



WFP The Gambia Country Brief December 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

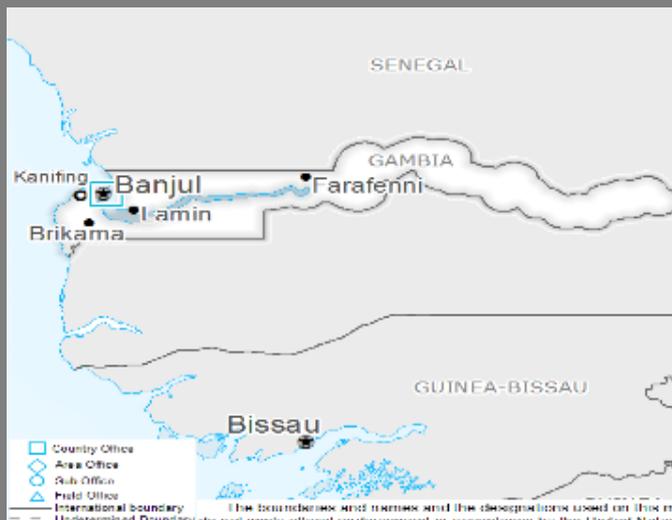


Operational Context

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.

Progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 is limited, given the high level of vulnerability to food insecurity coupled with the high prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in children aged 6-59 months, and stunting rates above the national average, with a high of 24.9 percent in four districts. 48 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line, and eight percent is still food insecure.

The Gambia is ranked *medium* (risk) for stunting and wasting and *high* (risk) for underweight according to the WHO Classification of malnutrition, with total figures at 15.7 percent of stunting, 5.8 percent of wasting and 10.6 percent underweight population (GMNS 2018). WFP has been present in The Gambia since 1970.



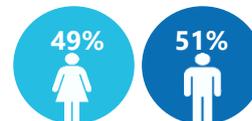
In Numbers

301 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 0.3 m cash based transfers made

USD 3.8 m six months (January-June 2020) net funding requirements

182,407 people assisted
in December 2019



Operational Updates

- The UN Peacebuilding Fund awarded a total of USD 1.7 million to a consortium of three UN agencies in The Gambia; WFP, UNFPA, and ITC. USD 750,000 was awarded explicitly to WFP. The project will mitigate and address growing conflict and tensions occurring among rural agricultural communities in The Gambia which are affected by the increasing impacts of climate change on their lives and livelihoods. The project will also ensure that communities are able to mitigate conflict and tensions related to encroachment of land in neighbouring community farms and minimise escalating competition for scarce natural resources, while simultaneously implementing a strong gender mainstreaming approach.
- The Gambia WFP Country Office signed its first mobile money agreement with AfriMoney and QMoney financial service providers. This agreement serves as a pivotal tool to further the goal of financial inclusion of beneficiaries. Consequently, WFP collaborated with partners from the National Disaster Management Agency, the Gambian Red Cross Society, AfriMoney, and QMoney to register and issue 900 remote households in the Central River Region and Upper River Region with sim cards for cash-based transfers. The two regions were severely affected by the windstorm surge in June 2019, which left several beneficiaries food insecure.
- WFP reached a milestone by introducing the home-grown school feeding model implementation to all six regions in its operational history. The school coverage increased from 129 to 312, and a total of USD 727,769.642 was distributed to schools through cash transfers for local food procurement.
- An implementers' training for the development of a Food Safety System according to Codex Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) was organised from 11th to 16th December 2019 by WFP in collaboration with Gambia Horticultural Enterprises (GHE). This acts as a prelude to the development of HACCP Plan for fortified cereal products that are going to be manufactured in a purpose-built plant at Kembujeh.

Contact info: anta.kahjanneh@wfp.org

Country Director: Wanja Kaaria Ndoho

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/gambia

Main photo

Credit: Red Cross/Modou Touray

Caption: Focus Group discussions during PBF consultations

Country Strategic Plan (Jan 2019- Dec 2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
25m	5.8 m	3.8 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 (HGFSF) 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

- WFP contributed significantly to the 2019 Preharvest Assessment, which was conducted by the Government of The Gambia and validated on 9 December 2019. In addition to committing funds, WFP also played a key role in strengthening

the analysis and enhancing the report. An immediate response plan is being developed by the Government and UN Agencies to provide food assistance for 46,416 highly vulnerable people as well as a resilience plan for 311,466 vulnerable people.

- WFP is committed to providing national partners with capacity building and training to provide safe and adequate access to food. A three-day training was conducted in the Central River Region and the Lower River Region to capacitate communities, schools, Village Development Committees, Food Management Committees, and warehouse personnel on best practices of warehousing, storage, and inventory management of food commodities.
- The National Commemoration of 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV) took place at the Westfield Youth Monument on 10th December. WFP staff displayed their support in numbers at the Awareness Walk on Sexual and GBV. WFP Gambia Country Director, while delivering a speech on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator, reiterated the UN's commitment towards investing in building capacities of the gender machinery, law enforcement institutions, engaging grassroots communities, and strengthening the health system, while ensuring that all stakeholders play their respective roles in preventing and combatting violence in all its forms.
- WFP is committed to strengthening the capacity of national partners to ensure accessibility to safe and quality food commodities. In this regard, a four-day training was conducted in Central River Region and Lower River Region to capacitate communities, and schools in best practices of warehousing and inventory management of food commodities.

Evaluation

The Gambia CO has its annual decentralized evaluation exercise with data collection foreseen in April.

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 (WFP, 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

[UN Peacebuilding Fund](#)