



WFP The Gambia Country Brief

Highlights

- On 10 March, WFP Gambia together with the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education and the First Lady celebrated the 2016 Africa School Meals Day across the country.
- School meals were provided to school children in all targeted regions in March.

WFP Assistance

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Establishing the Foundation for a Nationally-owned, Sustainable School Feeding Programme			
DEV 200327 (Aug 12 - Dec 17)	21.5 m	12.1 m (56%)	0.1 m (6%)
Targeted support to vulnerable people affected by drought and flooding			
PRRO 200557 (Jun 13 - Dec 16)	16.2 m	5.8 m (36%)	0.9 m (99%)

*April - September 2016

The School Meals Project, focuses on strengthening the overall institutional and policy framework for a national school meals system as well as consolidating and improving the gains achieved in access to pre-primary and primary education. This is accomplished through direct support for school meals in the most vulnerable districts. Key activities include nutrition education, a pilot initiative on local procurement, which links school meals to local agricultural production, and ensure sustainable markets to small scale farmers.

Following a SABER exercise in December 2014, a school feeding master plan was prepared and validated. A cash transfer feasibility study was conducted, resulting in the selection of 24 schools to pilot cash based transfer through community/school structures and caterers. Other major activities being planned include the development of a signed transition agreement with the government, institutional capacity assessment and school feeding cost benefit analysis. Support was provided for the development of a social protection minimum package which includes school feeding, through the UN Social Protection Working Group. The package which includes school meals programme was finalized in April 2015. A South-South Cooperation programme to strengthen social protection initiatives in The Gambia is being finalized with the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil.

The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, seeks to provide assistance to food insecure and vulnerable households, particularly malnourished children with moderate acute malnutrition including pregnant and nursing women as well as children 6-23 months especially during the lean season. Approximately 105,000 people are targeted.

WFP is participating as part of the UN Country Team (comprising of UN agencies, government and other development partners) in the formulation of the Humanitarian Response Plan under OCHA coordination.



Main Photo

Credits: WFP/Alagie Manka, WFP/Sulayman S. S. Jammeh
Caption: The first African School meals day is celebrated countrywide through food fairs, radio and TV sensitization.



March 2016

Operational Updates

- The deadline effecting the ban on the import of rice has been extended from 31 December 2015 to September 2016.
- The drafting of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017 – 2021 is near finalization.
- The draft National School Feeding Policy document was validated in early December 2015. The final policy is subject to Cabinet approval.
- Planning for the pilot of the cash based transfers for decentralized community procurement as part of the school meals programme, is advancing. Training of pilot schools is complete. Schools have been provided with tender boxes, procurement files with templates, office safes and weighing scales. Schools have launched tenders and open bids, the transfer of funds to schools are in progress.
- The implementation of SCOPE (WFP's new beneficiary registration and transfer platform) has started in The Gambia with registration for the blanket supplementary feeding activities in Upper River Region.

Challenges

- Four out of six regions currently assisted under DEV 200327 require urgent funding support.
- Funding is urgently needed for PRRO 200557. All activities under the operation are currently interrupted due to lack of resources.
- Activities under the targeted supplementary feeding of the PRRO for children under 5 have temporarily ceased due to the unavailability of commodities in the country. Targeted supplementary feeding for pregnant and nursing women remains suspended due to lack of resources.

Risk analysis and preparedness measures

The 2015 pre-harvest crop assessment indicates that overall crop production increased by 10 percent from the previous year but remains below the five year average.

The November 2015 Cadre Harmonisé report indicates 54,000 people are under the food insecurity crisis phase. This number is projected to rise to 96,000 by mid-2016 if no assistance is provided.

Food prices for January 2016, have generally shown an increasing trend over the past year (January 2015). The prices for long grain rice, broken rice and local rice have increased by 14, 10, and 8 percent respectively. Maize and Millet and have both increased by 9 percent and 19 percent respectively, while there was no significant change in the price of groundnuts.

Country Background & Strategy



With a GDP per capita income of USD 428, subsistence rain fed rural agriculture is one of the major drivers of The Gambia's economy. The HDI for The Gambia increased from 0.272 in 1980 to 0.441 in 2014, but it is below the regional average for Sub-Saharan Africa during the same period. Poverty levels remain high with 57.2 percent of the population considered to be multi-dimensionally poor and 33.6 percent of the population living below the income poverty line (USD 1.25/daily). At least 10 percent of the population is considered food insecure, while 45 percent of the population are vulnerable to food insecurity.

According to the 2015 Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey the prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) increased to 10.4 percent, up from 9.9 percent in the 2012 survey. National stunting rates were recorded at a critical 24.9 percent. Kerewan, Basse, Kuntaur, Janjanbureh districts all recorded stunting rates above the national average. Gross enrolment rate for primary education (Grade 6) stands at 73.6, while completion with pass rate in all core subjects for basic cycle education (Grade 9) is 24.1 percent in 2015.

WFP has been present in The Gambia since 1970.

Population: **1.9 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **172 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower**

Chronic malnutrition: **24.9% of children between 6-59 months**

Donors

European Commission, The Gambia, Japan, Brazil, Private sector, Japan, ECHO, USAID and Multilateral.

Contact info: Mustapha Jammeh (mustapha.jammeh@wfp.org)
Country Director: Vitoria Ginja (vitoria.ginja@wfp.org)
Further information: www.wfp.org/XXX