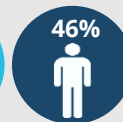


## WFP The Gambia Country Brief May – June 2025



## In Numbers



**150,972 people** assisted in May and June 2025

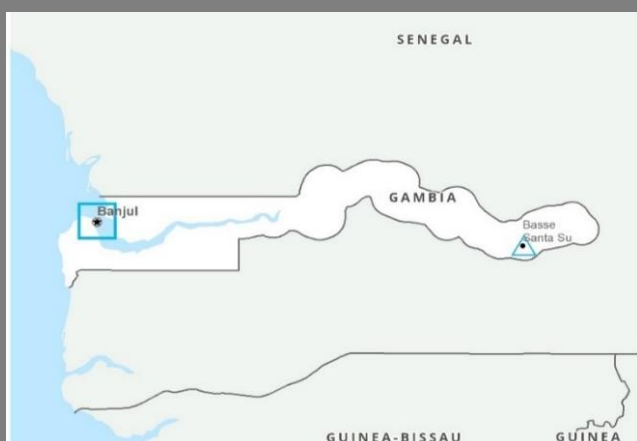
**US\$ 579,492** cash-based transfers made from May to June 2025

**US\$ 6.1 million** six-month (July-December 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, 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 current 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**

## 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 provides daily meals to a total of **150,972** children, comprising 54 percent girls.
- The Country Office participated in the **Coordinating Committee Meeting (CCM) of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE)** in the North Bank Region in May 2025. The workshop brought together all education stakeholders at national level to examine the implementation of MoBSE's programmes. School visits allowed to assess their achievements and challenges with regard to minimum standards. Recommendations for improvements were submitted to the school authorities. The next CCM is scheduled for October 2025 and will be held in the Central River South Region.
- The Minister of Basic and Secondary Education of The Gambia, Ms. Dr. Habibatu Drammeh participated in the **Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Board meeting** in Paris, France in June 2025. The Minister advocated for school health and nutrition as a multisectoral solution for education, gender equality, and climate resilience, which will support girls to be well-nourished, stay in school, avoid early marriage, and achieve better learning outcomes, breaking cycles of poverty and inequality. She further emphasised that The Gambia continues to be a committed member of the School Meals Coalition (SMC).
- The CO welcomed Latter-day Saints (LDS) Charities West Africa President, Mr. Elder Alfred Kyungu and Humanitarian Specialist, Mr. Isaac Mensah in The Gambia to **inaugurate and launch the market platform and cold storage facility at the Bakau Women's Garden**. Both facilities have been constructed by WFP in cooperation with the Kanifing Municipal Council (KMC) and support from LDS. Lord Major, Mr. Talib Bensouda and Deputy Mayor, Ms. Binta Janneh Jallow of KMC inaugurated the event.
- The National Association of Cooperative Credit Unions of The Gambia (NACCUG) in partnership with WFP conducted a **training on financial literacy** for 278 smallholder farmers in June 2025 as part of capacity building on financial services.

## Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
<b>95.2 million</b>	<b>25.0 million</b>
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July–December 2025)
<b>20.6 million</b>	<b>6.1 million</b>

### 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.

- A **sensitisation session on national food safety regulations** was successfully conducted in June 2025 for a large variety of stakeholders involved in the HGSP programme by the national Food Safety and Quality Authority (FSQA) in cooperation with WFP. The session engaged 13 cooperatives, 14 suppliers, and 12 regional education officials, with the objective to enhance their understanding of food safety standards and ensure compliance throughout the supply chain.
- The Country Office in cooperation with the National HIV/AIDS Control Programme (NACP) under the Ministry

of Health conducted four two-day **social behavioural change (SBC) communication sessions on nutrition and health for people living with HIV (PLHIV)** for respective 15 PLHIV self-help group members in the country's North Bank, Lower River, Upper River, and Central River North and South Regions.

- The Country Office together with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources conducted a four-day **training on effective communication of climate information products and services** for 85 people from agricultural extension services, traditional communicators, and climate change agents in the Central River North and South and Upper River Regions.
- The Gambia Startup Chamber of Commerce (GSCC) facilitated a three-day **business development and entrepreneurship training** in partnership with WFP for 29 youth change agents from the Central River North and South and Upper River Regions in June 2025. The training aimed to equip participants with the necessary skills to formalise their businesses, manage finances effectively, and market their products or services. This is part of WFP's broader efforts to strengthen rural resilience in the face of increasing climate change impacts and shocks in the country.
- WFP welcomed an **appraisal mission by the African Development Bank (AfDB)** for the project titled "Strengthening Adaptation and Resilience of Rural Communities in The Gambia" under the Climate Action Window (CAW). The mission allowed to engage with the Government and key stakeholders to validate the project's design, implementation modalities, financing structure, and strategic alignment with national and regional priorities. The initiative will be implemented by WFP, the Central Bank of The Gambia, an African Risk Capacity Limited (ARC Ltd).

## Challenges

- Crisis response:** The Country Office requires around US\$ 3.5 million for the next six months (84 percent of requirements) 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\$ 2.6 million for the next six months (35 percent of requirements) to provide nutrition prevention packages for population groups at risk of malnutrition.

## 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, Joint SDG Fund, Danish Refugee Council, Latter-day Saints Charity, and Mastercard Foundation.