horticulture garden. Both projects are aimed at women's empowerment through improved working conditions for enhanced productivity and livelihoods.

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Photo Caption: Interacting with a women fishmonger at the Brufut fish landing site during a mission by Deputy Regional Director Evelyn Etti

Photo Credit: WFP/Louise Alsan

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
95.2 million	18.5 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (October 2024–March 2025)
18.7 million	4.9 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 a new project in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), aimed at mitigating and resolving land-related conflicts exacerbated by climate change in the Lower River, Central River North and South, and North Bank Regions, funded by the UN Peace Building Fund. Following the national inauguration on 18 July, the regional launch was successfully held on 24 September, which allowed for soliciting further information on relevant conflicts and conducting community targeting.

- WFP in collaboration with the Government inaugurated the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) Analysis in The Gambia on 5 September. It will identify the main obstacles households and individuals face in accessing nutritious food as well as analyse costs and affordability. The results will help the Government and stakeholders identify context-appropriate interventions that empower people through better access to and affordability of nutritious food and stimulate them to actively fill their nutrient gaps.
- WFP through the National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) conducted a training for 50 members of the National Association of Salt Producers and Traders (NaSPaT) to strengthen their knowledge on salt iodisation, salt testing and storage, and hygiene practices, all of which are key to improving the quality of salt production in the country and meet the minimum national standards requirements.
- In partnership with the Government, WFP provided a training for 13 cooperatives with 4 representatives each, which currently aggregate and supply upland crops to the HGFSF programme, including groundnuts, maize, millet, and cowpeas. It focused on cooperative and business management, leadership, and book-keeping. A national apex association was also established to enhance coordination and communication between the cooperatives.
- WFP through an international expert from Agritech International provided a 25-day training for 30 local artisans on the fabrication of groundnut processing kits. It aimed at enhancing their skills, knowledge, and marketability, empowering them to improve their crafts and create business opportunities. At the end, the trainees were able to fabricate 5 small-scale machines, including decorticators, sorters, roasters, dehullers, and grinders.
- As part of WFP's support to smallholder farmers to adopt sustainable pathways for risk transfer, 3,070 smallholder farmers enrolled as micro-insurance beneficiaries. This will facilitate rapid compensation for weather-related losses, build their resilience, and scale up the social protection system. In addition, 186 local authorities and 54 Community Insurance Ambassadors were identified and trained on agricultural index models and solutions for further dissemination and sensitisation of communities in the Upper River and Central River North and South Regions.

Challenges

During the recent lean season (June–August 2024), 226,724 people (9 percent of the population) were in the Crisis (IPC 3) and Emergency (IPC 4) phases (1,580 in Emergency phase). Furthermore, 605,460 people were in the Stressed (IPC 2) 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. Without humanitarian support, people in the Stressed phase were at risk of entering 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.