

Existing rates of: **Wasting: 11.5%** **Stunting: 24.5%** **Proportion of population underweight: 16.2%**

Source: Gov. of Gambia (DHS, 2013)









### Strong Performance

- The Government encourages varied agricultural research and extension services, and local farmer organisations are involved in setting policy priorities. The extension system is effective and properly reaches out to poor farmers. Government policies, strategies and mechanisms seek to ensure gender equity in access to extension services.
- Relative to other HANCI countries, Gambia's medium/long term national development policy (Program of accelerated growth and employment) assigns strong importance to nutrition.
- Gambia instituted a separate budget line for nutrition, enabling transparency and accountability for spending.
- The National Nutrition Policy/Strategy identifies time bound nutrition targets and a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism has been set up.
- Policymakers in Gambia benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2013.
- The Government has fully enshrined the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes into domestic law.
- The Government of Gambia promotes complementary feeding practices.
- 90.2% of the population of Gambia in 2015 has access to an improved drinking water source.




### Areas for improvement

- Spending on agriculture (3.27% of public spending in 2014), does not meet government commitments set out in the African Union's Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- In Gambia, the law does not give women legal access to agricultural land equal to men. Men and women have equal economic rights, but this is not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- The Government of Gambia has only achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for 27% of children in 2014.
- Weak access to improved sanitation facilities (58.9% in 2015) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.
- In Gambia, constitutional protection of the right to social security is weak.
- Social safety nets in Gambia are basic and only cover few risks for a limited number of beneficiaries.
- Civil registration rates are weak (52.5% in 2010) and potentially hold back children's access to critical public services such as health and education.

## Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

























Public spending	Score*	Year	HRCI Rank of 45
 Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending <sup>1</sup>	 3.27%	2014	31st
 Public spending on health as share of total public spending <sup>1</sup>	 15.3%	2014	4th
<b>Policies</b>			
 Access to land (security of tenure) <sup>2</sup>	 Moderate	2014	15th
 Access to agricultural research and extension services <sup>2</sup>	 Strong	2013	11st
 Civil registration system — coverage of live births	 52.5%	2010	31st
 Functioning of social protection systems <sup>2</sup>	 Weak	2008	Joint 40th
<b>Laws</b>			
 Level of constitutional protection of the right to food <sup>2</sup>	 Moderate	2014	Joint 8th
 Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) <sup>3</sup>	 Not in Law	2014	Joint 41st
 Equality of women's economic rights <sup>3</sup>	 In Law, not in Practice	2011	Joint 7th
 Constitutional right to social security (yes/no)	 No	2006	Joint 28th

<sup>1</sup> Possible scores are:  <75% of agriculture (Maputo) and health (Abuja) spending pledges  >=75 % and <100%  >=100%

<sup>2</sup> Possible scores are:  Very Weak/Weak  Moderate  Strong/Very Strong

<sup>3</sup> Possible scores are:  Not in Law  In Law Not in Practice  In Law & Practice

## Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	NCI Rank of 45
 Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)	 Yes	2015	Joint 1st
<b>Policies</b>			
 Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children	 27%	2014	40th
 Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	 Yes	2012	Joint 1st
 Population with access to an improved water source	 90.2%	2015	Joint 9th
 Population with access to improved sanitation	 58.9%	2015	9th
 Health care visits for pregnant women	 86.2%	2013	31st
 Nutrition features in national development policy <sup>1</sup>	 Strong	2012 - 2015	4th
 National nutrition policy/strategy (yes/no)	 Yes	2014	Joint 1st
 Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)	 Yes	2015	Joint 1st
 Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	 Yes	2015	Joint 1st
 National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	 Yes	2013	Joint 1st
<b>Laws</b>			
 ICMBMS <sup>^</sup> Enshrined in domestic law <sup>2</sup>	 Fully Enshrined	2016	Joint 1st

<sup>1</sup> Possible scores are:  Very Weak/Weak  Moderate  Strong/Very Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).

<sup>2</sup> Possible scores are:  Not Enshrined in Law  Few/Many Aspects Enshrined  Fully enshrined.

<sup>^</sup> International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes