Highlights:

Humanitarian response to recent crop failure emergency has commenced in April 2012 and is targeting at least 206,000 people in 19 most affected districts through provision of food, seeds, horticulture inputs, fertilizer, livestock vaccination, drugs and feed as well as nutrition, health and sanitation support.

Food availability in commercial markets is stable and covers overall domestic cereal needs. However, food access remains a major challenge for households seriously affected by the crop failure due to high food prices and eroded purchasing power.

Annual food price inflation (at 5% in June) continues to be higher than overall consumer price inflation for the same period (4%). Rice prices in the second quarter of 2012 remain elevated at 6.7% above 2011 levels and just 2.5% below 2008 food price crisis levels

Late onset of adequate rainfall delays sowing activity while climate variability is predicted throughout the season. Total rainfall is expected at 70 - 90% of normal level for Western Sahel.

Locust alert raised to level of threat for north-central Sahel with locust populations breeding already in Mali and Mauritania.

Malnutrition levels (wasting) have increased by 1.6% compared to the 2011 dry season to reach 11% in February/March 2012. It is the highest level recorded in the last 10 years

Recommendations for Government and Partners:

For immediate action (1-3 Months)

- Ongoing emergency response should be expanded to address all borderline affected districts while resource mobilization should be intensified to cover remaining response gaps and enhance resilience on the community level in view of potential future shocks
- Preparations for a potential locust infestation should intensify, in particular through strengthening of preparedness and mitigation capacity, establishment of regular reporting mechanism, intensification of nationwide sensitization campaign and increased cooperation with countries in the sub-region
- Extension services should be strengthened and the involvement of local communities in early warning, disaster risk reduction and emergency response should be intensified
- Food prices, rainfall patterns and the development of the locust situation in the Sahel should be closely monitored
- A joint review of the ongoing emergency response should be conducted and lessons learned should be provided on its effectiveness and impact in assisting the most vulnerable

For mid- to long term action (4-18 Months)

- Communication channels and information systems on food security should be strengthened, in particular the monitoring of food prices, climate predictions and disaster risks to provide timely early warning, enhance preparedness and enable early action
- Food security and nutrition surveillance on the community level should be strengthened
Emergency Context

Multi-Sectoral Emergency Needs Assessment

At least 206,000 Gambians, including 35,000 children under-5 most vulnerable and in need of assistance

On 6 March 2012, the Government of The Gambia through the Office of the Minister of Agriculture declared the 2011-2012 farming season for a severe crop failure. The Government called upon the international community to assist in the immediate emergency assistance to affected farming communities and in preventing further deterioration of the food security situation. Following the declaration, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) conducted on 14-30 March 2012 jointly with the UN System and the NGO community a Multi-Sectoral Emergency Needs Assessment in 19 most affected and 6 borderline affected rural districts, as identified by the previously conducted Detailed Post Harvest Assessment.

Figure 1: Population estimated as most vulnerable and in need of assistance in most affected districts, share of total population

According to the needs assessment 206,000 people including 35,000 children under-5 in 19 most affected districts have been identified as being in need of emergency assistance to ensure food security and protect agricultural livelihoods, through the provision of food aid, seeds, fertilizer and health support. An additional 2,500 malnourished people living with HIV would require nutrition assistance to support ongoing treatment. In the borderline affected districts, 35,000 people, including 6,000 children under-5 were identified as vulnerable to food insecurity and would require emergency assistance as the lean season progresses.

DID YOU KNOW?

“A locust swarm of 500,000 individuals per hectare can eat 10,000 tones of vegetation per day”

“In Mauritania, up to 50% of the food production has been lost to locust during the invasion in 2004”

(Source: The Eighth Plague - West Africa’s Locust Invasion, IRIN, December 2004)

Desert Locust Alert (Warning Level: Threat)

Increased threat of Desert Locust for The Gambia due to increased breeding of locust populations in central and western Sahel

On 26 July 2012, the Government of The Gambia through the Office of the Minister of Agriculture declared for open the Sensitization and Preparedness Campaign on the growing threat of desert locust in the Western Sahel, including Senegal and The Gambia. Early rainfall in the north-central Sahel as well as a shortage of funds and insecurity, limiting survey and control teams to conduct mitigation activities in Niger and Mali, increase the likelihood of rapid growth and migration of the locust population westwards. Small swarms have been already reported in Northern Mali while small-scale breeding of locust populations is expected in South-east Mauritania. The current locust situation is classified as a threat and potentially dangerous to crops and pastures. Survey and control operations in affected areas are required while bordering countries should increase preparedness measures and reporting.

