

Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

GAMBIA

Establishing the Foundation for a Nationally-owned Sustainable School Feeding Program (2012-2016)

Project Number	200327
Project Category	Development Project
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	125,055
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	116,673
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	100,425

Project Approval Date	06 Jun 2012
Planned Start Date	01 Aug 2012
Actual Start Date	01 Aug 2012
Project End Date	31 Dec 2017
Financial Closure Date	n.a.

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	1,544,720
Cash--based Transfer and Related Costs	477,996
Direct Support Costs	3,817,990
Food and Related Costs	14,313,500
Indirect Support Costs	1,410,794
Total Approved Budget	21,565,000

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	18,466
Planned Commodities in 2015	3,551
Actual Commodities in 2015	2,513

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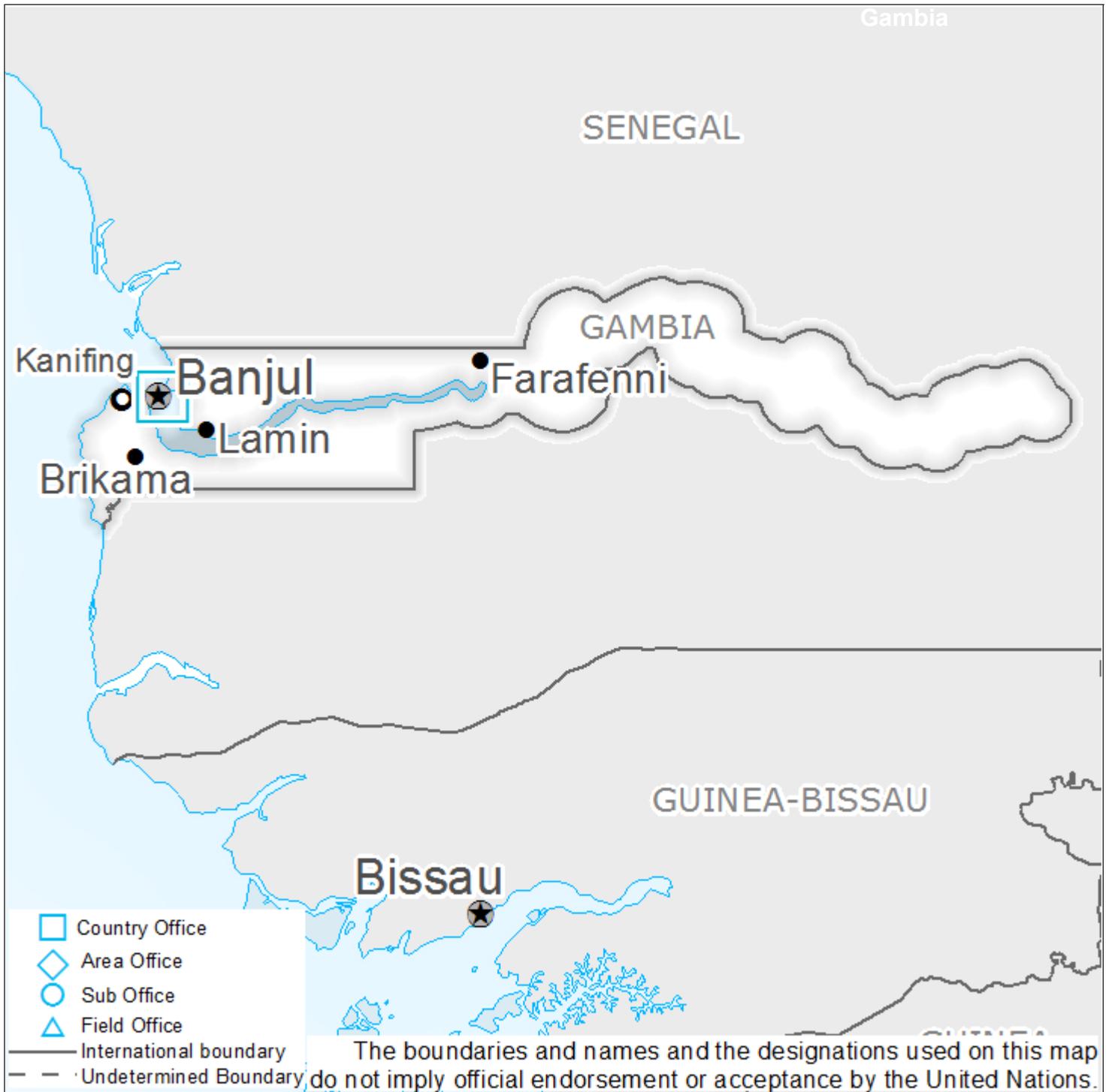
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Country Overview



