



**Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)  
Public Sector Window  
2019 Call for Proposals**

**Proposal Document**

**Country: The Gambia**

**Project Name: The Gambia Agriculture and Food Security Project**

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## List of Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank	GBoS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
ANR	Agricultural and Natural Resources	GBV	Gender-Based Violence
ANRP	Agricultural and Natural Resources Plan	GCAV	Gambia Agricultural Commercialization and Value Chain Management Project
AU	African Union	GCCI	Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry
AUC	African Union Commission	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
AVCDP	Agricultural Value Chain Development Project	GEF	Global Environment Facility
BADEA	Arab Bank for Development	GIEPA	Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency
BRRFI	Building Resilience to Recurring Food Insecurity in The Gambia	GNAIP	Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme	GoTG	Government of The Gambia
CFAN	Commercial Farmers Agribusiness Network	HDI	Human Development Index
CPCU	Central Projects Coordination Unit	HGSF	Home-Grown School Feeding
CPIA	Country Policy and Institutional Assessment	IDA	International Development Association (World Bank)
CPO	Project Coordinating Office	IEC	Information, Education and Communication
CRR	Central River Region	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
CSOs	Civil Society Organization	IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
DLS	Department of Livestock	IOM	International Organization for Migration
DoA	Department of Agriculture	LRR	Lower River Region
DoP	Department of Planning	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessments	MC	Mothers Clubs
EU	European Union	MECCNAR	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
FASDEP	Food and Agriculture Sector Development Project	MoBSE	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
FBO	Farmer-Based Organization	MoFEA	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
FNS	Food and Nutrition Security	MoHSW	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
GAFSP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme	MoTRIE	Ministry of Trade, Regional Integration and Employment
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition		

MoLRA	Ministry of Local Government, Land and Religious Affairs	PMU	Project Management Unit
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	PS	Permanent Secretary
MoWRF	Ministry of Water Resources and Fisheries	PSC	Programme Steering Committee
MPI	Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index	RBA	Rome-Based Agencies
Mt	Metric tonnes	SAFMU	School Agricultural and Food Management Unit
NACOFAG	National Coordinating Organization for Farmer Associations The Gambia	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
NaLOA	National Livestock Owners Association	SMEs	Small, Medium-Sized Enterprises
NaNA	National Nutrition Agency	SWMS	Soil and Water Management Services
NAPA	Gambia National Adaptation Program of Action	SZHR	Strategic Zero Hunger Review
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute	SSTC	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
NDMA	National Disaster Management Agency	TAAT	Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation
NDP	National Development Plan	TANGO	Association of Non- Governmental Organizations
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	ToR	Terms of Reference
<i>Nema</i>	National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project	ToT	Training of Trainers
NSFP	National School Feeding Policy	UN	United Nations
NSSP	National Social Protection Policy	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
		USD	United States Dollar
		WB	World Bank
		WCR	West Coast Region
		WFP	World Food Programme

Fiscal Year  
January 1st –December 31st

Exchange Rate (September 2019)  
GMD 50.50 = USD1

Weights and Measures  
Metric System unless otherwise stated

# Part 1: Summary of Overall Agriculture and Food Security Strategy and Associated Investment Plan

## 1.1. Overall sector strategy and investment plan, and past performance

### 1) Overall agriculture and food security strategy objectives and how these respond to the country's fragility (economic, environmental, societal, security, climate, other):

The Gambia's fragility stands out as an outlier in many common global indices, such as the Fragile States Index (FSI), Human Development Index (HDI), Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI), and Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA). The data suggests that The Gambia has become more fragile over time, while much of the region, including Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, which were afflicted by conflict, improved their rankings. The score of The Gambia on the FSI steadily worsened in recent years, rising from 80.6 in 2010 to 89.4 in 2017, when the country ranked 37th of 178 countries (the closer to 1, the more fragile the State). The Gambia is on "alert" according to the FSI. The Gambia's score on the HDI in 2017 was 0.460—or 174<sup>th</sup> of 189 countries. According to the MPI 57.2 percent of the population experience multiple dimensions of poverty. The Gambia's score on the CPIA, which estimates the quality of a country's institutional and policy framework, deteriorated from 3.5 in 2011 to 3.0 in 2018, which was below the SSA average of 3.2.

In 2017, the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB) prepared a Fragility Risk and Resilience Assessment in The Gambia, identifying the following fragility drivers posing obstacles to development: political instability, macro-fiscal challenges, limited capacity of the public administration, structural vulnerabilities and exogenous shocks, climate change and environmental degradation, and regional instability. The country's sources of resilience, essential for conflict prevention and de-escalation, include: the Gambian diaspora, who sends substantial remittances home; neighbouring governments and regional institutions, who have exerted a stabilizing force; women and youth activism, which has increased in recent years; and large-scale emigration, which has relieved pressures on a tight labour market, despite having deprived the country of skilled workers.

The Gambia's development challenges are typical of its fragility characterized by pervasive poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and vulnerability of households to climate shocks. This is evidenced by The Gambia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita of US\$ 483 in 2017, a low level, even compared to other ECOWAS countries. Results of national poverty surveys including the Integrated Household Survey (IHS 2015/16) using the US\$ 1.25 per day, show that almost half (48.6 %) of the population fall below the poverty line compared to 48.1% for a similar survey in 2010. The IHS 2015 survey also shows that 55.1% of Gambians have a caloric intake below 2,400 calories with stunting occurring at 22.9%, underweight at 21.4% and wasting at 10.3%. Results from the recent Gambia Micronutrient Survey (GMNS, 2019) shows that significant improvements have been registered with stunting and wasting for the underfive dropping to 15.7% and 5.8% respectively.

In order to address the main drivers of fragility, reduce poverty and improve the food security status of the population, the New Government articulated and is implementing a medium-term development framework—The National Development Plan (2018-2021). The NDP has the goal to "deliver good governance and accountability, social cohesion, national reconciliation and a transformed economy for the wellbeing of all Gambians". It is focused on eight priorities, key amongst them being "a modern, sustainable and market oriented agriculture and livestock sector for increased food and nutrition security, income and employment generation, poverty reduction and economic transformation".

Closely linked to the NDP are the agriculture and natural resources, and nutrition development policy frameworks vested in the Agricultural and Natural Resources - ANR Policy (2017-2026) and the National

Nutrition Policy (NNP, 2018-2025). While the overarching aim of ANRP is the maximization of poverty reduction and enhancement of food, income and nutrition securities through the optimal utilization of the resources consistent with safeguarding the integrity of the environment; the NNP aims to improve the nutritional status of The Gambian population especially the most vulnerable. Related medium-term sector policies with bearing on vulnerability, food and nutrition insecurity and on poverty include the social protection, gender equality and women empowerment policies.

## **2) Alignment of strategy objectives (as stated in “1” above) to Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2:**

The Government of The Gambia has committed itself to the realization of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations by 2030. In this vein, the reduction of poverty and improvement of the food and nutrition status of the population are key tenets of the national development agenda which are aligned with: SDG 1, No Poverty and SDG 2, Zero Hunger. Specifically, the NDP priorities on modernizing agriculture, enhancing nutrition and promoting the role of the private sector and green development, align it to SDG 1 and 2. Similarly, the strategic objectives of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy are: to achieve higher level of production and productivity of primary commodities through rehabilitation, intensification and expansion of ANR production systems and processes; to enhance higher level of expansion and development of the food industry sub-sector; to achieve wider and more effective participation and representation of subsistence farmers/operators especially women and youths in modern commercial production agribusiness and trade; to achieve a balanced development between the ANR sector and other sectors of the economy; and, to enhance the economic and structural integration of the ANR sector with the rest of the economy especially manufacturing, tourism and hotel industry.

The articulated priorities of the National Nutrition Policy include improving maternal nutrition, promoting optimal infant and young child feeding; improving food and nutrition security at national, community and household levels, improving standards, quality and safety. These relate to SDG 2, aimed at achieving Zero Hunger by 2030. The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP), has three of the five priority areas geared towards SDG1 and 2. These include: (i) safeguarding the welfare of the poorest and most vulnerable populations; (ii) protecting vulnerable from transitory shocks; and (iii) promoting livelihoods and incomes of the of the poorest and most vulnerable, economically active populations. Furthermore, in the bid to achieve the SDG’s, especially on Zero Hunger, the Government with support from WFP and other UN partners formulated the Strategic Zero Hunger Review (SZHR). Several relevant policies, including the School Feeding policy, which are aligned to SDG 1 and 2 have been formulated but are yet to be approved by Government.

## **3) Description of the national strategy and investment plan to achieve the food security objectives (components, activities, and indicative costs), highlighting any dimensions relating to managing risks associated with fragility, conflict, or violence:**

The economic situation until end 2016 was characterized by an unstable macroeconomic environment with sudden policy shifts, excessive borrowing and weak institutions. There was policy fragmentation, weak coordination between sectors and limited resource mobilization. The challenges in the macroeconomic environment have been exacerbated by climate variability with eleven incidences since 2007. In order to address the main drivers of fragility, reduce poverty and improve the food security status of the population, the New Government articulated and is implementing a medium-term development framework - The National Development Plan (2018-2021).