Recap: The last large-scale locust infestation in the Sahel occurred in 2003-4 affecting a surface area of 3.5 million hectares and the livelihoods of 9.4 million people. The total funding requirements for the regional emergency response amounted to US$ 190.3 million, of which 80% were devoted to food aid only. At least 2.5 million hectares of surface area were treated with pesticides.

(Source: 2005 Consolidated Appeals Process for West Africa)
Rainfall Situation in The Gambia

Sowing season starts late due to low, erratic and unevenly distributed rainfall at the beginning of the season

According to the data from the Department of Water Resources the onset of the 2012 rainy season in The Gambia came early but was followed by a long dry spell which lasted until the last ten days of June, with few days of intermittent rainfall in single regions. For the Gambia as a whole about 14 rainy days were recorded between May 1st and June 30th with significant variations in rainfall distribution within and between regions. Farming activity remained limited to the clearing of fields, seed acquisition and preparation and the repair of farming implements throughout most of the two-month period. Apart from single localities in Central River Region and North Bank Region where early millet was sown in the second half of May, the agricultural season did not start in earnest until the very end of June, following the onset of heavy rains throughout most parts of the country. However, heavy rains observed in the last dekad of June remain largely below the level of the same period in 2011. Compared to the previous year an identical rainfall distribution pattern was observed in the North Bank Region, Lower River Region and the Fonis in the West Coast Region which recorded again the lowest level of rainfall on the national level. The late onset of sowing activities is expected to again reduce the length of the overall cropping cycle. Grain development and the availability of water reservoirs will have to be monitored closely and in parallel with rainfall distribution.

Rainfall Forecast

Late onset and below average rainfall predicted for the Western Sahel during the major part of the rainy season

According to the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD), the seasonal rainfall forecast over the Western Sahel (Zone I) predicts below normal to normal precipitation for the main period of the rainy season (July – September). Rainfall is expected to amount to 70 – 90% of normal precipitation throughout the zone, including The Gambia. Overall, a late onset of rainy season and disruptions in the distribution of precipitation have been forecasted over the Western Sahel.

In anticipation of the rainfall situation it was recommended to prioritize low land and short cycle cropping and crop varieties resistant to water stress on highlands (e.g. NERICA), plan for an early start of off-season activities, improve and strengthen emergency assistance particularly over locations suffering from the food and nutrition crisis and increase vigilance in the management of conflicts related to land use between farmers and pastoralists.

Climate Context
Food Stocks in Markets

National stocks of imported rice are stable while availability on local markets is adequate. Yet, food access remains a challenge. Despite the crop failure and the early depletion of household food stocks in the rural areas rice availability on local markets is adequate given a high volume of commercial imports. Rice availability with the main rice importers has been stable throughout the post-harvest period and did not drop below 20,000 MT per month. From October 2011 to April 2012 rice imports have been steadily on the increase, reaching over 10,000 MT per month in March and April, while at least 5,000 MT per month have been imported in May and June. Good export availability, stable demand and price on the international market are expected to further stabilize the price levels of imported rice locally (OSIRIZ, June 2012).

Increased market availability of local cereals is expected with the begin of the new harvest from October onwards. However, food access remains a major challenge for households seriously affected by the crop failure due to high food prices and eroded purchasing power.