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Located in West Africa, neighboring Senegal and the Atlantic Ocean, The Gambia, with a population of over 1.9 million, remains one of the least developed, low income and food-deficit countries in the world. The Gambia's economy is predominantly based on subsistence, rural and rain fed agriculture. With a GDP per capita of USD 428, it is ranked 172nd of the 186 countries in the 2014 UNDP Human Development Report, seven places lower than in 2013. The Human Development Index for The Gambia increased from 0.272 in 1980 to 0.441 in 2013, but it is below the regional average of 0.502 for Sub-Saharan Africa during the same period. Poverty levels remain high with 48.4 percent of the population living below the income poverty line (USD 1.25 per day) and at least 10 percent of the population considered food insecure. Domestic cereal production accounts for only up to 60 percent of annual consumption requirements and the country relies heavily on food imports. Foreign exchange earnings are based primarily on groundnut exports, tourism and remittances. The relatively undiversified economy makes The Gambia highly vulnerable to external shocks which put the country's food security at risk.

The Gambia joined the global movement for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) in 2012 and the Renewed Efforts to Address Child Hunger and Under-nutrition (REACH) partnership to scale up food and nutrition actions in 2013. According to the 2015 Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey the prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) increased to 10.4 percent, up from 9.9 percent in the 2012 SMART survey. Four out of eight local government areas (LGAs) registered GAM rates above the national average. National stunting rates were recorded at a critical 24.9 percent. Kerewan, Basse, Kuntaur, Janjanbureh LGAs all recorded stunting rates above the national average. The 2013 Demographic and Health Survey, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2010 and the 2012 SMART surveys all confirm the rising trend in malnutrition rates. About 50 percent of adult men and women are literate. Government policies provide for universal access to pre-primary and primary education, although the quality of education as well as the retention of children in schools is of concern. Gross enrolment rate for primary education (Grade 6) stands at 73.6, while completion with pass rate in all core subjects for basic cycle education (Grade 9) is 24.1 percent in 2015.

SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

WFP supported the government in pursuing both development and humanitarian objectives. While WFP was committed to help meet the needs of the most vulnerable, it was also assisting the government in its efforts to meet national priorities and contribute to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 1, 4 and 5.

In partnership with the government, WFP started a Development Project 200327 in August 2012, with the goal of establishing the foundation for a transition towards a nationally owned and managed sustainable school feeding programme. The project, which focuses on capacity development through knowledge transfer and provision of school meals, also aimed to ensure that the gains seen in increasing access to education and retention under previous development projects were consolidated and enhanced, especially in regions with significantly low rates of enrolment and retention.

In response to high malnutrition and residual food insecurity, WFP started implementing a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200557 in June 2013 as a follow up to EMOP 200421 in 2013 that provided food assistance to drought and flood affected populations across the country.

