



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP The Gambia Country Brief June 2020



In Numbers

86.54 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 cash-based transfers made

US\$19.9 m six months (July-December 2020) net funding requirements

11,091 people assisted
in June 2020

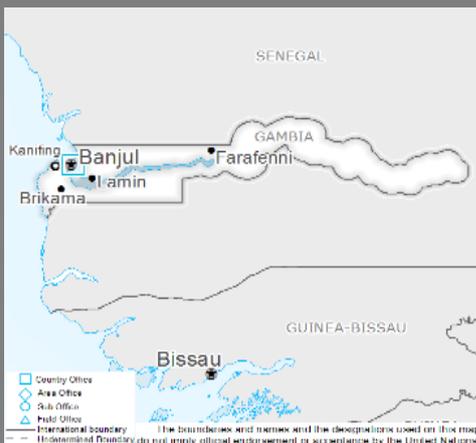


Operational Context

With a population of 2.2 million, the Republic of The Gambia is faced with rising food insecurity, poverty and malnutrition, despite a promising environment for improved growth, stability and partnerships.

The COVID-19 pandemic coincides with and exacerbates a deteriorating food and nutrition insecurity situation which follows an early onset of lean season and successive years of bad harvests. Thus, The Gambia, a net-food importer, has seen a spike in the number of food insecure people across the six regions, estimated at 733,000 persons based on a Government assessment, including about 40,000 urban population reported to have lost jobs and livelihoods and in need of livelihood support. Furthermore, COVID-19 contributes to increasing acute malnutrition by an estimated 36 percent, affecting 58,177 children. The affected population will require food assistance until December 2020.

The Country Office faces a critical pipeline break of the prevention of malnutrition programme during the lean season which is key during this period as the COVID-19 state of emergency has resulted in an increase in food insecurity. The pipeline break will lead to a complete suspension of this activity. The CO will prioritize treatment of PLW and crisis response during the lean season (June – October) to vulnerable populations and nutritional support to children 6-23 months.



Operational Updates

- On 8 June, the first humanitarian flight landed at the Banjul International Airport. WFP Gambia facilitated the approval for the Gambian Government to authorize access to a Humanitarian Corridor for WFP Aviation. This service will provide passenger and cargo air service for humanitarian and health workers as part of WFP's logistics support for The Gambia's COVID-19 response, ensuring that medical and personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies, and Aid Workers are able to reach The Gambia. Flights are scheduled twice weekly, every fortnight to Banjul. As Co-Chair of the Logistics and Safety Committee, WFP continues to support logistics and safety requirements of the Government.
- In order to curb the spread of COVID-19 across the country, on 10 June, the Government of The Gambia extended the national state of emergency for an additional 21 days, effective until 1 July 2020. Although the state of emergency remains in effect, the Government announced an easing of restrictions on 4 June, leading to the reopening of markets, mosques and churches with outlined restrictive measures.
- As the lean season and rains commenced in June, WFP continued to monitor the food security situation within the COVID-19 context. Food insecurity continues to be exacerbated by the loss of income and livelihoods, leading to increased vulnerabilities within urban and rural populations of the country.
- WFP also continued to support the national grievance redressal mechanism (1025 Call Centre) in partnership with the Government of The Gambia, enabling citizens across the country to access immediate 24-hour support and guidance on reporting and handling probable COVID-19 cases. About 80 percent of the COVID-19 cases have so far been reported through the call centre.
- The Gambia Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education to disinfect 190 schools in line with plans for a staggered reopening of schools.

Population: **1.1 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **148 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

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Main photo

Credit: ©MamadouJallow/WFPTheGambia

Caption: WFP Country Director Wanja Kaaria (far-right) escorts a WFP staff member boarding the first humanitarian flight at the Banjul International Airport.

Country Strategic Plan (Jan 2019- Dec 2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
49.1 m	4.06 m	19.9 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations, including those impacted by seasonal shocks, in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crisis

Focus area: Crisis Response

Strategic Outcome 2: Food-insecure populations including school-aged children, in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food all year

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provide food assistance to crisis-affected populations
- Provide school meals to vulnerable pre- and primary school children during the school year, and strengthen capacity of local government to manage school meals programmes as a national safety net

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable populations including children and pregnant and lactating women and girls and other nutritionally vulnerable individuals, in food insecure regions have improved nutritional status by 2023

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provide specialized nutritious foods to pregnant and lactating women and girls and children under five to treat and prevent acute and chronic malnutrition and provide training and technical support to national institutions to manage nutrition programmes

Strategic Result 3: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome 4: Food-insecure smallholders including vulnerable households in targeted areas have enhanced livelihoods and resilience to better support food security and nutrition needs by 2023

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provide supply chain and market support including Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) to farmers to increase productivity and access to markets, complemented by community asset creation through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome 5: National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacity to meet Zero Hunger Targets by 2023.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance to the Government on the implementation of the National Social Protection Policy (NSSP), with focus on the gradual handover of the home-grown school feeding programme, resource mobilisation and disaster preparedness and shock response systems

nationwide. The reopening of schools will adopt a phased approach, with priority given to grade 9 and grade 12 students who will sit their exams this year. To ensure readiness, WFP in partnership with the Gambia Red Cross Society commenced support to

- With increasing urban vulnerability, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Fisheries, embarked on extensive consultations with women fish mongers in three different communities (Tanji, Brufut and Gunjur). The objectives were to discuss support needed for the promotion of women-led fish landing sites, as well as to explore ways to progressively link them to markets, particularly through the school feeding programme.
- In the month of June, WFP partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to undertake a COVID-19 National Security Taskforce tour to assess border posts and security installations nationwide. Preliminary findings revealed that the smuggling of goods and people across the porous borders, weak surveillance systems and lack of effective community policing continue to pose a challenge to The Gambia in its efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Challenges

- The country office faces critical resource constraints for the prevention of malnutrition programme during the lean season, which is key during this period as the COVID-19 state of emergency has resulted in an increase in food insecurity. These gaps will lead to a complete suspension of this activity. The country office plans to prioritize malnutrition treatment of pregnant and lactating women (PLW), crisis response during the 2020 lean season (June-October) to vulnerable populations and nutritional support to children aged 6-23 months.

Partnerships

WFP maintains an active collaboration with Government partners, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, development partners and other United Nations agencies, particularly the Rome-Based Agencies - FAO and IFAD, to ensure the harmonization of activities in food security and nutrition. WFP chairs the UN Disaster Risk Reduction group and participates in working groups in key sectors such as education and social protection.

Donors

Donors to WFP The Gambia in 2020 include the Government of The Gambia and the EU. Additional support has been provided by the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

- WFP is supporting the Gambian government in rolling out school feeding take home rations to over 200,000 school children