HUNGER AND NUTRITION COMMITMENT INDEX (HANCI) 2014

Key data for Gambia

HANCI compares 45 developing countries for their performance on 22 indicators of political commitment to reduce hunger and undernutrition. All the countries compared in the index have high rates of hunger and undernutrition. Country scores are calculated in relation to the political commitment of the other countries in the index.

**HANCI**

- **36th** for Hunger Reduction Commitment
- **14th** for Nutrition Commitment
- **1st** for Total Index

**Strong Performance**

**Government** of Gambia has ensured tenure security for rural populations. Land titling is common and land markets function well. Policy promotes equitable access to common property resources.

**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.

90.1% of the population of Gambia in 2012 has access to an improved drinking water source.

In Gambia, 98.1% of women aged 15-49 were visited at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel in 2010.

**Areas for improvement**

**Spending** on agriculture (3.48% of public spending in 2013), does not meet government commitments set out in the African Union’s Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).

**Gambia’s spending** in its health sector (11.2% of public spending in 2012) does not fully meet (15%) commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration.

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 46% of children in 2012.

**Weak access** to improved sanitation facilities (60.2% in 2012) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.

In Gambia, constitutional protection of the right to food and 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.

Existing rates of: **Wasting:** 9.5%  **Stunting:** 23.4%  **Proportion of population underweight:** 17.4%

*(Source: Gov. of Gambia (MICS, 2010))*
### Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HRCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending ¹</td>
<td>3.48%</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>29th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on health as share of total public spending ¹</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Policies

- **Access to land (security of tenure)** ²
  - Strong | 2013 | 7th |
- **Access to agricultural research and extension services** ²
  - Strong | 2013 | 10th |
- **Civil registration system — coverage of live births**
  - 52.5% | 2010 | 29th |
- **Functioning of social protection systems** ²
  - Weak | 2008 | Joint 36th |

#### Laws

- **Level of constitutional protection of the right to food** ²
  - Weak | 2006 | Joint 20th |
- **Equality of women’s access to agricultural land (property rights)** ⁴
  - Not in Law | 2014 | Joint 41st |
- **Equality of women’s economic rights** ⁴
  - In Law, not in Practice | 2011 | Joint 5th |
- **Constitution recognises the right to social security** (yes/no)
  - No | 2006 | Joint 31st |

¹ Possible scores are: <75% of agriculture (Maputo) and health (Abuja) spending pledges; >=75% and <100%; >=100%
² Possible scores are: Weak; Moderate; Strong
³ Possible scores are: Weak; Moderate; Strong
⁴ Possible scores are: Not in Law; In Law Not in Practice; In Law & Practice

### Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Joint 1st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Policies

- **Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children**
  - 46% | 2012 | 38th |
- **Government promotes complementary feeding** (yes/no)
  - Yes | 2012 | Joint 1st |
- **Population with access to an improved water source**
  - 90.1% | 2012 | 9th |
- **Population with access to improved sanitation**
  - 60.2% | 2012 | 10th |
- **Health care visits for pregnant women**
  - 98.1% | 2010 | 3rd |
- **Nutrition features in national development policy** ¹
  - Strong | 2012-2015 | 5th |
- **National Nutrition Policy/Strategy** (yes/no)
  - Yes | 2014 | Joint 1st |
- **Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination** (yes/no)
  - Yes | 2014 | Joint 1st |
- **Time bound nutrition targets** (yes/no)
  - Yes | 2014 | Joint 1st |
- **National nutrition survey in last 3 years** (yes/no)
  - Yes | 2013 | Joint 1st |

#### Laws

- **ICMBS** Enshrined in domestic law ²
  - Fully enshrined | 2014 | Joint 1st |

¹ Possible scores are: Weak; Moderate; Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).
² Possible scores are: Not Enshrined in Law; Voluntary Adoption; Fully enshrined.
³ International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes

*For full details visit: [www.hancindex.org](http://www.hancindex.org)*