The PRRO aimed to enable the recovery of households after two climatic shocks in 2011 and 2012. The goal of the operation was to enable communities impacted by the two disasters to fully recover from the shocks, meet their daily food requirements and stabilize their nutritional and health status.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	14,411	15,336	29,747
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	47,786	50,471	98,257
Number of adults	7,096	8,510	15,606
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	69,293	74,317	143,610
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	73,919	120,731	194,650
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	83,119	85,326	168,445

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO				222		222
Development Project	1,773	170	551		18	2,513
Total food distributed in 2015	1,773	170	551	222	18	2,735
Total food distributed in 2014	613	75	273	1,313	18	2,292
Total food distributed in 2013	1,825	150	440	905	60	3,380

Operational SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

This project seeks to establish the foundation for a transition to a nationally-owned and sustainable home-grown school feeding programme, as requested by the government. In addition to providing school meals, the project aimed to strengthen the institutional capacities and policy framework for a school feeding programme. It builds on previous achievements in access to pre-primary and primary education through the provision of school meals to children in the most vulnerable regions and districts, especially in areas where education indicators were still low.

Furthermore, this project aimed to build capacity at the central, regional and community levels, by linking local agricultural production to school feeding. These measures were expected to have a positive impact on local procurement. Activities under this project were in line with WFP Strategic Objectives 3 and 4 and contributed to United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012-2016 Objective 2, Outcome 5.

RESULTS

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

Beneficiaries of the project included boys, girls and women in urban and rural regions of The Gambia. The focus was on areas with the lowest school enrolment, and high levels of malnutrition, food insecurity and poverty. Children in selected primary schools and early childhood development centres got a daily nutritious meal in all six regions of the country. Cooks received a monthly take-home ration consisting of one bag of rice each as an incentive for their support to the programme.

A 2014 food security assessment, conducted by WFP, found that 10 percent of the population in The Gambia was food insecure.

Although net enrolment rates in Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres and lower basic and secondary have increased overall, there are regional disparities. The national ECD enrolment rate is 45.4 percent. Three out of six regions (NBR, CRR and LRR) recorded lower ECD enrolment rates than the national average with CRR recording 23.5 percent. These three regions and Upper River Region are the most vulnerable areas in terms of food insecurity and malnutrition. Actual distribution was lower than the planned distribution figure, as there was a pipeline break for Upper river region and the Greater Banjul Area for long periods in 2015. These two regions remain the unfunded regions in the development project.

The food basket consisted of rice, as the staple food, fortified vegetable oil with vitamin D and E, yellow split peas as a source of protein, and iodized salt, to meet existing deficiencies in some parts of the country. These commodities were supplemented with vegetables and condiments provided by parents, communities and school gardens. This way school children received food from at least four food groups. Prevailing cultural norms and gender roles meant that only women participated as cooks in the schools; at the same time, this was an opportunity for economic empowerment of the most vulnerable women who were identified as cooks. Women play a very pivotal role in ensuring households meet their daily staple food needs in The Gambia as they form the majority of staple food producing farmers. Men concentrate more on cash crop cultivations and other activities that generate income for the households. Cooks were identified and selected by the communities where the schools are located with consideration of household vulnerability and food insecurity. They received monthly take-home rations of one 50kg bag of rice each for their households.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number of adults		773	773		822	822		106.3%	106.3%
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	52,450	52,650	105,100	43,055	45,444	88,499	82.1%	86.3%	84.2%
Number of children below 5 years of age	5,100	5,700	10,800	5,289	5,815	11,104	103.7%	102.0%	102.8%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	57,550	59,123	116,673	48,344	52,081	100,425	84.0%	88.1%	86.1%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	48,196	51,290	99,486	48,344	52,081	100,425	100.3%	101.5%	100.9%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	48,151	51,335	99,486	43,361	46,261	89,622	90.1%	90.1%	90.1%

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Participants in Food For Assets		773	773		822	822		106.3%	106.3%
Children receiving school meals	57,550	58,350	115,900	48,344	51,259	99,603	84.0%	87.8%	85.9%

Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Beans	102	80	78.8%
Iodised Salt	82	18	21.8%
Rice	2,574	1,773	68.9%
Split Peas	569	471	82.8%
Vegetable Oil	224	170	76.1%
Total for 2015	3,551	2,513	70.8%
Total reported in 2014 SPR	3,282	979	29.8%
Total reported in 2013 SPR	3,104	2,477	79.8%
Total reported in 2012 SPR	1,209	765	63.3%

Cash-Based Transfer	Planned Distribution (USD)	Actual Distribution (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	140,457.92		
Total for 2015	140,457.92		

'Story Worth Telling'

School gardens are important for WFP and Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE) as it increases the relevance and quality of education for children. School gardens are used as learning centers, and the introduction of practical skills in the gardening. They also provide school children with practical experience on the importance of different kinds of food, particularly vegetables. School gardens also help improve students' nutrition by supplementing the current school meals programme with fresh nutritious foods rich in micronutrients.