As highlighted, the NDP goal is to “deliver good governance and accountability, social cohesion, national reconciliation and a transformed economy for the wellbeing of all Gambians”. It is focused on eight priorities, key amongst which is “a modern, sustainable and marketed oriented agriculture and livestock sector for increased food and nutrition security, income and employment generation, poverty reduction and economic transformation”. Closely linked to the NDP are the agriculture and natural resources and nutrition



development policy frameworks vested in the ANR Policy (2017-2026)<sup>1</sup> and the National Nutrition Policy (NNP, 2018-2025). While the overarching aim of ANRP is the maximization of poverty reduction and enhancement of food, income and nutrition securities through the optimal utilization of the resources consistent safeguarding the integrity of the environment; the NNP aim to improve the nutritional status of The Gambian population especially the most vulnerable. Related medium-term sector policies with bearing on vulnerability, food and nutrition insecurity and on poverty include the social protection, gender and women empowerment policies.

The Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan - Food and Nutrition Security (GNAIP II) has the objective to increase food and nutrition security at household level including for vulnerable households through increased ANR productivity based on sustainable use and management of natural resources in support of the national goal of poverty reduction and improved livelihood. The indicative cost of GNAIP II for the period 2019-2026 is US\$ 394.19 million including contingencies. The summary of the six programmes and the respective budgets are presented in Table below.

Table 1: Estimated GNAIP-NFS Cost by programme

Programme	Cost (US\$ million)	%
Programme 1: Production and value chain promotion on food crops and vegetables sub sector	161.47	43.01
Programme 2: Production and value chain promotion on livestock husbandry and pastoralist sub sector	59.48	15.84
Programme 3: Production and value chain promotion on fisheries and aquaculture sub sector	75.55	20.12
Programme 4: Production and value chain promotion on forestry and environment sub sector	20.13	5.36
Programme 5: Food Security, Nutrition, Resilience and Social Protection	49.76	13.25
Programme 6: GNAIP Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation	10	2.66
<b>Total base cost</b>	<b>375.42</b>	<b>100</b>
Contingency - 5%	18.771	5
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>394.19</b>	<b>105</b>

Each of the Programme areas comprise components as follows:

Programme 1: Production and value chain promotion on food crops and vegetables sub sector has components to: to improve production infrastructure for priority food crops and vegetables; enhanced sustainable intensification production of priority food crops and vegetables; and post-harvest handling, produce transformation and marketing chains of food crops and vegetables developed and promoted

Programme 2: Improvement of Livestock Production and productivity has components for: (i) disease control, prevention and eradication; (ii) Improvement of feed resources and water supply; (iii) livestock commercialization and marketing; (iv) Livestock research and development; (v) capacity building and training; and, (vi) Policies and regulation

Programme 3: Production and value chain promotion on fisheries and aquaculture sub sector has Components on: (i) Institutional Restructuring, Rearrangement and Capacity Strengthening; (ii) Legal, Regulatory and Policy Reforms; (iii) Key Stakeholder and Capacity Building and Sensitization; (iv) Inter-sectoral linkages and optimization of overall value chain; (v) Post-Harvest and Quality Control; (vi) Collaboration and Partnership; and, (vii) Fish and Fishery Products, Production, Processing and Marketing

Programme 4: Production and value chain promotion on forestry and environment sub sector comprises components on: (i) Forestry; (ii) biodiversity parks and wildlife, (ii) the environment.

Programme 5: Food Security, Nutrition, Resilience and Social Protection has components on: (i) food security; (ii) nutrition/resilience; and (iii) social protection.

Programme 6: GNAIP Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation has components on: (i) Institutional arrangement and Coordination; (ii) financing mechanism; (iii) monitoring and evaluation; and (iv) implementation capacity building.

#### **4) Description of the monitorable framework and indicators reflected in the investment plan, if available:**

Several impact indicators have been developed from the GNAIP Result framework for monitoring. Key indicators will include: annual GDP growth rate of 5%; annual agricultural growth rate of 8%; improved food self-sufficiency with attainment of 220,000 Mt of rice, 43,000 Mt of maize, 162,000 Mt of fruits and 50,000 Mt of assorted vegetables, beef production to 5,670 Mt, mutton production to 756 Mt, goat meat production to 1,600 Mt, local poultry production to 1,200 Mt, commercial broiler production to 1,150 Mt, increased egg production 1,398 Mt, increased milk production to 28,470,915/litres; reduced prevalence of malnutrition with underweight at 12%, stunting at 13% and GAM at 5%. Detailed verifiable monitorable indicators are provided for each of the six programme areas in the Monitoring and Evaluation system developed is provided in the Results Framework presented as an Appendix to the GNAIP II.

#### **5) Evidence of past performance of related sectoral programmes:**

Several ongoing public sector projects exist in various phases of implementation. Funded by government and development partners, they are aimed at reducing poverty, improving food and nutrition security, enhancing production and productivity and strengthening resilience. Key ongoing projects for rural development include: i) The National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (*Nema*) funded by IFAD, with the objective to reduce poverty of rural women and youth; ii) the Gambia Agricultural Commercialization and Value Chain Management Project (GCAV) funded by the World Bank, aiming at improving productivity and access to market of targeted agricultural commodities for smallholders in the project area; iii) the Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (AVCDP) funded by the African Development Bank to contribute to food and nutrition security and create shared wealth and employment; and iv) the Food and Agriculture Sector Development Project (FASDEP) fund by GAFSP, focusing on productivity and access to market of targeted agricultural commodities for smallholders in the Project Area.

In general, project achievements centre around: land development infrastructure for irrigated rice production; desalinization of land applying phospho-gypsum; construction of roads for enhanced market access; development of community vegetable schemes providing water systems, fencing, nursery facilities; community poultry schemes with housing and initial (first cycle) production inputs; provision of matching grants to address investment needs of groups and entrepreneurs; community nutrition programmes and capacity building of groups.

As stated in the performance evaluation reports by their respective supervising entities, most of the cited initiatives above have reached a satisfactory performance rating. A key identified bottleneck in performance refers to challenges in project implementation whenever several infrastructure and civil works activities are designed/involved. Physical implementation of the projects against their output targets have also reached by high ratings, usually above 90%, and projects' disbursement target have also satisfactory been reached.

As for previous GAFSP funding in The Gambia, key achievements specific to FASDEP per component are as follows: under Component 1, Improved Agricultural infrastructure development: the development of additional 100 ha under tidal irrigation; tidal access; five community watershed and land use plans; 80 ha of agro-forestry woodlot. Under component 2, Agricultural production, diversification and commercialization:

establishment of 125 ha comprising 27 community garden schemes and 60 school gardens; establishment of 100 fish ponds, 25 small ruminant and 20 poultry schemes; supported 120 agro-business enterprises through the Matching Grant Facility, 60% of which are women-owned; 100 km of access roads rehabilitated and 10 regional market structures rehabilitated/constructed and equipped with storage and stalls for horticulture and livestock. Under component 3, Food and Nutrition Security: 102 schools with 22,924 pupils in West Coast Region and Lower River Region (LRR) benefitted from School feeding; promoted improved food production practices in targeted households through community-based nutrition and school education. Supported NaNA produce 1,300 revised nutrition manuals for schools. In resilience building, 10 community cereal/seed banks constructed and stuffed with food items: maize (1.1Mt), groundnuts (5.4 Mt), millet (22.2 Mt), rice (8.8mt) and beans (.33Mt).

The projects encounter key challenges in regards to achieving planned targets and sustaining gains made. These can be attributed to: low capacity of local contractors, particularly, in land development culminating in delays in completion and quality; challenges of beneficiaries to meet the contributions required in the matching grants; duplication and overlaps in the interventions; weak Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms; and, insufficiency of sustainability elements and exit strategies.

#### **6) Share of national strategy or investment plan being financed (by source), and the estimated financing gap:**

The Government has recently formulated, the agriculture and food security investment plan (GNAIP II, 2019-2026) and is actively mobilizing funding for its implementation. Key financing sources include the undisbursed funds of ongoing projects and planned projects funded by development partners and the the Government of The Gambia. These projects are fully aligned and complimentary to the six programmes of the investment plan. Specific projects and their undisbursed amounts include: the Agricultural Value Chain Development (ACVD - USD 6.4 million) Project, The Programme for building Resilience Against Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel (P2RS-USD 8.22 million) and the recently approved Rice Value Chain Transformation Project (RVCTP - USD 40 million) funded by the African Development Bank; Improving Food security and nutrition through food fortification (USD 3.3 million) and Agriculture for Economic Growth (USD 6.5 million) funded by the European Union; FASDEP (USD 4.75 million) funded by The Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP); Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change (USD 3.67 million) and Community-based dryland forest management (USD 1.75 million) funded by The Global Environment Facility (GEF); the Building Resilience to Restoring for Food Insecurity in The Gambia (USD 13.56 million), the Small Ruminant Improvement Project (USD 26 million) financed by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB); the Large-Scale Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in The Gambia: Developing a Climate resilient, natural resourced based-economy (EbA - USD 12.76 million) funded by the Green Climate Funds; and the the Gambia Commercial and Value Chain Management (GCAV) project (USD 2.6 million) funded by the World Bank.