Food Availability

Food Stocks in Markets

National stocks of imported rice are stable while availability on local markets is adequate. Yet, food access remains a challenge. Despite the crop failure and the early depletion of household food stocks in the rural areas rice availability on local markets is adequate given a high volume of commercial imports. Rice availability with the main rice importers has been stable throughout the post-harvest period and did not drop below 20,000 MT per month. From October 2011 to April 2012 rice imports have been steadily on the increase, reaching over 10,000 MT per month in March and April, while at least 5,000 MT per month have been imported in May and June. Good export availability, stable demand and price on the international market are expected to further stabilize the price levels of imported rice locally (OSIRIZ, June 2012).

Increased market availability of local cereals is expected with the begin of the new harvest from October onwards. However, food access remains a major challenge for households seriously affected by the crop failure due to high food prices and eroded purchasing power.

Food Access

Cereal Prices

Despite rice availability, prices remain elevated and above average limiting food access of most vulnerable households. In the first half of 2012 price trends in The Gambia have varied depending on the level of sale. On the level of major importers and wholesalers nominal rice prices have been stable or declining throughout the post-harvest period. Even though remaining elevated at almost 1% below the 2008 food price crisis level and over 12% above the 2011 levels a steady price decrease has been recorded for wholesale rice at nearly 1% in the first quarter and over 2% in the second quarter of 2012, reaching 790 Dalasi (US$ 26) per 50kg bag in June. At the same time almost no significant price movements have been recorded at the semi-wholesale level with prices remaining elevated but stable throughout the past 10 months at around 860 Dalasi (US$ 29) per 50kg bag.

Table 1: Price trends for imported rice (100% broken)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Sale</th>
<th>quarterly % change</th>
<th>annual % change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2012-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 to Q1</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1 to Q4 (’11)</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 vs. Q4</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 vs. Q2</td>
<td>-5.6%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail (National)</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail (Urban)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Trade, Department of Agriculture (Planning), GBOS

Table 1: Price trends for imported rice (100% broken)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Sale</th>
<th>quarterly % change</th>
<th>annual % change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2012-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 to Q1</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1 to Q4 (’11)</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 vs. Q4</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 vs. Q2</td>
<td>-5.6%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail (National)</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail (Urban)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Trade, Department of Agriculture (Planning), GBOS

Local fuel price increases key factor in upward price trends of retail rice

The increase of nominal rice prices at the retail level in the first quarter of 2012 went hand in hand with repeated monthly fuel price increases. The first two quarters of 2012 saw a fuel price increase of 4.4% and 5% on the preceding quarters and followed an identical upward trend recorded in the first half of 2011 which saw a more steep fuel price rise at nearly 11% and 13% for the first two quarters respectively. As a consequence, the first quarters of 2011 and 2012 recorded rice price increases at the retail level of 8.2% and 4.2% respectively following which the prices generally stabilized. (continued on next page)
Price increases at the retail level of sale can be attributed to the retailers’ limited capacity to absorb fuel price increases without a knock on-effect on the price of the marketed goods, while wholesale and semi-wholesale marketing of rice is mostly concentrated on the capital city of Banjul with limited transportation costs involved from the port to the store.

Coarse grain prices

The prices of major domestic coarse grains continued to fall in the first half of 2012. Better terms of trade for groundnut farmers.

In the second quarter of 2012 prices of major coarse grains fell significantly compared to the previous quarter (Maize: -10.7%, Sorghum: -4.8%) while Millet prices fell but stabilized. Prices of all major coarse grains are lower than during the same period in 2011 (Maize: -20.7%, Millet: -12.9%, Sorghum: -4.1%). On average, Maize was recorded at 13.1 Dalasi per kilo, Millet at 13.4 Dalasi and Sorghum at 14 Dalasi in the period of April—June 2012. However, overall coarse grain prices remain elevated and with 16% still well above the 2008 peak levels of the food price crisis (Maize: 16.2%, Millet: 15%, Sorghum: 16.8%). The terms of trade for groundnut farmers has improved at the retail level. With 18.2 Dalasi per kilo, the retail price of unshelled groundnut is 2.9% higher than in the previous quarter and 22% above the 2011 price levels. The price of shelled groundnut has increased by 1.6% over the last quarter yet remains the same compared to 2011.

