



World Food  
Programme

SAVING LIVES  
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## WFP The Gambia Country Brief November – December 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



**176,954 people** assisted in November and December 2025

**US\$ 635,000** cash-based transfers made from November to December 2025

**US\$ 3.9 million** six-month (January 2026 – June 2026) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- WFP transferred **US\$ 690,000** to **422** beneficiary schools to purchase food commodities ahead of the second term of 2025-2026 school year (January to March 2026). Food deliveries to assist to **164,194 children** in the Upper River, Central River North and South, and North Bank Regions were completed in December 2025 before the schools closed for the year-end holidays.
- WFP is advancing follow-up actions after the government's Healthy-SABER exercise, conducted with World Bank and WFP support. Work includes costing the programme's action plan and revising its handover strategy. In line with Healthy-SABER recommendations, WFP will develop a Capacity Strengthening Strategy and a concept note to guide the expansion and transition of the National School Feeding Programme.
- WFP and the International Trade Centre organized a training from 24–28 November 2025 under the UN Joint SDG Fund project, bringing together area councils, local authorities, and regional school feeding focal points to strengthen human security, planning, and budgeting capacities. WFP also conducted training on School Connect, a digital platform for real-time school feeding data management, targeting staff from **50 selected schools** in Foni to support the platform's expansion.
- A total of **210 farmers** from the North Bank and Central River South Regions were successfully trained on postharvest management of grains. The training equipped participants with best practices for safe harvesting, processing, and storage of grains. These practices aim to improve grain quality and enhance the marketability of produce, particularly for the Home-Grown School Feeding Program (HGSFP).
- 76 farmers** were sensitized and trained on cooperative management, resulting in the establishment of seven cooperatives aligned with seven additional aggregators for the HGSFP. This initiative is designed to strengthen collaboration among farmers and improve the sourcing of local food commodities.

**Contact Information:** Anta Kah - Jannneh ([anta.kahjanneh@wfp.org](mailto:anta.kahjanneh@wfp.org))

**Country Director:** Miranda Sende

Further Information: [www.wfp.org/countries/gambia](http://www.wfp.org/countries/gambia)

**Photo Caption:** Joint field mission with French chargé d'affaires and the Regional Governors of the North Bank and Upper River Region

**Photo Credit:** WFP/Sulayman Jammeh

## Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
<b>95.2 million</b>	<b>25 million</b>
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January – June 2026)
<b>20.6 million</b>	<b>3.9 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.

- In the Central River Region, **700 gardeners** and school representatives were trained on compost making using locally available materials such as animal droppings and food waste. The use of compost will improve soil quality in community and school gardens, ensuring adequate crop nutrition and maximizing yield quality.
- The national launch of the Africa Integrated Climate Risk Management (AICRM) project concluded with an inception workshop. Stakeholders engaged in WFP planned activities

for 2026 and a draft work plan is currently under review by global headquarters. Preparations are under way for the national validation of the *"Feasibility Study Report on Micro-Insurance Implementation in The Gambia"* planned for 14 and 15 January 2026.

- As part of the activities supporting flood affected communities in the previous rainy season, the final round of distributions in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Agency were successfully completed on December for the 458 participants of Food for Asset activities. Participants in the Central and Upper River Regions received rations of rice, beans, oil and salt.
- The Country Office conducted a joint visit of two agricultural training centres in the country – the Songhai Center and Ballingho Center (Center for Holistic Agribusiness Solutions) – together with the French chargé d'affaires and the Regional Governors of the North Bank and Upper River Region. The visit provided an opportunity to assess the centres' innovative approaches and identify challenges and best practices in their efforts. This will inform discussions and endeavours to fill remaining gaps to fully utilise their potential as well as to scale up and disseminate successful models across the country.
- Another joint field mission was conducted by the Country Director, at the invitation of the Chinese Embassy in The Gambia. The mission visited an agricultural training centre in Jambanjelly in the West Coast Region focused on vegetable crop cultivation technologies, built and supported by the Republic of China. The visit helped strengthen the WFP-China partnership in country, align on joint efforts in the field, and enhance advocacy for a proposal jointly developed with the WFP China Office and Sierra Leone country office, endorsed by the local embassy, and submitted to CIDCA in mid-2025, which is currently under review.
- In early December, the country office held its annual performance planning retreat. The team reflected on the key achievements and challenges in 2025 while assessing what needs to be done differently in the coming year to increase efficiency and effectiveness of interventions.

## Challenges

- School feeding:** The Country Office requires around US\$ 2.5 million for the next six months (69 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, Joint SDG Fund, Danish Refugee Council, Latter-day Saints Charity, and Mastercard Foundation.