Table 2 summarizes funding by category of execution agency comprising Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), those under Other Ministries comprising the Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources (MoFWR) and that of Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MoECCNR); those implemented by international technical agencies-notably the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the private sector. Accordingly, the contributions have reduced the funding gap, which is USD 184. 18 million or 46.7% of the overall funding requirement. The financing gap by programme area shows that fisheries and aquaculture production and value chain development (3) had the largest financing gap of 95.66% while Programme management (6) and Livestock value chain development had gaps of 22.93% 20.95% respectively. With the availability of USD 21.65 million from GAFSP, the funding gap will be reduced to 41%.

Table 2. GNAIP Funding Gap Determination

Estimated Funds Available to GNAIP (USD '000')	Total	GNAIP Programme (Years)					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Source							
MoA Projects	167,023	106,427	39,198	242	1,038	13,048	4,100
Projects- Other Ministries	12,761	2552	638	1534	7,656	0.00	2,084
Projects -Development Partners	15,226	4,131	2,678	0.00	5,665	1,228	1,523
Private Sector	15,000	9,000	4,500	1,500	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	210,010	122,110	47,014	3,276	14,359	14,276	7,707
GNAIP Programme Costs	394,190	161,470	59,480	75,550	20,130	49,760	10,000
Funding Gap	184,180	39,360	12,466	72,274	5,771	35,484	2,293
Financing Gap in %	46.7	24.4	20.95	95.66	28.66	71.31	22.93

**7) If available and under implementation, provide a summary of the strategy or investment plan implementation performance and achievements to date:**

Not Applicable.

The country is transitioning between the first version of the GNAIP and mobilizing resources for the implementation of its second version.

**8) For African countries that have completed implementation of a CAADP NAIP, provide a summary of implementation performance and achievements of the completed investment plan:**

The review of the National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plan (NAFSIP) and Determine Implementation Capacity Gaps (2016)<sup>1</sup> assessed the performance of GNAIP I for the period 2011-2015 and showed a GDP growth rate of 2.4%. This achievement was below the target set for the period at 8%. The performance was attributed to the subdued growth of the crop subsector at -4%. Thus, while the other subsectors: livestock (3.7%), forestry (3.2) and fisheries (4.4%) registered positive annual growth rates, they were not enough to boost the sector's performance to the desired level. Other factors that inhibited the performance of GNAIP I include: (i) mismatch between the envisaged annual growth rate of 8% and the public sector budgetary allocations for the ANR, which was only 6%. Furthermore, most of the budgetary allocations went to operations (wages and allowances) against investment (infrastructure, seeds and fertilizer); (ii) excessive executive interference with a heavy-handed management of the Ministry of Agriculture, culminating in rapid turn-over of senior staff disrupting programme and project implementation; and, (iii) parallel and erratic decision-making by the former executive put undue pressure culminating in a deteriorated institutional framework. This was the case of the "Vision 2016" self-sufficiency initiative which resulted in the diversion of significant financial resources to an unplanned investment. Under the new dispensation, there is an ongoing civil service reforms aimed at capacity strengthening of the public sector for effective delivery. Financial discipline is being entrenched backed by intensive training of ANR and other public sector agencies to ensure optimal implementation of programmes and projects.

**1.2 Key elements of the policy environment**

**1) Describe current policies enhancing or constraining the sector strategy and/or returns to the planned investments in the agriculture sector (e.g. land and water rights, trade policies, subsidies, social inclusion policies, gender policies, environmental policies):**

The agriculture and natural resources sector are one of the key drivers of economic development for The Gambia contributing 20-25% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and providing livelihood for 80.7% of the rural population according to the HIS-2015/16. However, the agricultural output is highly vulnerable to

unpredictable rainfall and weather-related shocks. The country produces approximately 50% of domestic food requirements and many smallholder farmers do not produce a marketable surplus. There is a rising rural income inequality between the urban and rural areas as evidenced by 31.6% and 69% of people respectively in the urban and rural areas living below the poverty line of 1.25US\$ (IHS, 2015/16). In view of the potential of agriculture for spurring economic growth and development, the Government has placed priority on the sector for its national development agenda in its investment plans and policies, particularly the Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy. A few policies informed the formulation of the GNAIP II, the medium-term investment framework for food and nutrition security, key amongst these are the Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy (2017-2026) and the Supplementary ANRP; the National Nutrition Policy; the National Social Protection Policy; the Gender and Women Empowerment policy; the Youth Policy and the Trade Policy. Key elements of the constraint analysis on agricultural production and productivity; interventions in the production and value chain promotion of food crops and vegetables, production and value chain promotion of livestock husbandry and pastoralists and production and value chain promotion of fisheries and aquaculture were informed by the ANRP. The ANRP further proposed a list of 25 investment actions to fill the gap in GNAIP 1 for inclusion into GNAIP II. The Supplementary ANRP and the subsector Forestry policy and strategy and National Biodiversity Strategy and Plan of Action provided further insight in the diagnostic of the NR sector and in the interventions respectively for forestry and biodiversity and wildlife and parks management interventions. The National Nutrition Policy informed the nutrition interventions and the NSPP the safety nets and social protection interventions. While the School feeding considered a key safety intervention, is well articulated as pillar 1 of the Education Policy, the substantive school feeding policy is yet to be finalized and approved.

**2) Where available, list pending policies or legislation envisaged to enhance planned investment returns in the sector (if any, provide description as well as status of policy reform):**

A few pending policies that are envisaged to enhance GNAIP II planned investment returns to the agriculture and natural resources sector include:

- The Agriculture Extension Policy, which when approved, will guide technological outreach to farmers for enhanced production and productivity;
- The Irrigation Policy, which will guide water usage, charges etc for rational use of both surface and ground water resources and reduce dependence on rainfed agriculture; and,
- The New Forestry policy, which when approved and implemented will ensure rational use and encourage private sector participation in forest resources management.
- The Home-Grown School Feeding Policy (final draft stage) and Strategy, giving precise orientations in terms of planning, implementation, menus, demand of foodstuff, budgeting, procurement guidelines, and other details related to the sustainable and national implementation of the programme. It will also include a transition (handover) strategy from WFP to the government.

The approval and subsequent implementation of the pending policies will build synergy and coherence with the consolidated ANR policy in line with the National Development Plan (NDP).

### **1.3 Government commitment to agriculture and food and nutrition security**

**1) Describe the level of secured public financial commitments to the country's agriculture sector and/or food security goals, showing domestic and international funding:**

The public sector with support from its development partners are funding a number ongoing and pipeline public sector projects on food and nutrition security. The major ongoing projects are funded by development

partners including the AfDB for AVCDP (US\$ 9.63 million and P2RS of *Nema* (US\$ 17.7 million); Arab Bank for Development (BADEA), African Union Commission (AUC), European Union (EU), Green Climate Fund, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) funding of *Nema* Chosso of US\$ 39.4 million, US\$ 15million funding of Building Resilience to Recurring Food Insecurity in The Gambia (BRRFI) by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), US\$ 24 million funding by the EU for three projects (Post-Crisis Response to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in The Gambia (EU EDF 11 Envelope B, Agriculture for Economic Growth, Building Resilience through Social Transfer for Nutrition Security in the Gambia (BREST)), US\$ 10 million of funding by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented by FAO, US\$ 19.2 million of World Bank (WB) for the GCAV and US\$ 27.3 million of GAFSP for FASDEP. Most of these projects are in the final years of implementation phase of four to six years' timeframe. Their interventions range from agricultural value chain management and development, resilience building to climate change adaptations. Since these fundings are mostly grants, they do not require government counterpart funding.

Several priority projects have been designed and await implementation, notable among these are the US\$ 40 million Rice value Chain Transformation Project to be funded jointly by the AfDB, IsDB and BADEA; the US\$ 5 million pilot project to be funded by the French Agency for Development (AFD) and the US\$ 80 million ROOTS follow-up to *Nema*/Chosso for the next cycle of IFAD funding.

**2) Describe how poverty rates in different parts of the country are factored into agricultural spending decisions:**

The differences in poverty rates in the various regions is a key determinant in the targeting strategies of the Government. In this regard, most development projects employ pro-poor targeting to minimize disparities between the rural and urban areas. This was the reason for choice of regions in the case projects including FASDEP, *Nema*, GCAV. Similarly, the government has been engaging civil society in the participatory budget process to reduce regional income disparities. A number of civil society organizations, particularly, PROPAG a pro-poor advocacy organization has been conducting budget tracking and lobbying to this effect.