Food Utilization

Wasting levels highest in 10 years

Through National Nutrition Surveillance, the National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) together with UNICEF estimates on a bi-annual basis the wasting levels among Under-5 children in the rural regions of the country as indicators of malnutrition. Compared to February/March 2011, overall wasting (too thin, an indication of acute malnutrition) has increased by 1.6%, affecting a total of 11% of under-5 children in the same period of 2012. It represents the highest record seen during the dry season since 2002. The slight increase in the national average masks significant differences that can be observed on the regional levels and between health circuits within individual regions. Wasting rates are highest in Central River Region (13.6%) and Upper River Region (11.3%) while lowest levels are recorded in Lower River Region with 8.5%.
In Interview: Meshack Tjirongo, IMF Resident Representative in The Gambia on the new Extended Credit Facility Arrangement with The Gambia and IMF’s role in Food Security

Interview conducted on 11 June 2012

Daa Nyeeno: In March 2012, an IMF mission in The Gambia negotiated a new macroeconomic and financial program for 2012 - 2014 that could be supported under its new Extended Credit Facility (ECF). What were the main agreements reached with the government that would form the basis of a new credit arrangement?

Meshack Tjirongo: The overarching challenge that The Gambia faces is high domestic debt which consumes nearly 18.5% of government revenues. This has been fostered by a steady decline in government revenues and episodes of large spending overruns, creating a mismatch that necessitated new borrowings. That is why the new ECF is focusing on fiscal adjustment to ease pressure on inflation, interest rates and the exchange rate. To move to a new program, the IMF agreed with the government on four policy goals for 2011, which aimed to stabilize the rising costs of domestic debt, reverse revenue leakage, strengthen tax compliance and strengthen the financial basis of the central bank. To contain government spending, the authorities implemented cash budgeting—that is matching spending with the available revenues. To boost government revenues, the Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA) adopted a new tax compliance plan while steps were also taken to reduce fuel subsidies. Fuel pump prices have been below what they should be charged. Here, we have even argued that the government can collect revenues first and channel the funds into priorities of the Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE). Alternatively, the government could collect the revenue, part of which can be used to expand the school feeding program that would benefit the poor. The Gambian authorities made satisfactory progress towards these goals and accordingly negotiations on the new program were concluded in March. The new program is based on the PAGE, the Vision 2020 and the MDGs.

DN: In May 2012 the IMF Executive Board approved the new arrangement for The Gambia under the ECF amounting to US$ 28.3 million. Out of that US$ 14.2 million would be disbursed immediately due to the recent crop failure. In what way is that disbursement supposed to address current food insecurity in The Gambia and how will that support the fight against hunger in the future?

MT: When we were negotiating the programme in October, we really did not have much information of the crop failure. It was only in February when we convened a meeting with the Government and all development partners based in The Gambia that we started learning about the immediate impact of this on food security and the economy. We realized that for the agriculture season not to be lost in the next year we would need to enter immediately into a crisis mode and enable timely recovery. We knew that the seeds will probably not be obtained here, farmers will not have the income to buy fertilizer and the government may also have to buy food. This had to be taken into account in our programme and that’s why over 50% of the new ECF credit was disbursed immediately, following IMF’s Board approval. In order to fast-track the emergency intervention we allowed in the programme that the government may draw on its reserves and borrow directly from the central bank an equivalent of US$ 23-28 million to enable the immediate procurement of seeds, fertilizer and food. The US$ 14.2 million would serve as a part of the immediate cover of the Central Bank, thereby protecting the exchange rate of the Dalasi. On top of that, the World Bank and the African Development Bank (ADB) have also agreed on providing by mid-2012 budgetary support to the amount of US$ 6 million and US$ 2.9 million respectively.

DN: In its recent 2012 African Human Development Report, UNDP advocates for more advances in food security to enhance human development in sub-Saharan Africa. In The Gambia, how does IMF intend to support a more food-security driven agenda?

