

The Gambia

The Gambia joined the Coalition in August 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) in October 2022 through the Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education around the following areas: Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Despite fiscal constraints, The Gambia has incrementally increased its school meals budget each year since 2019 – a total of USD 70,000 (GMD 5 million) – and has restored coverage to pre-COVID-19 levels. As of May 2025, 328,260 children were covered with programmes from the government, national and international partners.

The government is working with the Islamic Development Bank to analyze and develop cohesive policy and legal frameworks and coordination mechanisms for its National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, with the goal of securing a concessional loan to ensure universal coverage.

The government conducts periodic nationwide vaccinations and has re-introduced distribution of deworming tablets and Vitamin A supplements to children under the school meals programme, and as of 2025, 113,478 children were covered. Additional activities include: mapping mothers' clubs to identify needs and strengthen capacity in child health and dietary diversity; efforts to support women in promoting girls' education; and supporting women in the fishing industry to improve infrastructure for fish processing.

The government has engaged the Food Safety and Quality Authority to improve programme safety and at the local level, engages parents and teachers to help manage the programme.

To link smallholder farmers to the programme, an intersectoral Home Grown School Feeding committee is being revived and strengthened and the Ministry of Agriculture is supporting farmers to increase production and productivity, including through training in the public procurement process, food quality and safety.

The government has also engaged in south-south cooperation through a visit to Cote D'Ivoire.

Next steps

The government welcomes both technical and financial support to address challenges around capacity on Home Grown School Feeding, sustainable financing, and infrastructure. It is also focused on creating enabling policy and legal frameworks and strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems as important steps toward strengthening the programme.

Highlights

- Incrementally increased its school meals budget each year since 2019 – a total of USD 70,000 (GMD 5 million) – and restored coverage to pre-COVID-19 levels.
- Working with the Islamic Development Bank to analyze and develop cohesive policy and legal frameworks and coordination mechanisms for its National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme.
- Conducts periodic nationwide vaccinations and re-introduced distribution of deworming tablets and Vitamin A supplements to children through the programme.