

WFP The Gambia Country Brief

Highlights

- Advisory Board of the Zero Hunger Strategic Review validated draft recommendations.
- Four-day meeting conducted with relevant stakeholders to develop a national school meals programme.
- Garden materials for 86 schools in the Upper River Region were handed over to the School Agriculture and Food Monitoring unit.

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 2012 – Dec 2017)	23 m	14 m (60 %)	2.3 m

* December 2017 – May 2018

The school meals programme focuses on strengthening the overall institutional and policy framework for the National School Meals System and consolidating and improving the gains achieved in access to pre-primary and primary education. Key activities include provision of a hot meal daily, nutrition education, and linking school meals to local markets and small-scale farmers through local procurement and a cash-based transfer modality.

WFP supports the development of a national social protection system while building management capacities through facilitating policy dialogue around cost analysis and the creation of fiscal space in the national budget.

The European Union supports a WFP/FAO joint programming initiative in support of school meals and disaster risk reduction over a four-year period.

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 (June 2013 – March 2018)	20.3 m	12 m (60 %)	0

* December 2017 – May 2018

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 lactating 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.

A joint WFP, FAO and UNICEF programme, funded by the European Union, aims to ensure positive nutrition outcomes targeting particularly vulnerable households where children are most at risk from malnutrition. The focus of the interventions by the three agencies target the first 1,000 days of a baby's life. USD 11.5 million funding has been allocated for the activities under the joint programme. Activities will be implemented jointly with relevant government counterparts and NGOs.



Credit: Official Photographer – Office of the Vice President
Caption: Zero Hunger Advisory Board (Chaired by the Vice President; at centre in blue) meets to Validate Report

Operational Updates

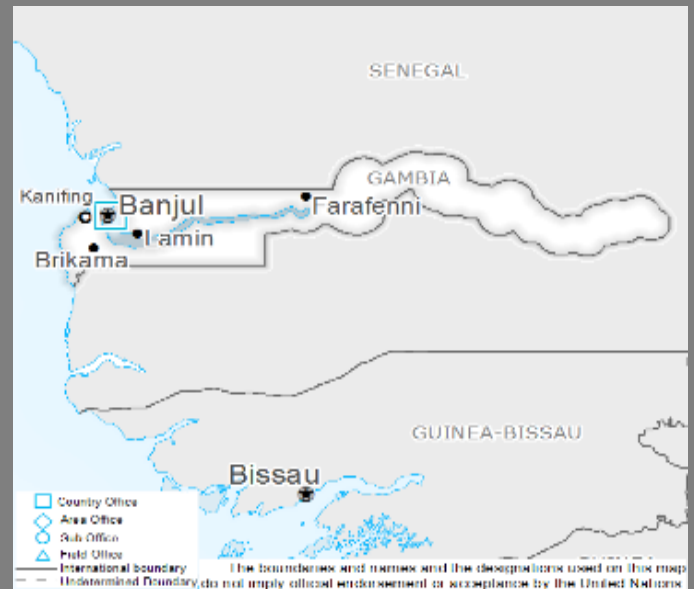
- Advisory Board of the Zero Hunger Strategic Review, chaired by the Vice President, held a validation workshop of the main findings and recommendations on 23 November. The report was subsequently adopted with amendments. National launch ceremony of final report is scheduled to take place on 12 December.

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Isatou Njai
Caption: Equipment received by the Minister of Agriculture on behalf of Gambia Government.



November 2017

Country Background & Strategy



- A four-day meeting to develop a National school meals programme was conducted in early November. The meeting produced: a draft school meals policy implementation plan, hand-over plan (with technical assistance plan), national programme and a draft school meals code of conduct. A consultant has been recruited to support the process.
- Based on recommendations of both the study on fiscal space and school meals national programme, WFP has begun engagements with National Assembly through the Speaker.
- WFP collaborated with the World Bank in the mapping and assessment of social protection interventions in partnership with the Government, UN agencies, NGOs and European Union. In addition, several meetings were organized to discuss the establishment of a household registry in the Gambia for implementation of social protection programmes. In collaboration with the World Bank and the UN Social Protection Working Group, WFP is planning to support a study tour to Ghana with key government institutions to learn lessons from the steps they have taken to establish a household registry.
- Garden materials for 86 schools in the Upper River Region were handed to the School Agriculture and Food Monitoring unit, thanks to the support of the Government of Japan. The event was presided over by the Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Permanent Secretary, Minister of Basic and Secondary, and covered by the press. A total of 688 tools were given to the participating schools including wheelbarrows, spades and rakes. The school garden materials will assist schools to improve dietary diversity and nutrition among schoolchildren. A total of 344 individuals attended a cluster training on how to plan, establish, and maintain a school garden using best gardening practices. To ensure sustainability, the headmaster, garden master, caretaker, and a mother's club member from each of the targeted schools participated in the training.
- Two targeted and blanket supplementary feeding (TSF/BSF) distributions of specialized nutritious foods (SNFs) in four regions: LRR, NBR, CRR and URR to children aged 6-59 months during October and November 2017. Screening and registration data of children aged 6-59 months have also been consolidated and shared with cooperating partners. Training was also conducted with cooperating partners on the reporting template with a view to enhancing availability of data.

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, to ensure the harmonization of activities in food security and nutrition.
- WFP participates in working groups in key sectors such as Education, Social Protection, and chairs the UN Programme Coordination Group.

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-Sahara 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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