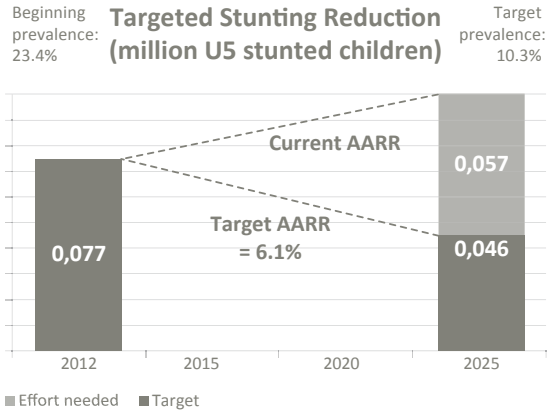




Joined: July 2011

Highlights

- The Gambia has updated its National Nutrition Policy (2010-2020) and validated a costed National Nutrition Strategic Plan (2011-2015) and Business Plan for Better Nutrition.
- The Gambia has plans to decentralise coordination mechanisms, however stronger involvement of key nutrition-related ministries is needed.
- The Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO) is a body of non-governmental organisations, with over 80 national and international members who influence policy and decision makers to galvanise efforts for scaling up nutrition in the country.
- The Gambia has a National Gender and Women Empowerment Policy (2010-2020) and a Women's Act 2010 that provide for the minimum recommended maternity leave of six months.



Under five stunting:	23.4%
Low-birth weight:	10.2%
0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding:	33.5%
Under five wasting:	9.5%
Under five overweight:	1.9%
Women Anaemia 15-49 years:	45.3%

**data sources detailed in Annex 1*

Looking back: Progress reported through the 2014 Self-Assessment Exercise

80%
Bringing people together into
a shared space for action

54%
Ensuring a coherent policy
and legal framework

29%
Aligning actions
around a Common Results
Framework

43%
Financial tracking and
resource mobilisation

2014

Bold text denotes progress reported in the last year



The Gambia is committed at the highest level to addressing the issue of undernutrition. The Vice-President and Minister of Women's Affairs, H.E. Aja Dr. Isatou Njie-Saidy is a committed supporter of efforts to scale up nutrition in the Gambia. The National Nutrition Agency (NaNA), under the Office of the Vice President, is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the implementation of the National Nutrition Policy (2010-2020) and reports directly to the National Assembly. NaNA convenes all relevant Government sectors through the National Nutrition Council that is chaired by the Vice-President.

The Gambia seeks to improve the involvement of ministries mandated on nutrition. Thematic sub-groups have

been established: Maternal and Child Health Nutrition; Micronutrient Deficiency Control; Information, Education and Communication; Monitoring and Evaluation and Resource Mobilisation).

The Gambia has plans to decentralise coordination mechanisms, however stronger involvement of key nutrition related ministries is needed.

A multi-sectoral Nutrition Technical Advisory Committee was established in 2012 and is comprised of stakeholders from the public sector, civil society and development partners. **The Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO) is a body of NGOs with around 80 national and international members to influence policy and decision-makers who galvanise efforts for scaling up nutrition in the country.**

Bringing people together into a shared space for action



The Gambia has updated its National Nutrition Policy (2010-2020) (NNP) and validated a costed National Nutrition Strategic Plan (2011-2015) (NNSP) and Business Plan for Better Nutrition. Nutrition relevant policies and legislations are in place in key sectors including agriculture, poverty reduction, health and education.

The Gambia has a National Gender and Women Empowerment Policy (2010-2020) and a Women's Act 2010 that provide for the minimum recommended maternity leave of six months. The Ministry of Agriculture is integrating

nutrition into its own programs. Efforts to mainstream nutrition into policies across the board will be accelerated, in consultation with NaNA.

With a growing involvement of the private sector, standards and capacities for food safety and quality have been updated with attention to food processing, packaging and labelling.

A new Food Safety and Quality Act (2011) has been enacted and the Food Safety and Quality Authority established to coordinate the implementation of the Act. The Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes is fully translated into law (the Breastfeeding Promotion Regulations 2006).

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework



To monitor progress against the NNP and NNSP, the Gambia has developed a monitoring and evaluation framework for 2011-2015.

The NNSP, which contains the First 1,000 Most Critical Days Program is due for review which will include more inputs for nutrition. This will be reviewed along with the mid-term review of the NNP. The review of both documents will lead to the development of a comprehensive multi-sectoral strategic plan for nutrition, this will be the Common Results Framework that aligns sectoral programs and builds capacity in The Gambia, for implementation of their nutrition programs.

A National Nutrition Communication Strategy has been finalised to align communications efforts for all stakeholders.

Large-scale programs and systems are in place but not yet at full scale. The Gambia is scaling up interventions for the management of severe and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and interventions that improve household consumption of iodised salt and the uptake of foods rich in micronutrients.

Aligning actions around a Common Results Framework



UNICEF and the World Bank are the main investors in nutrition-specific programs along with an allocation of government funds for the implementation of nutrition programs.

The Gambia participated in the SUN Movement Budget Analysis Exercise to track the financial resources for

nutrition. Mechanisms to track available resources are available within NaNA but investments in nutrition in other sectors remains a challenge. The Gambia recognises the importance of tracking nutrition-specific expenditure besides health and the need to map nutrition financing.

Financial tracking and resource mobilisation