Gambia

Joined: July 2011
Demographic data

- Children under 5 (million, 2010): 0.3
- Adolescent Girls (15-19) (million, 2010): 0.09
- Average Number of Births (million, 2010): 0.07
- Population growth rate (2010): 3.14%

WHA nutrition target indicators (MICS 2010)

- Low birth weight: 10.2%
- 0-5 months Exclusive Breastfeeding: 33.5%
- Under five stunting: 23.4%
- Under five wasting: 9.5%
- Under five overweight: 1.9%

Coverage of Nutrition-relevant Factors

- Infant and young child feeding practice:
  - 6-23 months with Minimum Acceptable Diet: -
  - 6-23 months with Minimum Diet Diversity: -

- Programs for vitamin and mineral deficiencies:
  - Zinc Supplementation for Diarrhea: -
  - Pregnant Women Attending 4 or more Antenatal Care Visits: -
  - Vitamin A supplementation (6-59 months): 46.0%
  - Households Consuming Adequately Iodized Salt: 6.6%

Women’s Empowerment

- Female literacy: 43.1%
- Female employment rate: 67.7%
- Median age at first marriage: -
- Access to skilled birth attendant: 56.8%
- Women who have first birth before age 18: -
- Fertility rate: 5.8

Other Nutrition-relevant indicators

- Rate of urbanization: 58.24%
- Income share held by lowest 20%: 4.79%
- Calories per capita per day (kcal/capita/day): -
- Energy from non-staples in supply: -
- Iron availability from animal products (mg/capita/day): -
- Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities: 97.0%
- Open defecation: 2.8%
- Access to Improved Drinking Water Sources: 85.8%
- Access to Piped Water on Premises: -
- Surface Water as Drinking Water Source: -
- GDP per capita (current USD, 2013): 494.00
- Exports-Agr Products per capita (current USD, 2012): 46.47

Stunting Reduction Trend and Target

- Current AARR: 0.1%
- Target AARR: 6.10%
- Target prevalence: 10.33%

Distribution of stunting across wealth quintiles

- National Average (2010):
- National Target (2015):
- Minimum target suggested by WHA:

Trend of Exclusive Breastfeeding Rate

- Current Trend
- Minimum target suggested by WHA:

Targeted Stunting Reduction (million US stunted children)

- Beginning prevalence: 23.4%
- Targeted Stunting Reduction: 0.05
- Effort needed: 6.10%
The Vice-President and Minister of Women’s Affairs, H.E. Aja 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.

The 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 are being established: Maternal and Child Health Nutrition; Micronutrients; Information, Education and Communication; Monitoring and Evaluation; Resource Mobilization).

A multi-sectoral Nutrition Technical Advisory Committee is operative since 2012 and comprises of stakeholders from the public sector, civil society and development partners. It serves both as a coordination body and as a platform for sharing information and experience. It is planned to extend coordination mechanisms to the regional level, but a stronger involvement of some key nutrition related ministries is needed.

It is expected that REACH will be established once the stakeholders mapping, cost beneficiary analysis and multi-sectoral action plan for nutrition are finalised.

The Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO) is a composite body of NGOs with around 80 national and international members to influence government decisions and policies and to effectively liaise and coordinate with Government programs.

Alignment of sectoral programs around the common results framework needs further clarification. The CRF is being developed and capacity building for its implementation will be a priority. To monitor progress against national nutrition policy and strategy plan, the Gambia has developed an M&E framework for 2011-2015.

The National Nutrition Strategic Plan, which contains the First 1,000 Most Critical Day Program, needs to also include other type of inputs to nutrition. The Baby Friendly Community Initiative is rapidly being scaled up and reaches thirty percent (30%) of the communities. A National Nutrition Communication Strategy has been finalized. The Gambia is scaling up interventions for the management of severe and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), as well as other interventions that improve household consumption of iodized salt and the uptake of foods rich in micronutrients. In general, large-scale programs and systems are in place but not yet at full scale. The National Agriculture Investment Program includes 5 components and one of them relates to enhancing food and nutrition security.

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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 Breast-milk Substitutes is fully translated into law in the form of the Breastfeeding Promotion Regulations (2006).

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Progress Across Four SUN Processes
Gambia

2012\(^1\) and 2014\(^2\) Scoring of Progress Markers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Progress Marker</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aligning actions around a Common Results Framework</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Tracking and resource mobilization</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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2014 Dashboard for Progress Markers

Stage of Preparedness

- 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 mobilization

1\(^{st}\) externally assessed by the SUN Movement Secretariat
2\(^{nd}\) internally assessed by in-country self-assessment exercise