

Existing rates of: **Wasting: 6.2%** **Stunting: 19%** **Proportion of population underweight: 13.9%**

Source: Government of Gambia (MICS,2018)











Strong Performance

- Spending on agriculture (10.2% of public spending in 2018) meets government commitments set out in the African Union's Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- Relative to other HANCI countries, The Gambia's medium/long term national development policy (The Gambia National Development Plan) assigns strong importance to nutrition.
- The National Nutrition Policy/Strategy identifies time bound nutrition targets and a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism has been set up.
- Policymakers in The Gambia benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2019-2020.
- The Government has fully enshrined the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes into domestic law.
- The Government of The Gambia promotes complementary feeding practices.
- In The Gambia 99% of women aged 15-49 were visited at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel in 2018.
- In The Gambia, constitutional protection of the right to social security is strong.




Areas for improvement

- The Gambia's spending in its health sector (3.1% of public spending in 2017) does not fully meet (15%) commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration.
- Extension services are the preserve of government and poor farmers have no say in setting policy priorities. The agricultural research and extension system is not properly reaching out to poor farmers. There is no policy promoting gender equity in access to extension services.
- In The Gambia, the law does not give women economic rights equal to men. Men and women have equal legal access to agricultural land, but this is not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- The Government of The Gambia has achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for only 30% of children in 2018.
- Weak access to improved sanitation facilities (39.2% in 2017) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.
- Social safety nets in The Gambia are basic and only cover few risks for a limited number of beneficiaries.
- Civil registration rates are weak (57.9% in 2018) 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 ¹	10.2%	2018	6th
 Public spending on health as share of total public spending ²	3.1%	2017	Joint 43rd
Policies			
 Access to land (security of tenure) ³	Moderate	2019	Joint 30th
 Access to agricultural research and extension services ³	Weak	2019	39th
 Civil registration system — coverage of live births	57.9%	2018	30th
 Functioning of social protection systems ³	Weak	2020	Joint 8th
Laws			
 Level of constitutional protection of the right to food ³	Moderate	2014	Joint 8th
 Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) ⁴	In Law, not in Practice	2019	Joint 27th
 Equality of women's economic rights ⁴	Not in Law	2019	Joint 16th
 Constitutional right to social security (yes/no)	Yes	2004	Joint 1st













¹ Possible scores are:  <75% of agri. spending pledges (AU commitments set out in the Maputo Declaration)  >=75% & <100%  >=100%

² Possible scores are:  <75% of health spending pledges (AU commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration)  >=75% & <100%  >=100%

³ Possible scores are:  Very Weak/Weak  Moderate  Strong/Very Strong

⁴ 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)	Sectoral only	2019	Joint 16th
Policies			
 Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children	30%	2018	40th
 Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	Yes	2015	Joint 1st
 Population with access to an improved water source	87.1%	2017	14th
 Population with access to improved sanitation	39.2%	2017	17th
 Health care visits for pregnant women	99%	2018	2nd
 Nutrition features in national development policy ¹	Strong	2018-2021	3rd
 National nutrition policy/strategy (yes/no)	Yes	2019	Joint 1st
 Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)	Yes	2019	Joint 1st
 Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	Yes	2019	Joint 1st
 National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	Yes	2019-2020	Joint 1st
Laws			
 ICMBMS [^] Enshrined in domestic law ²	Fully Enshrined	2019	Joint 1st

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

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

[^] International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes