
October 2021
High poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition:

- 32% of the population suffers from severe multidimensional poverty, disproportionately affecting rural people.
- Decreasing agricultural productivity, gender inequality and the Covid-19 pandemic are important features of poverty.
- The Gambia ranks 67th out of 107 qualifying countries in the 2020 Global Hunger Index.
- Stunting prevalence is high with regional and gender disparities.
CSP 2019–2021

FIVE STRATEGIC OUTCOMES (% of budget after 2nd increase in June 2020)

SO1
Crisis-affected populations are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs
39%

SO2
Food-insecure populations including school-aged children, have access to adequate and nutritious food
25%

SO3
Nutritionally vulnerable populations, including children and PLW, have improved nutritional status
25%

SO4
Smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities enhance their resilience
6%

SO5
National institutions have strengthened capacity to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition and respond to shocks
4%
EVOLUTION OF THE CSP

- **Sharp increase in needs** over 2018-2020, mostly due to Covid-19.
- CSP to be extended by a year, up to end 2022
EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

- Utilization focused and consultative approach using mixed-methods.
- Covid-19 induced hybrid approach, with national evaluators conducting field visits.
- Gender sensitive evaluation.
- Some limitations.
FINDINGS
Q1 To what extent are WFP’s strategic position, role and specific contribution based on country priorities and people’s needs, as well as WFP’s strengths?

The CSP had **strong alignment with national policies**, except for obesity and agricultural processing.

Emergency response needs were underestimated at CSP design stage, but WFP showed **strong adaptability** during implementation.

Targeting of schools and for resilience activities could be further refined.
Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP’s specific contribution to (T-I)CSP strategic outcomes?


**SO2 School feeding:** High beneficiary satisfaction but opportunity for enhancing nutrition sensitive approaches. Hand-over of two regions needs further consolidation.

**SO3 Nutrition activities** benefited from effective partnerships, but after meeting targets in 2018/19 suffered delays in 2020.

**SO4 Smallholder farmer and community resilience activities** suffered from late funding availability and limited partnerships.

**SO5 Important contributions to country capacity strengthening**, but lack of strategic planning and monitoring.
Mixed progress on gender approaches and activities, now speeding-up thanks to improved CO capacities.

Affected populations overall well informed about activities and availed of an operational gender-sensitive feedback mechanism.

Sustainability: more efforts required for the hand-over of HGSF and nutrition programmes.

Triple-nexus: CSP facilitating understanding of linkages between the three through specific activities
Q3 TO WHAT EXTENT DID WFP USE ITS RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY IN CONTRIBUTING TO CSP OUTPUTS AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES?

CSP direct support costs and transfer costs were acceptable when comparing with countries with similar contexts.

Some key resources arrived late in 2019 and 2020 and had to be carried over to the following year.

Timeliness can be improved for SBCC and CBT to schools.
Q4 WHAT ARE THE FACTORS THAT EXPLAIN WFP PERFORMANCE AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT HAS MADE THE STRATEGIC SHIFT EXPECTED BY THE CSP?

- Strengthened existing strategic partnerships and new ones developed. Strong engagement in the Delivery-as-One approach

- Adequate contributions (except for SO4 in 2019) but at times arriving late. High levels of earmarking limited flexibility

- Other challenges: COVID restrictions, slow pace of staff capacity alignment and shortcomings in performance monitoring
CONCLUSIONS

Strategic shift of the CSP supported by expanded and strengthened partnerships

Adaptive humanitarian player during crises

Successful implementation, but handover of the SFP requires further consolidation and enhanced smallholder farmer participation

Nutrition results contributing to reducing GAM rates. Need to consider obesity

Late start of limited resilience activities

Gradual shift towards supporting the strengthening of national systems, but there is a need for a well-articulated national capacity-strengthening strategy.
RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintain the thematic areas of the current CSP, with a strong focus on capacity strengthening, applying adjustments to increase alignment with national priorities.

**Country capacity-strengthening:** need for gap assessments, a comprehensive strategy and enhanced skillset of staff.

Further strengthen the gender approach of the CSP, using dedicated resources.

**Strengthen M&E systems** of the CSP, with a dedicated M&E system for country capacity strengthening activities.

Improve the value chain approach and local purchase mechanisms to increase smallholder farmer participation in the HGSF programme.