Amie Keita is a grade 3 student in Medina Mannen Lower Basic School - a WFP supported school in North Bank Region. According to the head teacher, Amie has a passion for gardening. A WFP and MOBSE staff on a school garden monitoring visit caught up with Amie right in the school garden watering her bed and she said the following. "I love gardening and aspire to become a big gardener in the future. I can grow lot of vegetables and sell to have money to support my family and myself. We will also use the vegetables to eat and become healthy". When asked about what she is going to do with the present produce from her garden, she replied "some of the produce are taken to the school kitchen to add to our school meals. If there is an excess, the school sells it and the funds will be used to maintain the garden".

Progress Towards Gender Equality

At least 50 percent of food management committee members are women. During the implementation of the development project, attention was focused on developing community capacities through training, in particular for female cooks and project management committee members. These trainings aimed to ensure a greater understanding of roles and responsibilities and address the capacity gaps that were an impediment to full community participation in the school feeding activities. Through the training on hygiene, the cooks were able to contribute to the improvement of school health and hygiene, particularly with regards to ensuring that hygienic conditions were enhanced in the preparation of the school meal and that children washed their hands with clean water and soap prior to eating and after eating. They were also sensitized to wash their hands after visiting the toilet with clean water and soap.

Training for the project management committees and a community engagement manual highlighted the importance of women's participation and advocated for at least 50 percent membership of women in the project management committees. Mother's Clubs present in all schools served as a pillar of support, particularly in the field of school environment and school gardens. Besides providing welfare support to students in need and raising funds to assist school development, they were represented in all project management committees. In some schools, they served as consignees for food supply. In all schools that had school gardens, there was strong community support to the gardens, mainly from the women in the community.

During the implementation of the pilot project linking school feeding to agricultural production, women farmer groups and women's associations were specifically targeted. As a result, a women salt producer association was identified as suppliers of iodized salt. However, there is need for more sensitization of farmers on the importance of forming cooperatives and legally registering as food suppliers so they can effectively benefit from the WFP procurement procedures.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target <i>Target Val</i>	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Base value: Jan-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring.	25	15	15	18
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Base value: Jan-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring.	50	30	30	30
Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Base value: Jan-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring.	25	55	55	52
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Base value: Jan-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring.	60	60	60	60
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
Base value: Jan-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring.	60	0	100	100

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

There were no security or safety incidents involving the supported communities and schools at or on the way to distribution sites. A high number of the beneficiaries were aware of the project and the concept of transition to a nationally-owned school feeding programme with emphasis on government ownership and community participation. This was possible through a nationwide community engagement sensitization and that the functioning of regional multi-sectoral task forces across the country. The beneficiaries also knew about the rations provided in the school meals programme and the corresponding rations for the school cooks. As part of the project implementation modality a school feeding code of conduct existed to ensure that the school meals distribution was operational as planned. The communities were also aware of the complaints and communications channels through the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Educations' regional structures should the need arise.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
		(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring.	100	95	95	100
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2017, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring.	100	90	90	100
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Base value: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring.	100	100	100	100
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Base value: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring.	100	100	100	100
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring.	100	100	100	100
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Base value: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme Monitoring, Programme monitoring.	100	100	100	100

Outputs

In the third year of implementation, all targeted schools were reached; there were more beneficiaries than planned in some categories like the ECDs due to the addition of ECD classes in schools that had no ECD at the start of the project. Women made up one hundred percent of the cooks, and received incentive rations of one 50 kg bag of rice each per month for their work.

To reinforce community participation, an approved community engagement manual was used to sensitize communities on their key roles in the school feeding programme. This manual covered the concept of community engagement within the context of a home-grown school feeding programme implemented by the government of The Gambia in collaboration with the community. Topics included the roles and responsibilities of the communities, the composition of food management communities, terms of reference for staff, implementation guidance, monitoring rules and how to ensure nutritious meals for children. The government entrusted WFP with the responsibility of managing the funds mobilized for feeding the two regions supposed to have been handed over to them.

In support of national ownership and increased community and private sector participation, a school feeding cash-based transfer pilot for two models was developed and finalized. The two models are: caterer system and decentralized community procurement. Twelve (12) schools were trained on the community decentralized procurement model in preparation for pilot implementation. A local food basket was developed to support this implementation modality that is based on local tastes and preferences.

Challenges related to the inadequate organizational capacity for small holder farmers to manage a competitive procurement process and insufficient milling machines for small holder farmers made it impossible to acquire the total planned amount for locally procured milled rice.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO 3: Local Purchase				
Food purchased locally, as percentage of total food purchased	%	10	5	50.0%
SO 4: Capacity Development: Strengthening National Capacities				
Government contributions to WFP for technical assistance and capacity development support (USD)	US\$	772,800	772,800	100.0%
SO 4: School Feeding				
Number of cooks assisted by WFP	Individual	774	822	106.2%
Number of feeding days as % of actual school days	%	100	100	100.0%
Number of pre-schools assisted by WFP	school	216	216	100.0%
Number of primary schools assisted by WFP	school	368	368	100.0%
Number of PTA members trained in school feeding management or implementation	Individual	120	100	83.3%

Outcomes

The major outcomes for each component of the project are: Increased access to education and human capital development in assisted schools; Increased equitable access to and utilization of education; Increased marketing opportunities for producers and traders of agricultural products and food at the regional, national and local levels; Ownership and capacity strengthened to reduce undernutrition and increased access to education at regional, national and community levels. To that end, a national school feeding policy was validated and now awaits approval by the Cabinet. The national baseline assessment that was conducted in November 2011 indicated a national capacity index of 2 on the Systems Assessment for Better Education Results (SABER) standards. The SABER standards are on a range of 1 to 4: 1 represents a latent stage in the institutionalization of school feeding programmes; 2 represents an emerging stage; 3 represents a developed stage while 4 represents the cutting edge stage. The most recent national assessment conducted in 2014 indicated that the country remained at the emerging stage, with a National Capacity Index of 2. While the ratings for policy frameworks, design and implementation remained at "emerging", financial capacity improved from "latent" to "emerging". It was recognised that institutional capacities, initially rated emerging in 2011, were over-rated and actually "latent" due to the fact that there is no school feeding policy or law in place that empowers or mandates institutions to effectively carry out their roles.

A comparison of the regional assessments conducted between 2013 to 2014, indicated that there were more capacities and systems at the national level than at the regional level, primarily because in the past school feeding was yet to be fully decentralized.

In terms of institutional capacity, multi-sectorial coordination mechanisms at the central and regional levels to continue to guide the management and the transition process of handing over the school feeding programme to the government.

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
Strategic Objective 3: Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs				
Food purchased from aggregation systems in which smallholders are participating, as % of regional, national and local purchases				
Base value: Aug-2012, Procurement Records, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Procurement Reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Procurement Reports, Programme monitoring.	10	0	2	5
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Attendance rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jul-2012, Baseline Report, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, PDM, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM, Programme monitoring.	90	61	88.27	85
Attendance rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Aug-2012, PDM, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, PDM, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM, WFP survey.	90	61	88.27	85
Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Aug-2012, SF Baseline Survey, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Education Statistic Year Book, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Education Statistic Year Book, Programme monitoring.	6	1	1.02	1
Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jul-2012, Baseline Report, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Education Statistic Year Book, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Education Statistic Year Book, Secondary data.	6	1.03	1.05	1.01
Gender ratio: ratio of girls to boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Jul-2012, Baseline Report, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Mid Term Review 2014, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Capacity Development Reports, WFP survey.	1	1.08	1.07	1.01
NCI: National Capacity Index				
Base value: Nov-2011, National Saber Exercise, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Nov-2014, National Saber Exercise, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2014, National Saber Exercise, Programme monitoring.	3	2	2	2

