

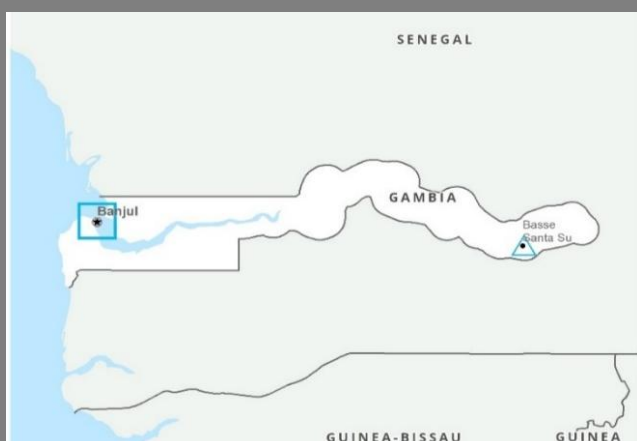
WFP The Gambia Country Brief July – August 2025



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 2025 lean season (June-August 2025), 243,937 people were 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.



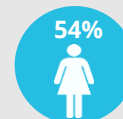
Population: **2.4 million**

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 July and August 2025

US\$ 3.3 million six-month (September 2025 - February 2026) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- WFP is preparing to continue to support **422 schools** across the country's Upper River, Central River North and South, and North Bank Regions through its **Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme**. Ahead of the start of the new school year in September 2025, local suppliers were contracted by regional education directorates to deliver the necessary food commodities for daily school meals of **164,194 children**. A joint mission organised with the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education in August 2025 ensured proper support of the local procurement. The number of enrolled children increased by **8.5 percent** compared to the previous school year.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, WFP conducted a **deworming and Vitamin A supplementation campaign** in July 2025, targeting **145,000 children** through the HGSF programme.
- The **joint project titled "Empowering Communities for Resilient Food Systems in Foni"**, was successfully launched in July 2025. The one-year project is led by WFP and co-implemented with the International Trade Centre (ITC), under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and in close cooperation with the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education. It will leverage HGSF as a catalyst to transform local food systems and enhance resilience by **addressing systemic challenges in governance, market access, and sustainability** in The Gambia. It will promote behavioural change through nutrition awareness campaigns and the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices.
- The Government of the Gambia has conducted a **Healthy Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) exercise** between December 2024 and May 2025 with support from WFP and the World Bank. By analysing current school health and nutrition policies and systems, the assessment aims at fostering multi-sectoral dialogue, benchmarking existing programmes against global standards, identifying strengths and gaps, and developing a roadmap with stakeholders to inform strategic decisions and enhance available frameworks and structures. A two-day workshop of the national Healthy SABER taskforce will be held in September 2025 to endorse the final action plan and report.

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
95.2 million	25 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (September 2025 – February 2026)
20.6 million	3.3 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.

- With support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security, WFP trained **500 people** affected by river flooding, who previously received unconditional cash transfers, on **income, savings, and investments** in July 2025. This will improve their financial management capacity, thereby contributing to the sustainability of their agricultural businesses.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security, WFP trained **54 extension workers** in August 2025 on **post-harvest management and value addition for grains and horticulture**. This will empower trainers to use the knowledge acquired to support farmers across the country, promoting reduced post-harvest losses and improved product quality of their agribusiness ventures.
- With the Government of The Gambia, Central Bank of The Gambia, African Risk Capacity Limited, and other partners, WFP successfully concluded in August 2025 a **capacity building and regional sensitisation campaign on micro-insurance for 283 participants**, including community ambassadors, agricultural extension workers, government departments, farmers, and local authorities, amongst others. The programme aimed at creating awareness on the characteristics and advantages of the agricultural index insurance solution, developed for the 2025 seasonal coverage, and enable ambassadors to collect essential data, including information on the agricultural campaign, seasonal profiles, and geographical coordinates of the covered sites.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources, WFP in August 2025 supported **1221 farming families** with **animal-drawn farming tools** to enhance their production and productivity.

Challenges

- Crisis response:** The Country Office needs around US\$ 0.8 million for the next six months (57 percent of total requirements) to strengthen the country's emergency preparedness, planning, and response capacity as well as to provide essential assistance to shock-affected people.
- Nutrition assistance:** The Country Office needs approximately US\$ 0.9 million for the next six months (63 percent of total requirements) to provide nutrition prevention packages for population groups at risk of malnutrition.
- School feeding:** The Country Office needs around US\$ 1.5 million for the next six months (47 percent of total requirements) 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, Joint SDG Fund, Danish Refugee Council, Latter-day Saints Charity, and Mastercard Foundation.