**3) Provide a summary of agriculture sector and food security public expenditures (including current and most recent 5-year trends of public spending shares on agriculture and food security, composition of spending, share in total government spending, and budgeted compared to actual expenditures):**

Analysis of public sector budgetary allocations of recurrent and development for the past 5 years (2013-2018) to the ANR comprising the MoA, Ministry of Water Resources and Fisheries (MoWRF); and the Ministry of the Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR) show a mixed but increasing trend for the period with allocations have except for 2016, when it was 26.1%, all the other years were always been below the 10%. Thus, allocations were below the African Union (AU) commitments of Maputo (2002) and Malabo (2014) to allocate 10% of national budget resources to agriculture. The absorptive capacity measured by budget execution show differences between the allocated and the actual expenditure. For the five-year period analysed, execution has always been below 76% and was even lower for 2015, when only 18% of the approved was executed. Furthermore, a large proportion is on operations comprising salaries and allowances, rather than on investments. Government, through a pronouncement by Minister of Finance at International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Country Opportunity Strategy Paper (COSOP) Workshop on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, to allocate 10% public budgetary resources to the ANR.

**1.4 Process by which the strategy and investment plan were developed, or are being developed, and, where relevant, updated**

**1) Describe the process used to develop the agriculture and food security strategy and investment plan, including depth of consultation with domestic stakeholders, especially smallholders and women farmers, producer organizations, and vulnerable groups (youth, indigenous groups etc.). If a current**

**investment plan has not yet been finalized, clearly describe the process that is being planned to develop one, in response to the points above:**

During the GNAIP II formulation process, consultations and opportunities have been regularly provided to stakeholders in the agriculture, food security and nutrition sectors. Consultations were held at all the six agricultural regions by the Nine thematic working groups comprising the public, private sector and CSOs, where they were assisted by the Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Working Group (MoA, METWG). The thematic working groups produced a zero draft which was subsequently revised by through an active feedback consultation process with public, private and CSOs. Finally, a national validation workshop was organized with all stakeholders to provide their input into the document.

## **1.5 Implementation arrangements and capacity to implement**

### **1) Describe institutional arrangements for implementation of the agriculture and food security investment plan (including inter-ministerial co-ordination if relevant):**

Implementation of GNAIP II will be carried out at different levels and the key institutions involved will include the National Council of Ministers (NCM), the Programme Steering Committee (PSC), the Programme Coordination Office (PCO) and the decentralised and local development structures, i.e. Regional, District, Ward and Village Committees.

The NCM will be highest decision-making body in the implementation of GNAIP II. It will provide overall policy direction and guidance for implementing GNAIP II. The NCM will be chaired by the President and will include, but not be limited to the following ministries and agencies: MoA; MoFWR; MECCNAR; Ministry of Lands, Regional Government and Religious Affairs (MoLRRA); Ministry of Trade, Regional Integration and Employment (MoTRIE); Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA); representative of development partners, etc.

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) shall comprise MoA as Chair, the Project Coordinating Office (PCO) as Secretary, MoFEA, MoTRIE, MoWRF, MECCNAR, Ministry of Local Government, Land and Religious Affairs (MoLRA), Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE), Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW), Women's Bureau/MoA, Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO), Department of Agriculture (DoA), Department of Livestock Services (DLS), National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)/MoA, Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), Farmers Platform, Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI). The PSC will answerable to NCM. It will be responsible for the management and overall implementation and monitoring of all the GNAIP II programmes and activities. The PSC will review progress and technical reports and inform the NCM, as well as set up set up national thematic groups and task forces and support sensitization, communication and capacity building initiatives. It will meet at least quarterly and hold ad-hoc meetings as necessary. PSC will appoint senior staff of the PCO.

The Programme Coordination Office will be answerable to the PSC. It will serve as the technical arm of GNAIP II, overseeing programme planning, implementation and coordination and progress at a programmatic level. The PCO will be supported by the ANR-Working Group and staffed by Programme Coordinator (PC), a Financial Controller, Administrator, Procurement Officer and ancillary support staff. The PC will be responsible for programme coordination and monitoring and will work closely with Programme Support Units. At the decentralised level, Regional Directors will be appointed to manage technical aspects of the programmes.

Programme Support Units (PSUs) are responsible for the implementation of donor funded programme/projects. The PSUs will work closely with PCO and collaborate with other GNAIP programmes as appropriate. They will be reporting to PCO as well as Regional PSCs. At the decentralised level, Regional PSCs

(RPSC) will be established as a sub-committee of the existing Regional Development Committees to coordinate and manage GNAIP implementation ensure effective and timely delivery of results. GNAIP programmes will be implemented through existing decentralized structures such as the Regional Development Committees, District Development Committees, Ward Development Committees as well as Village Development Committees. The heads of line departments, already members of Regional Development Committees, are expected to play key roles in RPSCs. The RPSCs will meet monthly to review progress.

**2) Describe human resources in place to implement the agriculture and food security investment plan (including agriculture researchers, extension services/officers, management and coordination functions – list staff numbers, gender, and qualifications):**

The GNAIP will be implemented through MoA, related NGOs and Civil Society organizations, farmer organizations and the private sector. A 2016 Assessment of Human Resources Capacity in Agriculture<sup>1</sup> covered the MoA, DoA, DLS, NARI, Agricultural projects and agricultural related NGOs (Action Aid, ADWAC, GAWFA and CU). It revealed gaps in both the number and quality of staff for institutions assessed with an extension worker farmer ratio of 1:2000. According to the Report, the MoA and its constituent institutions had 867 staff of which 266 were unskilled and 601 had various levels of qualification ranging from 199 at certificate, 235 had diploma (235), 98 had Bachelors (BSc), 66 had Masters (MSc), 1 had (Association of Chartered Accountants (ACCA) and 2 had doctorate (PhD). NARI and DLS had the most acute need to train professional staff to effectively carry out their mandate. The report indicated that professional training in agriculture and related fields was provided through two main institutions - University of The Gambia (UTG) School of Agriculture and Environmental Science and The Gambia College. These, however do not offer Masters and Doctorate level training in the specialized fields. Hence, key institutions in MoA (e.g. NARI, DoA, DLS) send staff for studies abroad. While the Civil Service including MoA and projects were marred by instability and high turnover of decision-makers and migration of skilled staff culminating in lack of continuity in programming, implementation bottlenecks - low morale and demotivation of staff. The situation has now stabilized and the capacity building efforts currently ongoing through the Civil Service Reforms offer greater opportunity for effective and efficient project delivery.

**3) Describe the roles of central and local governments, producer organizations and other private sector actors (particularly in public-private partnerships), civil society, and development partners in implementing the agriculture and food security investment plan:**

The GNAIP II will be implemented at central and ward/district levels with the active participation of the public sector institutions, civil society organizations, farmer organizations and the private sector. They will all be represented in the Project Steering Committee where key decisions on project planning (Annual Work Plan and Budget) and on progress reporting are made. Additionally, the public and Civil society will have capacity building roles and will in turn will benefit from capacity enhancement. Farmer and their organizations will be the principal beneficiaries supported in the value chain interventions while Public-Private and Producer partnerships will be fostered to leverage private sector investment in the agricultural value chains in the GNAIP II.

**4) Describe the implementation performance of major agriculture and food security programmes/projects over the past five years:**

Several agricultural, food and nutrition security projects have been implemented in the public sector in the last five years. These include: The National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (*Nema*); Gambia Commercial Agriculture and Value Chain Management Project (GCAV); Agricultural value Chain Development Project (AVCDP), Food and Agriculture Sector Development Project (FASDEP), Gambia Maternal and Child Health Results Project (MCHRP), Strengthening Climate Services and Early Warning



Systems in The Gambia for Climate Change (Early Warning Phase 2), Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change (AACC) and Community-based Dryland Forest Management.

Overall, most have five-year life spans with implementation performance mostly satisfactory and over 65% of planned activities implemented. However, almost all start implementation in the first year at a slow pace due to delays in procurement and contract commencement. In the Subsequent years the pace is much faster. A key concern has been sustaining the gains once the projects have reached the completion phase. Key ingredients for sustainability include strong and committed value chain actors, good governance, effective coordination and communication mechanisms, robust M&E system which provide regular feedback to management and executing viable exit strategies.

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## Part 2: Specific proposal for GAFSP financing

### 2.1 Project objective(s), expected results, and target project participants

#### 1) Objectives of the project

##### *a) Objective(s) of the project:*

The project's development objective is to increase food and nutritional security, and household incomes, particularly for vulnerable households in the project area. This will be achieved through increased agriculture production and productivity, post-harvest management and commercialization, linking smallholders to assured institutional markets, and active private sector participation.

Specific objectives for the proposed project are:

- i. Structure food demand and improve smallholder's productivity by increasing food production, post-harvest management, market access and resilience for identified food chains;
- ii. Promote social protection and food safety net programmes to reduce food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations in the project areas;
- iii. Strengthen national capacities for ownership and good governance of the FNS Sector.

