

The Gambia



Joined Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement: July 2011

National multi-stakeholder platform for nutrition: Nutrition Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC)

SUN government focal point/country coordinator: Dr. Amat Bah, Executive Director, National Nutrition Agency

COUNTRY NUTRITION STATUS

→ Annual country nutrition indicators from the Global Nutrition Report:

<https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/africa/western-africa/gambia>

● National multi-stakeholder platform (MSP)

Date established: 2012

● MSP annual action plan exists

● Subnational nutrition coordination mechanism

● Subnational MSPs exist

● Subnational MSPs have annual action plans

● National nutrition plan

Multisectoral National Nutrition Action Plan, 2022–2025 –

<https://scalingupnutrition.org/resource-library/national-nutrition-plan-gambia-republic>

● Advocacy and communications framework/plan

National Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Strategy –

<https://scalingupnutrition.org/resource-library/advocacy-and-comms-plan-gambia-republic>

SUN networks in-country presence

● SUN Civil Society Network

● SUN Business Network

● UN Nutrition

● SUN Academia Network

● SUN Donor Network

● Others: e.g. youth, parliamentarian, media

Finance for nutrition

● Resource mobilization strategy exists

● Budget tracking exercise done this year

● Funding gaps identified this year

● Domestic expenditures on nutrition tracked

● Yes ● In process ● No ● Costed ● M&E framework

COUNTRY PRIORITIES 2022

→ Finalizing the Common Results Framework and the Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan.

→ Enacting the nutrition bill.

→ Establishing the SUN Academia Network.

PROGRESS TOWARDS

SUN 3.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (SO)

→ SO.1 Strengthen and sustain strong policy and advocacy environments

The National Nutrition Policy (NNP) was finalized and approved by the Cabinet for the period 2021–2025. In the past year, a review of sectoral policies showed that there is still need for improvement in mainstreaming nutrition, but the approval of the NNP is a step in the right direction. A National SBCC Strategy was developed and launched, which incorporates nutrition advocacy throughout. Radio and TV stations joined efforts to deliver SBCC modules for a year.

→ SO.2 Develop and align shared country priorities for action

In 2021, substantial work was carried out to finalize the costed Multisectoral National Nutrition Action Plan. Regional and national dialogues on the country's food systems were convened, resulting in the formulation of commitments for their improvement. Similarly, national commitments developed by the MSP were submitted and presented at the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit. High-level participation at the launch of the World Breastfeeding Week and the participation of the chair of the National Assembly Select Committee on Health during a nutrition coordination meeting for food fortification are some examples of stakeholders' alignment with nutrition country priorities.

→ SO.3 Build and strengthen country capacity

Members of the country's SUN Business Network received training on basic nutrition, food processing techniques and food safety to increase their capacity and understanding of their role in tackling malnutrition. Training was also provided to stakeholders at both the national and regional levels on nutrition tools to strengthen nutrition knowledge at different levels. Erratic rainfall patterns have affected crop production and exacerbated food insecurity at the national and household levels.

→ SO.4 Ensure governance of SUN that promotes country leadership and responsibilities of government, aligns the resources of all SUN Movement stakeholders behind country priorities and strengthens 360 mutual accountability

The National Nutrition Agency was established by the Government and is mandated by law to coordinate all nutrition-related interventions in the country. It is placed under the Office of the Vice-President to give it a high status and ensure that it has coordination functions and convening power. Relevant stakeholders are involved in coordinating nutrition programmes through NTAC meetings, the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Technical Working Group and the Micronutrient Technical Working Group, among others, which strengthens mutual accountability and aligns resources. The inclusion of the SUN Academia Network into the NTAC is expected in the coming year.