



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

Source: Gov. of Gambia (MICS, 2010)

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.

Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	HRCI Rank of 45
 Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending ¹	 3.48%	2013	29th
 Public spending on health as share of total public spending ¹	 11.2%	2012	17th
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 ³	 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)

Public spending	Score*	Year	NCI Rank of 45
 Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)	 Yes	2014	Joint 1st
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			
 ICMSB [^] 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.

[^] International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes