



WFP The Gambia Country Brief

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)	23 m	17 m (75%)	-

* July – December 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 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)	21 m	13 m (64%)	-

* July – December 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.

Highlights

- WFP has started collaboration with UNICEF and its government counterparts on the use of the SCOPE beneficiary registration and transfer management platform.
- The launching of the joint nutrition project (Envelope B) was conducted in June.

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

A joint programme initiative funded by the European Union is being implemented by WFP, FAO and UNICEF. The main focus of the interventions by the three agencies targets the first 1,000 days of children. USD 11.5 million funding is available for the activities under the joint programme. The activities will be implemented jointly with relevant government counterparts and NGOs.



Credit: WFP/Mustapha Jammeh.

Caption: WFP staff participate in the registration of cash transfer beneficiaries through SCOPE in Upper River Region.

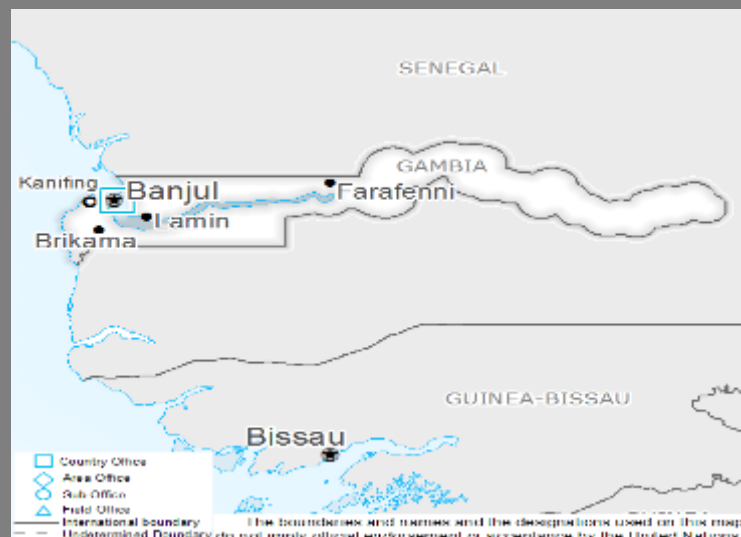
Operational Updates

- In June, WFP targeted a total of 80,229 schoolchildren and cooks for assistance. WFP provided food assistance to pre and primary school children in Greater Banjul Area, West Coast, Lower River, Central River, North Bank and Upper River Regions.
- Collaboration has started with UNICEF and its government counterparts in the implementation of the SCOPE beneficiary registration and transfer management platform. Field test and registration was completed for about 600 lactating women in Upper River Region. The project is funded by the European Union and builds resilience through social transfers. 6,000 lactating women from 10 health facilities are targeted for cash transfers over a period of two years.
- Training on implementation of community procurement - cash transfer model was completed for 12 schools in six regions. The schools are being shifted to this model following the phasing out of the caterer model as recommended by a joint internal review conducted by the Government and WFP.
- The launching of the joint nutrition project (Envelope B) was conducted in June. The project is being implemented by WFP, FAO, UNICEF and respective government counterparts with the Ministry of Health as the coordinating institution.
- WFP conducted orientation and training on treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among children and pregnant and lactating women for health workers in Upper River and North Bank Regions.
- WFP acquired 35 metric tonnes of locally produced beans from a smallholder farmer association in Upper River Region, and provided support for bagging, packing and provision of pallets.

Challenges

- Availability of sufficient locally produced food, particularly the production of rice and oil in country 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 considered multi-dimensionally poor and 48.6 percent (0.93million) 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 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. WFP has been present in Gambia since 1970.

Population: **1.9 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
173 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower**

Chronic malnutrition: **22.9% of children between 6-59 months**

Donors

European Commission, The Gambia, Japan, Brazil, Korea, and Multilateral.

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