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

To enhance sustainability, the project aimed to support the development of a national school feeding programme and strengthen systems, processes and capacities of school feeding stakeholders. This will be anchored by a formal school feeding policy (currently a draft) with the government in the lead, at central and regional levels with scope for community level participation.

In 2015, WFP continued to provide technical support for a National SABER assessment and School Feeding Master plan (2014 to 2020). The SABER capacity assessment entailed the establishment of benchmarks in five major areas, namely: policy, financial capacity, design and implementation capacities and community engagement.

Some of the achievements under capacity development for handover included: drafting a National School Feeding Policy and this was achieved in 2015; continued government commitment towards financial contributions - a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the government for the provision of USD 3,026,800 towards school feeding for West Coast and Lower River Regions. A nationwide local procurement feasibility study identified sustainable sources of funding for the school feeding programme. The University of The Gambia has commenced a cost-benefit analysis of school feeding to form the basis of the actual cost of a national school feeding programme in order to provide guidance for the transition to a nationally owned school feeding programme.

Food Management Committees are promoted in all schools and continue to serve as an anchor for food management, particularly in the areas of the school environments and gardens. Mothers clubs, which happen to be a pillar of strong support to schools, are represented in all the Food Management Committees. They also provide welfare support to needy students and raising funds to assist school development. They are the designated Treasurers of the Food management Committees and in some schools, they served as consignees to receive food supply. In all schools where there were robust school gardens, there was strong community support to the gardens. Cooperation with farmer groups linked school feeding to agricultural production.

INPUTS

Resource Inputs

Thus far, the project depended on the allocation of multi-year multilateral funds disbursed annually by the EU, the Governments of Japan and The Gambia. The funds from the government consisted in a directed multilateral grant provided by the African Development Bank while bilateral funding was received from Japan. These resources enabled WFP to provide school meals to children in six regions.

In addition to the provision of basic commodities and non-food items by WFP, infrastructural facilities were put in place by the government in targeted areas where these did not exist to create an enabling environment for project implementation. These infrastructures included storage sites and milling machines for mothers' clubs in regions where local procurement of commodities was undertaken.

Donor	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
European Commission		931	292
Gambia		952	274
Japan		168	
Total:		2,051	566

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

Commodities for this project were procured through international, regional and local purchases. Some quantities procured locally were sent directly to the schools, while international and regional purchases were delivered to the Gambia Country Office warehouses in Kanifing. The hub for local purchases was in the Central River Region. A total of 62.1 mt of locally produced rice was purchased in 2015 from farmer associations and small scale traders. 14 mt of iodized salt was procured from local women's groups in 2015. 82.3 mt of beans was also purchased from small holder farmers in 2015. Challenges related to the inadequate organizational capacity and the insufficient milling capacity, which hampered the prospects of acquiring the total amount of locally procured food as per the original plan. WFP will continue to work with FAO and the local partners like the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education to boost the amounts to be sourced locally and where possible adjust the food basket to commodities that are available in the respective regions where school feeding is being implemented.

Commodity	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Beans	83	0	0	
Iodised Salt	14	0	0	
Rice	50	1,455	0	
Split Peas	0	0	308	
Vegetable Oil	14	97	0	
Sum:	161	1,552	308	

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

Commodities purchased internationally and regionally arrived in Banjul via ships and trucks. The consignments were customs cleared and transported by road to the WFP warehouses in Kanifing. Goods were stored, ready for delivery to all the schools in six regions. Proper handling procedures were applied to minimize losses at the warehouse level. At the field level, guidance on proper food management procedures was provided to the storekeepers in the schools during monitoring and other routine visits.

