

# WFP The Gambia Country Brief

## Highlights

- The Zero Hunger Country Strategic Review has officially begun.
- A total of 8,817 people were assisted under the immediate response emergency operation (IR-EMOP 201036) in March 2017.

## WFP Assistance

Establishing the Foundation for a Nationally-owned, Sustainable School Feeding Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
DEV 200327 (Aug 12 – Dec 17)	21.6 m	13.8 m (64%)	1.8 m (42%)

\*April - September 2017

The School Meals Programme focuses on strengthening the overall institutional and policy framework for a National School Meals System and consolidating and improving the gains achieved in access to pre-primary and primary education. Key activities include nutrition education and a cash-based transfer pilot which links school meals to local markets and small scale farmers.

To boost financial capacity of social protection programmes, the country office, in collaboration with the Government and UN partners, has finalised the terms of reference for a study on the creation of fiscal space in the national budget.

Targeted support to flood and windstorm affected households	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
IR-EMOP 201036 (Oct 16 – Jan 17)	400,000	400,000 (100%)

Following request for support from the Government, the IR-EMOP provides three-month food assistance to 10,000 people affected by 2016 heavy rains and windstorms. WFP's assistance is part of a multi-sectorial response plan by the Government, other UN agencies and NGOs.

SCOPE, the WFP corporate digital platform for transfer and beneficiary information management, was used for the registration of people targeted for assistance.

Targeted support to vulnerable people affected by drought and flooding	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200557 (Jun 13 – Mar 18)	20.9 m	12 m (58%)	-

\*April - September 2017

The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) seeks to provide assistance to food insecure and vulnerable households, particularly children aged 6-23 months with moderate acute malnutrition, and pregnant and nursing women, especially during the lean season. The operation targets 157,100 people.

The PRRO also has components on building livelihoods and enhancing national capacities on early warning, and emergency response and preparedness.



Credit: WFP/Isatou Njai.

Caption: School children from Muhammeddan primary school participate in the celebration of School Meals Day.

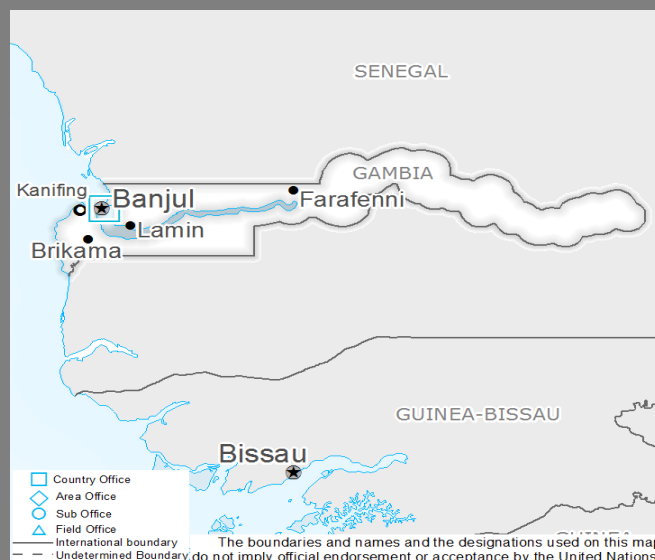
## Operational Updates

- In March 2017, WFP provided food assistance through cash transfers to 8,817 people under IR-EMOP 201036. The assistance targets people affected by floods and windstorms during the 2016 rainy season. The activity was implemented in partnership with the National Disaster Management Agency, Gambia Red Cross Society and United Purpose.
- A total of 80,229 schoolchildren and cooks were targeted for assistance by WFP in the month of March. WFP provided food assistance to pre and primary school children in Greater Banjul Area, West Coast, Lower River, Central River and Upper River Regions for the month of March.
- WFP and the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education led the celebrations for the World School Meals Day on 1 March. Schoolchildren benefitting from the school meals programme participated in the celebration activities.
- The national Zero Hunger Strategic Review process has commenced. The Lead Convener and his team have started initial consultations with government members to familiarise them about the process and scope of the review.
- Technical meeting with key government stakeholders was held ahead of the regional and national consultation on Purchase from Africans for Africa project. The regional consultations are scheduled to start in April 2017.
- Funding was recently received from SRAC allocation as well as the European Commission under a joint action to be implemented by WFP, FAO and UNICEF.
- Preparation plans for the resumption of nutrition prevention and treatment activities have commenced. These activities were previously suspended under the PRRO due to lack of resources.
- A total of 77,828 people are reported to be in food insecurity (Phase 3 – Crisis) according to the March 2017 *Cadre Harmonisé* findings. This number is expected to increase to 111,645 people (Crisis) by August 2017.

## Challenges

- Availability of sufficient locally produced food commodities to support local procurement initiative continues to be a challenge for the school meals programme.

## Country Background & Strategy



With a GDP per capita income of USD 450, subsistence rain fed rural agriculture is one of the major drivers of The Gambia's economy. The Human Development Index (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 are considered multi-dimensionally poor and 48.4 percent of the population living below the income poverty line (USD 1.25/day). At least 8 percent of the population is considered food insecure, or 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 10.3 percent, up from 9.9 percent in the 2012 survey. National stunting rates were recorded at a critical 24.9 percent. Kerewan, Basse, Kuntaur and Janjanbureh Local Government Areas all recorded stunting rates above the national average.

Net enrolment rate in primary education (Grade 6) is 84.6 percent. Completion rate for the same level stands at 74.5, while completion with pass rate in all core subjects for basic cycle education (Grade 9) was 21 percent in 2016.

Population: **1.9 million**

2016 Human Development Index:  
**173 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower**

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

## Donors

European Commission, The Gambia, Japan, Brazil, Korea, TNT, ECHO, USAID and Multilateral.

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