The first objective will be achieved through strengthening resources and capacities of smallholder farmers, especially women and youth, and other food chain actors (i.e. private sector, Farmer Based Organizations - FBOs and NGOs).

The second objective will be tackled through resilience building and social protection programmes, such as the HGSF, and complementary nutrition initiatives.

The third objective will be approached through institutional strengthening of the public and private sectors, South-South and Triangular cooperation and a strong support for the ANR policy coherence, providing an enabling environment.

##### *b) Links with the overall sector strategy and investment plan(see Country Guidelines for specific requirements regarding sector strategy and investment plan):*

The current project proposal will provide additional funding to implement the six interrelated pillar programmes of GNAIP II and NDP (Attachments 1 and 2). Covering a five-year period, new GAFSP funds will build up on selected FASDEP's proven best practices to deliver GNAIP II's programmes (Attachment 2). This specially designed addition will expand the implementation of other national sectoral policies and of the AU frameworks on rural development, education and nutrition that contribute to advancing ANR sector targets.

The new GAFSP funding will contribute significantly to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals resources through its enhanced investment in governmental and rural capacity development; rural women economic empowerment; and knowledge exchange and technical assistance for agricultural productivity and social protection (SDGs 1, 2, 5, 13 and 17). In addition to the sectoral policies that support GNAIP II implementation and ANR sector development, this GAFSP proposal will strengthen national capacities for risk mitigation and climate adaptation measures as recommended in the Gambia's National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) to Climate Change.

The new GAFSP proposal will be one of the main drivers of the NDP 2018-2021, especially for the ANR sectors through full alignment with GNAIP II's programmes and related policies. Overall, this GAFSP project hinges

on the GNAIP II's programmes supporting the investments necessary to enable modernization of the Gambia agriculture and livestock for sustained economic growth, food and nutrition security and poverty reduction. With a special focus on a gradual transition to government ownership of GNAIP II's programmes; national management of school feeding nutrition programmes; and climate-smart agriculture. GAFSP technical support for GNAIP II-NDP connections will promote all the necessary linkages between value chain actors and the ongoing school feeding programme and other markets. For that, GAFSP will provide technical support to the Government on coherence between relevant policy instruments under the NDP. At the sector level, several strategies and policies have been formulated for implementation in the bid to increase production, improve productivity, enhance food security and nutrition and reduce poverty.

## 2) Expected results<sup>1</sup>

### a) Project-level expected results (with indicative project log frame provided in Appendix 1):

Expected results from the GAFSP-financed components include: over 75,000 farmers (53% are women) with improved capacity on productivity, processing and marketing skills, 120 SMEs supported with BDS, 200 FBOs strengthened with technical assistance and extension services capacities, 120 bulking facilities built or upgrades, increased agricultural productivity by up to 20 percent over current levels for the selected school meals' food basket products (key food staples in the country). Increased smallholder incomes through enhanced post-harvest processing and broadened access to the HGSP market. Reduced food insecurity from 8 percent to 5 percent combined with improved knowledge and implementation of improved nutritional practices among beneficiary households. Implementation of HGSP programmes, increasing school meals' coverage rate of 42% to 60%, thus adding 147 schools to the already 102 reached by FASDEP in WCR, LRR and CRR, covering up to additional 131,900 school-going children, 52 per cent of whom are girls, and integrating more 3,000 smallholder farmers into the HGSP market. Finalization and implementation of a HGSP mixed model programme in these three regions (food- and cash-based). Design and implementation of a national HGSP assessment and strategy; and strengthened Central Projects Coordination Unit (CPCU) capacity in management and coordination, resulting in more streamlined operations, South-South and Triangular exchange among stakeholders to learn lessons and share experiences, and synergies among interventions and the private sector.

### b) Project-level indicators used to measure these results – disaggregated by gender:

Based on tier 2 of the GAFSP M&E framework, the following project-level indicators were selected to measure the above expected results:

Table 3. Project-level indicators used to measure project expected results

#	Proposed Project-Level Indicator	GAFSP Pillar					SDGs	CSA	Gender	Nutrition
		1	2	3	4	5				
1	Number of beneficiaries reached directly and indirectly • Women • Men	•	•	•	•	•	1, 2, 13	•	•	•
2	Number of hectares of gardens	•		•			2, 13	•	•	•
3	Number of smallholders receiving productivity enhancement training and inputs • Women • Men	•					1, 2, 5, 13	•	•	

<sup>1</sup> Results framework (at Proposal stage) available in Appendix 1.

#	Proposed Project-Level Indicator	GAFSP Pillar					SDGs	CSA	Gender	Nutrition
		1	2	3	4	5				
4	Number of smallholders receiving post-harvest and marketing/business support training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women</li> <li>• Men</li> </ul>		•				1, 2, 5, 13	•	•	
5	Number of producer-based organizations supported	•					2, 16		•	
6	Number of post-harvest facilities constructed and/or rehabilitated			•			2, 8, 12			•
7	Volume of agricultural production processed by post-harvest facilities established with GAFSP support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rice</li> <li>• Cereals</li> <li>• Beans</li> <li>• Poultry</li> <li>• Groundnuts</li> <li>• Vegetables</li> <li>• Cassava</li> </ul>	•	•				2, 8, 12			•
8	Number of school-going children benefiting from cash or food-based transfers(School Feeding Programme) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls</li> <li>• Boys</li> </ul>			•			1, 2, 4, 5		•	•
9	People receiving improved nutrition services and products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of people who received nutrition counselling/education, bio-fortified foods, and Vitamin A and micronutrient supplements.</li> <li>• Number of people receiving extension support for nutrition-relevant techniques (e.g., homestead gardens, Farmer Field School support, etc.).</li> </ul>			•			2, 3, 5		•	•
10	Number of individuals receiving capacity development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women</li> <li>• Men</li> <li>• Agricultural and non-agricultural rural training and capacity building support provided.</li> <li>• individual producers/household members</li> <li>• civil society organization staff</li> <li>• government officials.</li> </ul>	•		•	•	•	2, 4, 5	•	•	•
11	Number of substantive deliverables on food security processes completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessments</li> <li>• Policies and Strategies</li> <li>• Programme Designs</li> <li>• Knowledge Exchanges</li> <li>• Lessons learned and GAPS</li> </ul>		•			•	2, 5, 13, 16	•	•	•

### 3) Target project participants

#### a) Participant number (in numbers of persons participating or otherwise benefiting):

Building up on FASDEP’s activities, the project target area will cover three administrative regions: CRR (North and South), LRR, and WCR. Selection has been based on four main criteria: poverty levels; malnutrition of children under five years, food insecurity; and production potential. According to the NDP 2018-2021, the 3 selected regions keep presenting higher levels in household poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and vulnerability than the national average, ranking among the highest in all categories (poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition).

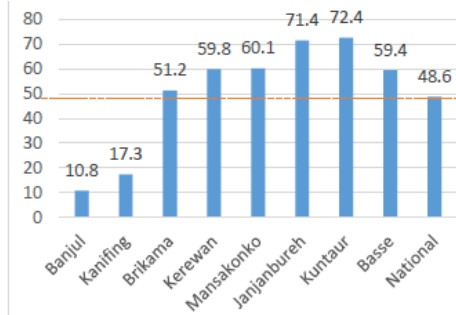


Figure 1. Proportion of the Population Living below the Poverty Line by LGAs NDP, 2018.

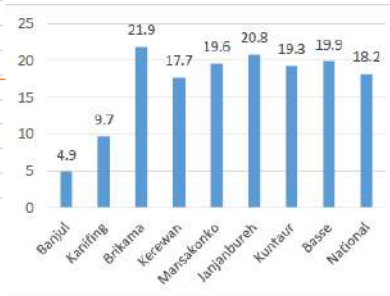


Figure 2. Poverty Gap by LGA NDP, 2018.

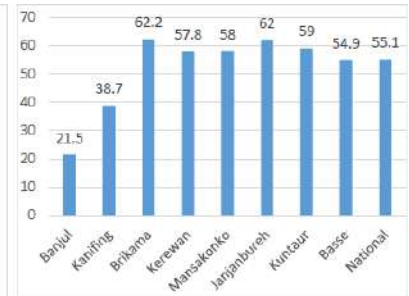


Figure 3. Food Poverty (Headcount) by LGA NDP, 2018.

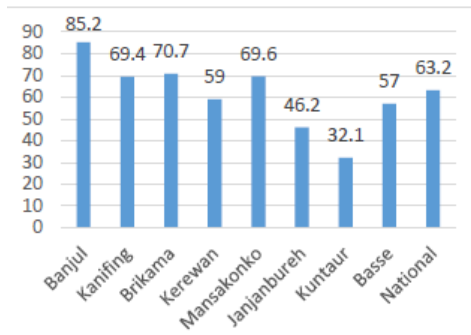


Figure 4. Net Enrolment rate for Primary Education Level by LGAs NDP, 2018.

