



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP The Gambia Country Brief March – April 2025

### 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, the sector covers less than 50 percent of national food requirements, making the country highly dependent on imports and susceptible to price volatility. As a result, despite improvements over the years, high levels of food insecurity persist. According to the latest Cadre Harmonisé analysis (November 2024), during the upcoming lean season (June-August 2025), 243,937 people are expected to face food crisis, including 236,290 people in the Crisis (IPC 3) and Emergency (IPC 4) phases (7,647 in Emergency phase), requiring food and nutrition assistance.

WFP has been operating in the country since 1970. The current Country Strategic Plan 2024–2028 enshrines WFP's commitment to supporting national institutions in the areas of emergency response, human capital development, climate resilience, and technical assistance to strengthen the national social protection system.



Population: **2.4 million**

2025 Human Development Report: **170 out of 193**

Income Level: **Low**

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

### In Numbers



**150,972 people** assisted in March and April 2025

**US\$ 192,074** cash-based transfers made from March to April 2025

**US\$ 6.3 million** six-month (May-October 2025) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- WFP continues to support **421 schools** across the country's Upper River, Central River North and South, and North Bank Regions through its **Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme**. The programme improves the health and nutritional status of a total of **150,972** children, comprising 54 percent girls. The third and final term of the 2024/25 school year began in April 2025.
- The Country Office welcomed a **Columbia University mission team** to analyse and document the HGSF programme in The Gambia, organised by the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) as part of a broader exercise. The final report highlights that the programme's decentralised supply chain has improved staple crop availability, strengthened local food systems, and contributed to household food security. Locally tailored school menus are improving dietary diversity, student well-being, and attendance. Additionally, community-based food management committees – led by parents, particularly mothers – ensure inclusive governance, further enhancing programme ownership and effectiveness.
- The Country Office in collaboration with African Risk Capacity Limited (ARC Ltd) and stakeholders, including insurance providers, conducted a **capacity building initiative** for over **50 participants** on **inclusive insurance** in March 2025. The two-day training aimed at building the capacity of the Central Bank of The Gambia, relevant government ministries, insurance associations, microfinance institutions, and farmer organisations. WFP and partners seek to increase national ownership and private sector participation, gradually handing over the distribution and management of microinsurance programmes in the country to local stakeholders to ensure long-term availability and sustainability of insurance products among vulnerable communities.
- In April 2025, WFP conducted a **training on financial literacy, personal household budgeting and planning, savings and their importance, as well as loans and responsible borrowing** for **701 smallholder farmers** (494 men and 207 women) from 56 communities and two groups of the National Farmers Platform, currently enrolled and covered under a micro-insurance scheme.

**Contact Information:** Jannis Gesemann ([jannis.gesemann@wfp.org](mailto:jannis.gesemann@wfp.org))  
**Country Director:** Miranda Sende  
**Further Information:** [www.wfp.org/countries/gambia](http://www.wfp.org/countries/gambia)

**Photo Caption:** A woman farmer affected by flooding smiling after benefiting from an unconditional cash transfer provided by WFP  
**Photo Credit:** WFP/Louise Alsan

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
95.2 million	24.9 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (May–October 2025)
20.6 million	6.3 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.

- As part of efforts to enhance the adaptive capacity of rural populations in The Gambia, WFP together with the Ministry of Lands, Regional Government and Religious Affairs supported **9 communities** in the Central River North and Upper River Regions that opted for **community tree planting** as form of community asset creation by providing **unconditional cash transfers** to **2,824 beneficiaries** (353 households) identified by the project communities themselves. A total of **US\$ 51,493** was distributed.

- WFP together with partners **trained more than 100 people**, including national and regional experts from various government institutions, such as the Ministry of Forestry and the Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security in April 2025 to develop knowledge and skills on **erosion features identification, water harvesting, as well as soil and water conservation principles and techniques**. The initiative seeks to contribute to improve crop productivity and soil fertility and reduce soil and water loss. The three-day training was held in three communities in the Upper River and Central River North and South Regions.
- WFP supported a preliminary total of **5,184 people** (648 households) **affected by river flooding** in the Central River North and South Regions of the country through **unconditional cash transfers** for 3 months in April 2025. The floods affected agricultural fields, mainly rice fields, situated around the banks of the river Gambia, severely impacting their yield and posing challenges for households to meet their required food stock as expected. A total of **US\$ 140,581** was distributed to the most food insecure families headed by women farmers.
- The Country Office in partnership with the Government published a **new Joint Market Bulletin Report** in April 2025. It reveals that the economic situation of the country is moderately in progress despite global trade fragmentation and geopolitical tensions. The Central Bank of The Gambia's Composite Index of Economic Activity projects 5.9 percent economic growth in 2025. **Headline inflation** remains high with **9.1 percent annually**. This continues to reflect on the **food inflation**, which yearly increased by **10 percent**, adversely impacting the ability of the most vulnerable people in the country to afford a healthy diet.

Challenges

- Crisis response:** The Country Office requires around US\$ 3.2 million for the next six months (78 percent) to strengthen the country's emergency preparedness, planning, and response as well as to provide essential assistance to shock-affected people.
- Nutrition assistance:** The Country Office requires approximately US\$ 2.3 million for the next six months (68 percent) to provide nutrition prevention packages for population groups at risk of malnutrition.
- School feeding:** The Country Office requires around US\$ 0.7 million for the next six months (25 percent) to provide school meals to children located in the most vulnerable parts of the country.

Donors

Donors to WFP The Gambia Country Strategic Plan in 2025 include the Climate Adaptation Fund, Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, UNAIDS, Peace Building Fund, Government of The Gambia, Green Climate Fund, DSM-Firmenich, Japan, Japan Association for the World Food Programme, Danish Refugee Council, Latter-day Saints Charity, and Mastercard Foundation.