



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP The Gambia Country Brief February 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.

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 food insecure.

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



Population: **2.2 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **174 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

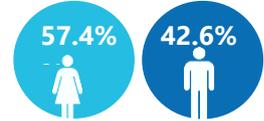
## In Numbers

**11.5mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 3.9 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 2.8 m** six months (March-August 2020) net funding requirements

**107,541 people assisted** in February 2020



## Operational Updates

On 13 February 2020, the Brazil Centre of Excellence (CoE) supported a half-day virtual workshop for the WFP Gambia school feeding unit on home grown school feeding programme (HGSFP). The teams engaged on how the Brazil HGSFP operates and drew lessons that could be relevant for The Gambia.

Discussions centred around the practical solutions to the school feeding programme in The Gambia and the adoption of a more multisectoral and comprehensive approach to include farming, nutrition, health, gender and various additional accountability components. Institutional capacity strengthening for the Gambian government counterparts was also highlighted for the eventual phased hand-over approach to take ownership of the school feeding Programme aligned with the WFP 2020-2030 SF strategy.

WFP in The Gambia and the Brazil CoE have been engaged in resource mobilization projects for international funds to finance actions on country capacity strengthening and smallholder farming development through South-South cooperation with gender-transformative approaches for the country. As part of the third visit to finalize these project preparations on 5 February 2020, the WFP country office, the CoE and the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education visited two schools in central Banjul, the capital of The Gambia; Albion Lower Basic School and Muhammadan Lower Basic School.

The objective of the visit was to learn more on the best practices and on the capacity needs for project developments in The Gambia. WFP Brazil's support for resource mobilization has the potential to catalyse over USD 10 million for the Government of The Gambia to continue taking ownership of the WFP country office work on scaling up the school feeding programme in the country.

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**Main photo**

**Credit:** Kebba Jallow/WFP The Gambia

**Caption:** Staff during the Annual Performance Plan workshop

**Country Strategic Plan (Jan 2019- Dec 2021)**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>29.6 m</b>	<b>5.8 m</b>	<b>2.8 m</b>

**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 (HGFS) to farmers to increase productivity and access to markets, complemented by community asset creation through Food Assistance for Assets (FAA)

**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

The main objective of the APP was to take stock of WFP’s performance against its activities and programmes carried out in 2019, as well as to collectively plan for WFP’s priorities for 2020. All staff from different functional units participated in formulating deliverables and key performance indicators as well as identifying potential risks and challenges. Key amongst the issues discussed was the need to revitalise synergies across the functional units in order to address cross-cutting areas of intervention including gender-transformative home-grown school feeding as well as proper implementation of funds and grants.

**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**

European Commission, The Government of The Gambia, Master Card, Japan.

The WFP Gambia country office held a three-day Annual Performance Plan (APP) workshop from 19 to 21 February 2020.