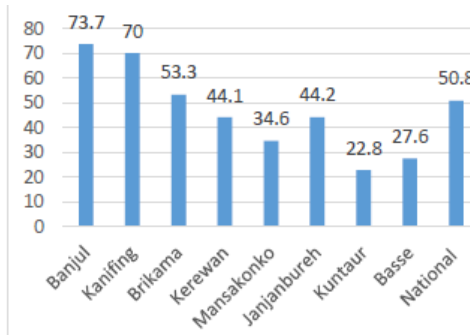


Figure 5. Literacy Rate for Persons 15 Years and Above by LGAs NDP, 2018.

The LRR, CRR/N and CRR/S regions have particularly high productive potential. They are key rice and leafy vegetables growing areas with relatively fertile lowland soils, which have been key areas for food development to increase national food security. The uplands, particularly in the north of the LRR, have high potential for the production of coarse grains which are key sources of household income for smallholders. The WCR is a key area for horticulture, providing opportunity for development of value chains and market linkages to urban areas, facilitating sales to schools in institutional purchases, as well as partnerships with private sector actors, such as export traders. Products from one area may also be purchased from other areas.

Around **420,000 people** are estimated to benefit from this GAFSP project proposal within the project target areas (i.e. **190,000 women, 160,000 youths and 70,000 men**). This includes 50,000 beneficiary households

(8.4 persons per household<sup>2</sup>), representing about 67 percent of total households in project area and about 26 percent of the population involved in agriculture.

The project will benefit **directly** about 23,800 households or 200,000 beneficiaries: farmers, processors, community members, school going children, and local actors engaged in activities within project impact areas, with a proportionally targeted number of women and youth, and women headed-households, together estimated at least 60 percent of project beneficiaries.

A total of 26,200 households are estimated to benefit **indirectly** from investments funded under GAFSP in a number of ways, for example: (i) access to improved technologies and CSA practices in project areas; (ii) several nutrition-sensitive IEC campaigns and gender-based trainings, (iii) access to reliable, timely market information and infrastructures (e.g. post-harvest storages and multipurpose warehouses) and improved private sector-smallholder partnerships and links with institutional markets; and (iv) enhanced emergency preparedness systems to improve emergency response (such as drought).

As for the HGSF aspect of the project, with a 60% coverage rate of enrolled children and with a 30% target for local purchases from smallholder farmers. HGSF will adopt a cash-based model for perishable foods, such as vegetables and poultry. Local purchase rate can reach up to 60% as local logistics are less expensive and demand is smaller.

Table 4. Total beneficiaries targeted by the HGSF programme (alone) in three regions

Region	Enrolled school-going children (0-5 years-old) in 2019		Enrolled school-going children (6 to 12 years-old) in 2018		Smallholder farmers		Indirect beneficiaries (cooks)
	Total	Targeted - 60% coverage	Total	Targeted - 60% coverage	Women	Men	
CRR	9,988	5,993	36,853	22,112	4,000	3,000	821
LRR	5,536	3,322	18,905	11,343			
WCR	53,943	32,366	148,823	89,294			
Group total	69,467	41,680	204,581	122,749			
Grand total targeted, building up on FASDEP:			172,250				
<b>Grand total targeted by this project alone:</b>			<b>131,900</b>				

**b) Expected female share of direct project participants (%):**

Table 5. Expected female share of direct project participants (%):

Region	School going girls	Women smallholder farmers	Women involved in schools (cooks, mothers, etc.)
	Total	Total	Total
CRR	56	67	100
LRR	52		
WCR	52		
Group average:	53,4		
<b>Total average of targeted groups (students and smallholder farmers):</b>		<b>60</b>	

<sup>2</sup> National average, as per NDP 2018.

**c) Other disaggregation of direct project participants (if applicable):**

Table 6. Total female beneficiaries targeted by the HGSP programme in three regions

Region	Enrolled school-going girls (0-5 years-old) in 2019		Enrolled school-going girls (6 to 12 years-old) in 2018		Smallholder farmers	Indirect beneficiaries (school cooks)
	Total	Targeted	Total	Targeted	Women	
CRR	5,302	3,181	20,630	12,378	4,000	821
LRR	2,930	1,758	9,862	5,917		
WCR	27,673	16,604	77,079	46,247		
Group total	35,905	21,543	107,571	64,543		
Grand total targeted, building up on FASDEP:			86,907			
<b>Grand total targeted by this project alone:</b>			<b>74,329</b>			

Table 7. Total number schools that can be covered by the HGSP programme in three regions after food safety adaptations

Region	Early Education Centres	Lower Education Centres
	Total – targeted yet	Total - not targeted yet
CRR	166	174
LRR	90	98
WCR	513	367
Grand total targeted, building up on FASDEP:		249
Grand total that can be targeted by this project alone:		147

## 2.2 Justification for the overall approach

### 1) Description of overall approach chosen (combination and choice of components and activities), based on evidence of prior success or feasibility:

As presented in the first part of this proposal, The Gambia has a fragile context. Smallholder farming sector remains weak, comprising mainly subsistence farmers with limited access to inputs and resources. This translates into a low-income reality for farmers. In addition, undernutrition and Global Acute Malnutrition affects as much as 30 percent and 10 percent respectively of the Gambia population, pinpointing an extremely low food security environment. Additionally, there is a limited governance of national institutions related to agriculture and food security, including the link with the private sector and public institutional markets. All these factors lead The Gambia to a high fragile and vulnerable situation.

Hunger is usually understood as an uncomfortable or painful sensation caused by insufficient food energy consumption. Simply put, all hungry people are food insecure, but not all food insecure people are hungry, as there are other causes of food insecurity, including those due to poor intake of micro-nutrients. Malnutrition results from deficiencies, excesses or imbalances in the consumption of macro- and/or micronutrients. Malnutrition may be an outcome of food insecurity, or it may relate to non-food factors, such as: inadequate care practices for children, insufficient health services; and an unhealthy environment. While poverty is undoubtedly a cause of hunger, lack of adequate and proper nutrition itself is an underlying cause of poverty. It is argued that a strategy for attacking poverty in conjunction with policies to ensure food security offers the best hope of swiftly reducing mass poverty and hunger. An example for this rationale is what Brazil did with its Zero Hunger Programme, lifting over 10 million people out of poverty from 2002 to 2013, and removing Brazil from the Hunger Map.

However, recent studies from the World Bank and FAO show that economic growth alone will not take care of the problem of food security. What is needed is a combination of: income growth; supported by direct nutrition interventions; and investment in health, water and education. As such, the project had to come up with outcomes that would tackle these three challenges: low income, low food security and limited governance. Still in this context, outcomes for the project should be: i) improved productivity, income and climate resilience to smallholder farmers by the adoption of a sustainable and adequate food systems; ii) reduced vulnerability by the increase in food security and the consolidation of social protection initiatives; and iii) strengthened capacities of national institutions to implement integrated and systemic initiatives for agriculture & food security.

There are different paths to **improve rural smallholders' incomes**. The main cash crop of The Gambia is groundnuts. The country is primarily a agricultural country with 80 percent of the population of just over 2 million depending on agriculture for its food and cash income. The farming economy is the only means of income creation for the majority of rural families most whom live below the poverty line. The rural poor usually depend on the value of the food and livestock they produce for home consumption. Key drivers for achieving immediate income improvements include: opening market access and increasing productivity, but there are others. Other key drivers to improve smallholders' income include: Agricultural services: improving technical knowledge, inputs (seeds, fertiliser, tools), warehouses, drying sheds, postharvest machinery; growth of markets including domestic markets; provision of financial services: credit, loans, savings, insurance; decent market access: stable demand, fair prices, favourable terms of trade; gender: women's participation and equal access to economic empowerment; provision of basic services: including water (domestic and irrigation), quality education and health; and strengthening of agricultural and non-agricultural sectors in the local economy. the project could not tackle all of these, but key drivers were targeted, such as gender, agricultural services and stable demand (HGSF institutional market).

Another key challenge is to **boost food security**. Production of food commodities for local consumption heavily depends on the weather. The country produces about 50 percent of its domestic requirements. The country relies on rice imports from the international market to cover its consumption needs, and food prices are strongly affected by the exchange rate of the Dalasi. Soaring international food prices and low national production are leading to high inflationary pressure on the domestic food market, eroding the purchasing power of urban and rural consumers.

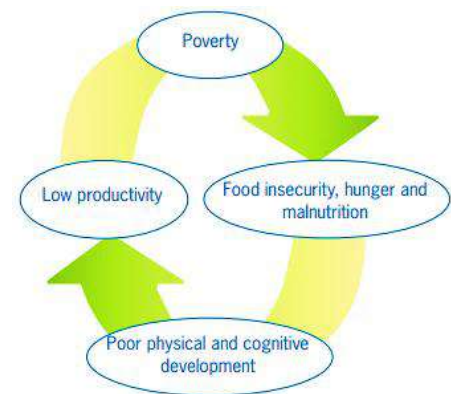


Figure 6. Food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty are deeply interrelated phenomena  
FAO: 2008



Subsistence farming households do not produce enough in their mono crop system to achieve a marketable surplus. Income from agriculture and other sources is limited often due to insufficient output marketing opportunities. Poor rural households have to bridge a food deficit period between 4 to 6 months, generally in the raining season.