MT: I think this is a very forthright and forward looking question, especially when we look at economies whose growth is highly dependent on rain-fed agriculture. The IMF programme derives from the PAGE, which is the blueprint development plan for The Gambia and which puts agriculture and food security at the top. We do not have expertise in food security specifically but the IMF will continue to work closely with the Gambian authorities, bilateral donors, multilateral financial institutions, and others to enhance coordination in these areas. For instance, we are encouraging donors showing interest in agriculture to consider basket funding of the sector. The rationale of basket funding is that all the interested donors would be pooling resources into a fund designated to one thematic area of intervention. Part of it would be a joint coordination of the investment, the implementation of the strategy, the investment plan and of the critical activities. The reinforcement of individual contributions would make the overall intervention more effective and allow a proper scale up of certain activities that are more productive and would give immediate returns.

DN: Given the experiences in 2011 and 2012, is IMF going to be more active in the area of food security and in what way?

MT: Yes, given the recent experience and to keep abreast of developments in food security, I am sure we will collaborate more closely with agencies which directly work on the issues, such as WFP, FAO, World Bank, the ADB, the European Commission and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Our main comparative advantage is that through the IMF programme in place, we are in a position to talk to donors and investors, whereas by increasing coordination and developing partnerships we can make their contributions more effective. Together with advocacy for institutional reform and technical assistance in public financial management we hope that our increased involvement will have a significant positive effect on food security in The Gambia.
In Interview: Kinday Samba, Senior Programme Adviser on Nutrition at WFP Regional Bureau in Dakar on the roll-out of the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSF) in The Gambia.

Daa Nyeeno: Dear Ms. Samba,
What is the purpose of your present mission in The Gambia?

Kinday Samba: I am here to support the country office with the roll-out of the nutrition response to the drought crisis which has affected eight countries in the region, including The Gambia; specifically the preparations for the blanket feeding operation, targeting children under-5 to prevent acute malnutrition. The operation will take place over four months of the agricultural lean season, from July to October 2012. As we know, WFP in The Gambia did not have a direct nutrition intervention before so it is very important to walk them through the whole concept, what is blanket feeding, how is it implemented and also to support the different partners that are going to be working with WFP to implement the operation

DN: Who specifically is going to benefit from the operation and how many beneficiaries will it target?
KS: Initially, the programme was planned to reach 17,000 children under the age of five. During working exercises we also noticed that there were some regions with acute malnutrition rates above or very close to the intervention threshold for blanket feeding (10%) so we increased coverage to five instead of the previous two regions, including the West Coast Region, North Bank Region, Lower River Region, Central River Region and Upper River Region. We will now be covering 25,000 children coming from the most vulnerable households in fourteen of the most affected districts. Normally when preventing acute malnutrition the primary target is children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women. However, in The Gambia WFP has not been supporting the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, which is why we increased the age group to be reached, now covering children from 6 to 59 months.

DN: What activities have you conducted in the time that you were here and what were the outputs of your work?
KS: We were supposed to come up with actual guidelines for implementation of blanket supplementary feeding. Normally there is a standard approach but what has to be done and “the how” varies from country to country. We drew up operational guidelines that have been specifically adapted for The Gambia. The main difference with most other countries is that we implement these activities through NGOs because the blanket feeding is really done through the community and not through health structures. However, for the fact that nutrition has not been a major problem in The Gambia before we do not have many development let alone humanitarian oriented NGOs who are working in the area of nutrition. In this case our response will be based on an existing government structure, specifically the National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to implement the approach. I also had to brief the key stakeholders and partners on the main objectives of my mission and to identify relevant focal points who would be working with me throughout the mission. People have different understandings of what blanket feeding is or how to prevent acute malnutrition and it is important to bring everyone on the same page as to what we are talking about, to jointly adapt the guidelines on implementation modalities and partnerships at the community level, to agree how exactly we are going to do the registration and distribution exercises. A key part of the component is monitoring, supervision and reporting on the activity for which the tools were also developed.

DN: Who will be WFP’s main implementing partners?
KS: The main partner is NaNA because they have the coordinating mandate and the presence at the regional level. At the community level we have the multidisciplinary task force including the community health nurse, the community development workers, the public health officers and the agriculture extension workers as we have a variety of tasks that need to be accomplished during the registration and distribution exercises. Some responsibilities will also be allocated to community volunteers nominated by the communities themselves. The Ministry of Health will be also a major partner, particularly through the involvement of community health nurses as the primary service providers on the local level as well as the heads of regional health teams who participated in the planning process and who will be mobilizing the community health structures during the implementation phase.