Post-Delivery Losses

Post-delivery losses occurred during food delivery, at final distribution points and during scooping at school level and during transporting of the rations to beneficiary schools. To minimize losses during distribution such as short landing by transporters (delivering less than planned), emphasis was placed on food being delivered during the day to enable the consignees to verify the quantities of food being received; penalties were applied to transport companies for losses incurred; and training was provided to food managers on proper food handling and storage.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

Institutional capacities and coordination at both central and regional levels improved significantly in 2015. The multi sectoral committees set up in 2013, with representatives of special regional sectors (education, health, and nutrition), Governors' offices, NGOs and the wider civil society as members, were fully functional in 2015. These committees met regularly to review the progress of school feeding activities in the regions in fields such as distributions and local procurement, and ensured enhanced coordination among all stakeholders. Their activities also included school level monitoring. This contributed to reinforce of the link between school feeding and other agricultural initiatives at regional level. Community participation in the implementation of school feeding was also strengthened to ensure greater ownership and accountability in the management of the school feeding programme.

The role of the government (Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education), as a partner was enhanced in 2015, through joint planning and implementation of major activities in the annual work plan and National School Feeding Action Plan. Partners involved during implementation, apart from the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education includes the National Nutrition Agency, the Gambia Bureau of Standards, the Food Safety Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department of Community Development, the Peace Corps, and UN agencies like FAO and UNICEF. Through the central and regional multi-sectoral stakeholders, complementarity is ensured between the various interventions on school feeding implementation and management.

Local NGOs were part of school feeding multi-sectoral teams in each of the regions. No formal partnership between WFP and these NGOs as they were already active in the education sector.

Partnerships	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total				2

Lessons Learned

While ownership and engagement at high level is key for a successful transition to full handover by 2020, it is crucial to have a signed handover agreement with the government, including the roadmap towards the full handover. Currently, there is no handover strategy in place for the school feeding programme. Agreeing on a comprehensive handover plan will be one of the priorities in 2016.

Equally relevant is a school feeding operational policy which will expand on the strategic policy validated in 2015. This will outline all aspects of implementing the school feeding program by different stakeholders, be it at the national, regional, school and community levels.

The importance of a handover plan and a formal school feeding policy were highlighted in the mid-term evaluation of the project. To this end, WFP will continue to assist the government in developing a comprehensive handover/transition plan.

The importance of strengthening Regional Educational Directorates, school feeding management at the school level and advocacy for school feeding at the national level were also lessons well learned since the start of the project. WFP staff continued to assist the various regions through coaching and support of government partners to ensure greater national ownership. A strong community engagement strategy enhanced community ownership and participation, to ensure nutritious meals for each child each day. For a successful home-grown school feeding programme, there is a need for adequate food availability, through increased productivity and available milling, processing facilities and storage facilities, without which supply of required food stocks would be limited.

The school feeding handover process works best when accompanied by a sustainable resource mobilization strategy to ensure food is available to the children at all times. More efforts are also required in making school meals more nutritious and this in part was started by revising school menus to local diets through a decentrilized community procurement model that started in 2015.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
European Commission	EEC-C-00389-01	Rice		689	50
European Commission	EEC-C-00389-01	Split Peas		183	183
European Commission	EEC-C-00389-01	Vegetable Oil		59	59
Gambia	GAM-C-00002-01	Beans		15	83
Gambia	GAM-C-00002-01	Iodised Salt			14
Gambia	GAM-C-00002-01	Rice		652	0
Gambia	GAM-C-00002-01	Split Peas		60	60
Gambia	GAM-C-00002-01	Vegetable Oil		20	34
Gambia	GAM-C-00004-01	Split Peas		52	52
Gambia	GAM-C-00004-01	Vegetable Oil		18	18
Gambia	GAM-C-00005-01	Rice		122	0
Gambia	GAM-C-00005-01	Split Peas		13	13
Japan	JPN-C-00419-01	Split Peas		168	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Vegetable Oil			0
Private Donors	WPD-C-01807-04	Iodised Salt			0
Total:				2,051	566