As the 1996 World Food Summit states, “Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. From this definition, four main dimensions of food security can be identified, as presented in the table below:

Table 8. Dimensions of Food Security

Physical <b>AVAILABILITY</b> of food	Food availability addresses the “supply side” of food security and is determined by the level of food production, stock levels and net trade.
Economic and physical <b>ACCESS</b> to food	An adequate supply of food at the national or international level does not in itself guarantee household level food security. Concerns about insufficient food access have resulted in a greater policy focus on incomes, expenditure, markets and prices in achieving food security objectives.
Food <b>UTILIZATION</b>	Utilization is commonly understood as the way the body makes the most of various nutrients in the food. Sufficient energy and nutrient intake by individuals are the result of good care and feeding practices, food preparation, diversity of the diet and intra-household distribution of food. Combined with good biological utilization of food consumed, this determines the nutritional status of individuals.
<b>STABILITY</b> of the other three dimensions over time	Even if your food intake is adequate today, you are still considered to be food insecure if you have inadequate access to food on a periodic basis, risking a deterioration of your nutritional status. Adverse weather conditions, political instability, or economic factors (unemployment, rising food prices) may have an impact on your food security status.

Thus, to support the reduction of food insecurity in the Gambia, project activities/components needed to contemplate all four dimensions of food security simultaneously to confirm sustainable results. Component 1 of the project tackles availability and stability dimensions, while component 2 addresses the utilization and access dimensions.

A final key challenge to be addressed is **limited governance**. As stated by the WFP’s Country Capacity Strengthening 2018 (CCS) methodology, “Country Capacity Strengthening is the process through which individuals, organisations and societies obtain, strengthen and maintain their capabilities to set and achieve their own development objectives over time; building on existing skills, knowledge, systems and institutions to enable governments to take responsibility for investing in and managing hunger solutions”. All nations aim to develop self-sufficient capacities across the board so as to achieve national development goals with little or no external assistance. Capacity strengthening is all about systems, and systems are complex. The achievement of international and national development targets hinges on capacities of individuals, organizations and societies to transform in order to reach development objectives. Effective CCS support must therefore address the three inter-related capacity domains (individual, organizational and enabling environment), recognising the interdependencies between, and aiming to strengthen both soft and hard capacities as required by the context. Single interventions (e.g., trainings) are not likely to make a significant difference unless they represent a key leverage point that can shift an entire system’s behaviour. The project made sure to take in this lesson while designing its capacity development and strengthening activities.

## 2) Causal link between expected results and the combination of activities and components, including the expected pathways to reduce poverty and hunger and improve nutrition:

Improving sustainable markets for a national sustainable food system and productivity is central to improving increase food and nutrition security, increasing household incomes and reducing poverty in The Gambia. Current production levels derive primarily from subsistence with dependence on and rain-fed agriculture. Food production is below the potential and the marketable food surplus does not have a stable market so that smallholder farmers can expand output sustainably plan cultivation and selling. This results in major food deficits annually (estimated between 40-50 percent). This gap has had a direct effect on food and nutrition security for the last 15 years, which is made up by commercial imports and food aid without capacity strengthening components.

This GAFSP project's theory of change is that **structured demand of a HGSF programme connects large, predictable sources of demand for specific agricultural products to small farmers, which reduces risks and encourages improved quality, leading to improved systems, increased income and reduced poverty**. This suggests that government interventions, such as HGSF, are needed to encourage structured demands for family-based agricultural production and/or to include smallholder farmers in the existing formal mechanisms to support agricultural production that have largely only been accessible to larger producers, food aid or importation. Oftentimes, school feeding programmes are classified as social safety nets that assists vulnerable and food insecure people – predominantly school-aged children. However, worldwide, most school feeding programmes, particularly national programmes, are implemented with the objectives of also positively impacting various education – and nutrition-related indicators of school-going children. In addition, school feeding programmes, and particularly HGSF models implemented by WFP through FASDEP in The Gambia, also achieved outcomes and impacts in the areas of agricultural and local economic development by providing local farmers and producers access to the market for their commodities, that a school feeding programme might constitute.

The rationale binding together the three components of this GAFSP project is the creation of a structured demand through a government intervention that provides a stable market and price benchmark for smallholder production through public procurement<sup>3</sup>. This demand offers greater assurance in production planning, farmer organization and confidence in selling a surplus to the market. Importantly, HGSF also acts as a social safety nets that improve food security and guarantees food access for school-aged children and other vulnerable groups<sup>4</sup>. All six regions of The Gambian schools are assisted either by FASDEP, through WFP, or by the Government. The Government implements catering, community-based and home-grown models. WFP implements only home-grown models in two modalities: in-kind and cash-based. All 117 schools covered by WFP already buy to some extent from smallholder farmers. The project's rationale is to extend the home-grown model to other schools in the regions where WFP and Government overlap to run school meals and to extend the programme to non-covered schools. WFP already reaches 115,000 children in pre-school and primary school, while the Government assists 24,000. Half of the children are girls. This covers 42 percent of the children in pre-school and primary school nationwide and needs more funding to grow.

Last, it is important to highlight that a strong HGSF programme not only benefits the children (future human capital of the country), but also local economies (as schools buy from farmers, improving their stable income), and women empowerment on the field (most gardens and HGSF activities are carried out by the local women farmers).

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<sup>3</sup> <https://ipcig.org/pub/IPCTechnicalPaper7.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/i8724en/I8724EN.pdf>

### **3) Positioning of this project within the broader investment plan, including links with other projects and government programmes:**

**The proposed GAFSP financed project is fully aligned to GNAIP II.** The connection will increase the ANR sector's contribution to the food and nutrition security of the Gambia's vulnerable population, especially school-aged children and smallholder farmers. **Emphasis is now placed on increasing production and productivity of smallholder farmers through food commercialization to a structured market: the school feeding programme.** This connection seeks to contribute to the GNAIP II's goal of attaining an increased ANR sector growth of 4 to 8 percent per annum. This will occur in parallel with GAFSP support efforts for food self-sufficiency, by increasing domestic cereal production from 50 percent to 75 percent. These efforts will contribute to support NDP's goal to reduce levels of poverty from 48 percent to less than 40 percent. Currently, these objectives are on track, but still need support for improvement. The proposed GAFSP funded project will consolidate the key-achievements of FASDEP to advance GNAIP II and ANR programmes. The project will leverage on the infrastructure developed by GAFSP funded FASDEP and other Project such as the on-going AfDB funded Building Resilience Against Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel (P2RS) and Rice Value Chain Development Project (RVCDP) for rice production and optimise their utilisation. In addition, under FASDEP component 2, *Agricultural production, diversification and commercialization*: GAFSP will scale up the previous establishment of 125 ha of smallholder farming. This comprises the 27 community garden schemes; 60 school gardens; and 20 poultry schemes. Under component 3, *Food and Nutrition Security*, GAFSP will expand from the current 102 schools benefitting from HGSP, covering 22,924 pupils in West Coast Region and Lower River Region (LRR). GAFSP will also keep promoting improved food production practices in targeted households through community-based nutrition and school education. Under *Resilience building*, **the current project will work on the experience of FASDEP's 10 community cereal/seed banks constructed and stocked with food items:** maize (1.1Mt), groundnuts (5.4 Mt), millet (22.2 Mt), rice (8.8 Mt) and beans (0.33 Mt) to develop storage for schools and farmers. To continue improving these results, GAFSP fund will work the following ANR programmes to facilitate and strengthen the productive capacities of smallholder farmers to create an environment that graduates them to medium-scale farming and that promotes the development of agribusiness beyond the school feeding market. ANR's HGSP, the only safety net in place in The Gambia, is an entry-point market that will also facilitate access to other markets and will add value for a selected range of school meals' commodities that have been already promoted by FASDEP, such as rice, poultry, millet, beans, cassava, and horticulture. Other ANR programme policy components this GAFSP will implement include: the Improvement of agricultural land and water management e, aimed at ensuring food security and rice self-sufficiency in The Gambia through the employment of appropriate and environmentally friendly water management techniques and cultivation practices; the development of agricultural chains and market promotion, which aims to enhance the transformation of agriculture from the traditional subsistence form to a commercial scale; the national food and nutritional security interventions, which aim to improve national and household food security and adequate nutritional levels, including during periods of disaster; and the Institutional Capacity Building for Programme Implementation, whose objective is to create an enabling environment to facilitate the successful design and implementation of the GNAIP.