DN: Are we all going to be ready to implement this programme in the next few months?
KS: We hope we are going to be ready. It is much work that would need to be done between now and the distribution exercises, which we hope should be taking place by the middle of July. It will be a challenge because it is the first time that most of our partners will be involved in this specific activity. However, they have all been already involved in large scale community based interventions like polio campaigns or vitamin A supplementation so nothing is really that different in terms of registering children under-5 as it has been done earlier. The first steps will be a bit challenging and the rainy season might add some complications in terms of road access and timely food availability at all sites but it is possible and we hope that as the activity goes on the process will be much smoother. There is a lot to be done but we hope that it will be done with the necessary commitment and motivation of all the key actors.

DN: Summing it up, has your mission been successful?
KS: Yes, so far it has been successful in terms of all the deliverables, specifically in preparing blanket supplementary feeding guidelines, tools and briefing stakeholders. I think that partners I have been working with have a very good understanding of what the exercise is all about, what needs to be done for the next steps and that we are able to achieve the desired impact in terms of either stabilizing or reducing acute malnutrition in children under-5 in The Gambia.
At a Glance: Emergency Response in Figures

The severity of the 2011/2012 crop failure necessitated an emergency response on a scale unseen before in The Gambia. Over a dozen of government ministries, UN agencies and NGOs have joined forces to support populations most vulnerable to food insecurity over an initial period of seven months (April – October 2012), providing life saving food and nutrition assistance, distributing field crop and vegetable seeds, fertilizer and livestock vaccinations, drugs and feed in support of rural livelihoods, improving access to safe water supply, basic sanitation and hygiene as well as preventing the outbreak of disease through provision of essential drugs and medical supplies. Through sectoral cooperation between Government and UN agencies and supported by the NGO community at least 206,000 of the most vulnerable people are targeted for immediate food assistance, out of which 25,000 children under-5 for additional nutrition support through blanket supplementary feeding while 1,000 malnourished children under-5 are treated by ready to-use therapeutic food. An additional 2,500 people living with HIV are receiving nutrition support to enhance ongoing treatment and almost 27,000 pregnant and lactating women benefit from nutrition education for newborns. Nearly 44,000 farming households are receiving livelihood support in form of rice, maize and groundnut seeds, fertilizer, horticultural inputs as well as livestock vaccinations and feed supplements. Hospitals and health facilities serving over 125,000 beneficiaries will be supported in form of essential drugs and medicines to prevent disease outbreak and enhance medical treatment.

©UNICEF
©WFP
©FAO

About the Daa Nyeeno:

The Food Security and Market Information Bulletin is the first of its kind tool for The Gambia which attempts to inform decision makers, policy and research on key issues pertaining to the complex subject of food security in the country. The main objective of the bulletin is to offer a systematic and holistic view of food security by looking at a variety of socio-economic trends that may affect household vulnerability and coping. This includes the timely provision of reliable data and analysis on issues such as not limited to agricultural production, food trade and price trends, identification of groups most at risk to food insecurity, climate forecast etc. It serves relevant stakeholders for the identification of gaps, needs and proper responses to household vulnerability and food insecurity.

Daa Nyeeno is a joint effort of different government institutions, UN agencies and NGOs and is published on a quarterly basis. The next issue will be due in October 2012 and will cover the period of July - September 2012 (3rd Quarter). This issue of the bulletin includes contributions from: Department of Agriculture (Planning), Department of Trade, Gambia Bureau of Statistics, National Disaster Management Agency, National Nutrition Agency, Department of Water Resources, World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization, UNICEF and IMF.

Daa Nyeeno is made possible by the generous contribution of the European Union.

For more information please contact:

Vitoria Ginja, WFP Representative (vitoria.ginja@wfp.org)
Darko Petrovic, VAM Consultant (darko.petrovic@wfp.org)