



WFP EVALUATION



World Food Programme

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Evaluation of The Gambia WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019–2021

Centralized Evaluation Report

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Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

Evaluation features

1. The evaluation of the transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP) and the country strategic plan (CSP) for the Gambia was conducted between May 2020 and April 2021. It covered WFP's strategy, interventions and systems for the period between January 2018 and September 2020. It served the dual purpose of accountability and learning by assessing results achieved against plans while creating opportunities for learning at the national, regional and corporate levels. The results of the evaluation informed the preparation of the revision for the extension of the CSP and the design of a new CSP for the Gambia.
2. The evaluation took a utilization-focused and consultative approach when defining the lines of inquiry around the four standard evaluation questions used for WFP country strategic plan evaluations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the evaluation was conducted using a hybrid approach: two international team members engaged with stakeholders remotely and three national team members met stakeholders in person in the Gambia. The main evaluation mission in the Gambia took place over three weeks, between mid-September and early October 2020. Findings on nutrition were mostly drawn from the decentralized evaluation on nutrition that was conducted just before the CSP evaluation. Gender was taken into account throughout all phases of the evaluation process. The evaluation findings and recommendations were discussed with internal and external stakeholders during two online workshops in March 2021.
3. Limitations of the evaluation were largely linked to COVID-19 related restrictions. Also, complete and validated performance data for 2020 was published in March 2021, several months after data collection and when report drafting was already at an advanced stage; this limited opportunities for triangulation and analysis of 2020 data. Finally, some stakeholders were unavailable during the data collection stage. However, the evaluation team considers that the data available and sites visited were sufficient to allow for evidence-based analysis.

Context

4. The Gambia is the smallest country on mainland Africa and has an estimated population of 2.3 million (World Bank, 2018). Although poverty is concentrated in rural areas,¹ it is increasingly seen in the capital and surroundings. The Human Development Report 2019 by the United Nations Development Programme reports rates of severe multidimensional poverty as high as 32 percent. An important feature of poverty is gender inequality, as women constitute the majority of the poor. Gender-based violence is an important issue.
5. Agriculture is the main economic activity, employing 70 percent of the population. Production is predominantly from subsistence farming and has stagnated or even declined,² currently covering 50 percent of domestic food requirements. This trend has been attributed to macroeconomic conditions, poor infrastructure, recurrent droughts and floods, and soil degradation.
6. Food insecurity remains a major economic and social problem in the Gambia, disproportionately affecting rural households. In the 2020 Global Hunger Index the country ranks 67 out of the 107 countries for which sufficient data were available to permit calculation of 2020 scores.³ Malnutrition is also a major public health problem, with the national stunting level at 19 percent.⁴ The data reveal significant regional and gender disparities, with stunting levels over 5 percent higher among males and in rural areas.

¹ [The Gambia Bureau of Statistics. 2020. Population and Demography. The national bureau of statistics estimates the urban poverty rate at 31.6 percent in 2015/16, while rural poverty stands at 69.5 percent.](#)

² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2020. [Gambia at a glance webpage.](#)

³ Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. 2020. [Global Hunger Index. The Gambia.](#)

⁴ United Nations Children's Fund. 2019. [The Gambia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018.](#)

TABLE 1: SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS			
	Indicator	Year	Value
	Total population (2)	2018	2 280 102
	GDP per capita (2)	2018	USD 716.10
	Agriculture as share of GDP (2)	2019	16.7 percent
	Share of population in urban areas (1)	2018	61.3 percent
	Human Development Index (score) (1)	2018	0.466
	Share of population vulnerable to multidimensional poverty (1)	2018	21.8 percent
	Population in severe multidimensional poverty (1)	2018	32 percent
	Prevalence of moderate and severe stunting (height-for-age), children age 0–4 (3)	2018	19 percent
	Prevalence of HIV in population age 15–49 (2)	2018	0.3 percent
	Gender Inequality Index (score) (1)	2018	0.620
	Share of population age 25+ with at least secondary education (1)	2018	Both sexes: 36.8 percent Women: 30.7 percent Men: 43.6 percent
	Labour force participation (share of population age 15+) (modelled International Labour Organization estimate) (2)	2019	59.6 percent

Sources: (1) United Nations Development Programme. *Human Development Report, 2017 and 2019*; (2) World Bank. *World Development Indicators*; (3) United Nations Children's Fund. *The State of the World's Children*.

Country strategic plans

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