### **4) Describe how the current policy environment helps or hinders project implementation and achievement of the targeted results:**

The Gambia has several institutional frameworks in place that can promote an enabling environment and an appropriate organizational domain to develop and to implement GAFSP's new project. This includes the: National Agricultural Sector Strategy (NASS, 2014), which provides a broad framework for the development of the sector in order to reduce dependence on food imports, increase foreign exchange earnings through exports, and improve food security and nutrition through income generation. The ANR Sector Policy (ANRP, 2017-2026) provides the framework for development of the sector in the medium-term, it is complimented

by the Supplementary Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy (ANRP), focusing on the natural resources subsector. The National Horticulture Sector Masterplan (NHSM, 2015) for the period 2015-2035 aims to improve horticulture development in the long-term. The National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS, 2015-2024) aims at attaining rice self-sufficiency by 2024 through increased domestic production was formulated. Several subsector strategies exist for the specific school feeding market GAFSP will foment for rural development in The Gambia. The Nutrition Policy (2018–2025); The Home-Grown School Feeding Policy (draft bill); and the National Social Protection Policy (draft bill); and the Gender Policy (2017). The National Social Protection Policy is more advanced and has three out of five priority areas: (i) safeguarding the welfare of the poorest and most vulnerable populations; (ii) protecting vulnerable from transitory shocks; and (iii) promoting livelihoods and incomes of the of the poorest and most vulnerable, economically active populations geared towards SDG 1 and 2. Furthermore, in the bid to achieve the SDG's, especially on Zero Hunger, the Government with support from WFP and other UNCT partners formulated the GZHR.

**5) Describe specific considerations or measures put in place to ensure that the overall approach chosen is within the actual implementation capacity of the executing agency:**

The Gambia Ministry of Agriculture is the central pillar of the Government to implement GNAIP II and NDP programmes and to guide growth and development of the agriculture and natural resources sectors. GAFSP will work with four main GNAIP II programmes, designed to be complementary, build on and scale up proven FASDEP approaches, enhance coordination and synergies among partners. Coordination measures will build up on FASDEP coordination structure through a Multidisciplinary Programme Steering Committee (PSC), consisting of a High-Level and Technical working groups, and managed through the CPCU, under the MoA. CPCU is already in place and working to coordinate FASDEP. Under a Project Officer and supported by a team of national specialists, FASDEP and any other GAFSP projects are implemented through the GAFSP PSU under the CPCU of MoA. CPCU works in collaboration with MoA Regional Directors and focal points from other relevant ministries to support technical aspects of each program. Implementation will be through local government authorities (under MoLGL) and decentralized development committees and partner with the private sector, NGOs, farmer-based organizations, micro-finance institutions (MFI) and PSUs under relevant ministries, such as Education, Women and Child Affairs, and Social Development. This GAFSP proposal uses the same AfDB supervision structure, also in place for FASDEP, which maintains a longstanding partnership with the country, having supported several past and ongoing programmes. Technical Assistance will be supported by WFP, which is a valued technical partner in The Gambia, and provided key technical assistance during the preparation of GNAIP I and II.

**6) [Only for countries that have received a previous GAFSP grant allocation]: Present clear evidence of past implementation performance and the impact of activities from previous GAFSP projects in the country:**

Considerable knowledge and experience has accrued through the implementation of FASDEP further assures of smooth implementation of another AfDB supervised GAFSP funded project. Some exogenous factors including weak local capacity for design and construction of tidal irrigation schemes slowed the implementation of FASDEP at the early stages. The dividend in the knowledge and experiences is evidenced in the acceleration of project implementation activities culminating commitment of 100% of the funds and disbursements rate of 97.5% with three months left. The project has had unqualified audit reports in its period of implementation so far.

FASDEP contributed to reducing rural household poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition (stakeholders' resilience), through increased agricultural production and productivity and commercialisation. FASDEP has been implemented over a five-year period (the project ends in December 2019). It covers three administrative regions comprising four agricultural regions namely: (i) Central River Region-North (CRR-N); (ii) Central River Region-South (CRR-S); (iii) Lower River Region (LRR); and, (iv) West Coast Region (WCR),

where poverty and food insecurity is highly endemic. The total number of beneficiaries is 240,000 in the targeted Regions comprising 150,000 women, and 30,000 men and the rest being the active 60,000 youths. This also translates into a total of 30,000 beneficiary households, representing about 42 per cent of total households in project area and about 20 per cent of the population involved in agriculture. The MoA was the executing agency with implementation by the PSU. Overall coordination and supervision will be under the CPCU of MoA, which was strengthened to effectively undertake this role. The key outcomes related to the current GAFSP propose were: The HGSF implemented in LRR and WCR, with WFP support, with a targeting feeding of 35,560 pre-primary and primary school children in 102 schools. In these schools, 60 hectares of school gardens with food and nutrition education and complementary food supply were implemented. About 5,000 (60% female) smallholder farmers were benefited by FASDEP's HGSF. The project also provided funds for the preparation of manuals for School Based Nutrition Education and Community Based Nutrition Education. The implementation of ready-to-use therapeutic feeds for children with micro nutrients deficiencies was replaced by the purchase of antibiotics by NaNA as the institution had adequate stock of therapeutic feeds. 1,300 copies of revised nutrition education materials were distributed. On the supply-side, FASDEP provided support to FBOs and individual entrepreneurs within the value chain, through the Matching Grant facility. A total of 112 smallholder farming enterprises have been successfully implemented including; Horticulture (20), poultry production (30), small and large ruminant production (25), swine production (2) farm machinery (12), agro-processing (19) and establishment of veterinary pharmacy (1). The 112 sub projects are completed and fully operational whilst 16 are on-going. Sub-project's results include the implementation of the project include rehabilitation and construction of cereal banks as well as training of management committees on procurement, storage, management and provision of grants to establish local seed/cereal banks based on revolving fund arrangements. The June 2019 FASDEP project report indicated that stocking of the newly constructed cereal banks commenced and that **1,250** kg of maize, **5,385** kg of groundnuts, **22,208** kg of millet, **8,824** kg of rice and **333** kg of beans were kept in the stores at the project sites. Additionally, FASDEP provided technical capacity building for smallholder farmers' associations, including Women's Groups, Youth organizations, farmers, livestock owners, extension agents. The trainings were designed to strengthen the technical capacities of farmers and stakeholders in aquaculture, small ruminant, poultry production and good soil conservation and management practices in readiness for effective and sustainable management of project activities. FASDEP sought the integration of smallholder farmers, particularly women and youths, into markets, however, as per AfDB reports, this was sufficiently prioritized, but needs further support in the next five years. Further targeted support for value addition through processing and market linkages though HGSF has the potential to improve smallholder farmers' profits and incomes, which are critical for enhanced productivity along the continuum from subsistence to commercial rice farming.

## **2.3 Activities to be financed and their justification**

### **1) Description of components and activities chosen to be financed**

The project has three interlinked components to be implemented simultaneously, following the logical sequence of activities for each component. The design is fully aligned with the GNAIP and other national policies/instruments. These are: (i) Developing Sustainable Food Systems for Improved Livelihoods, Productivity and Climate Resilience; (ii) Reducing Vulnerability through Social Protection; and (iii) Strengthening FNS Coordination and Management. The Ministry of Agriculture will be the executing agency for the project, and will be strengthened under project financing, will provide coordination, communication and synergy among the stakeholders, activities, and knowledge exchanges. This will enable a leapfrog strategy, applying previous lessons learned from other rural development and food security projects and initiatives, and scaling up best practices and proven results, including consolidating and scaling-up previous successful results of the FASDEP project, both on the infrastructure aspect, as well as on the capacity training

activities. **Unlike previous projects where the main focus was on production and infrastructure, this project proposal will focus on a key bottleneck for The Gambia farmers and go beyond in the value-chain: post-harvest losses and management. Additionally, another key aspect will differentiate this project from others: the organization of the production areas (i.e. structured demand) to become a procurement zone for HGSF (i.e. assured market for smallholders).** Building on the successful results from infrastructure and production initiatives of complementary projects, like FASDEP, this proposal will focus on moving this production previously created to higher levels of quality, allowing farmers to access institutional markets.

### **COMPONENT 1 - DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS FOR IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS, PRODUCTIVITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE (US\$ 9.7 million)**

Smallholder farmers are essential for food security in the Gambia, and they provide the necessary inputs for national social protection programmes, such as the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme. Smallholders require to be able to provide enough food for their needs, including a surplus to sell to markets, such as schools, creating a steady sales channel (market access) for their products, and increasing their income. As such, the objective of this component is to increase productivity, post-harvest management, climate resiliency and business development services for smallholder farmers, while creating an enabling environment country-wide, thereby accelerating the transition from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture, thus improving smallholders' livelihoods.

This component will focus on addressing challenges related to; (i) weaknesses in the smallholder agriculture development capacity; and (ii) constraints in the smallholder agriculture input markets and post-harvest management.

According to the UN "State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019" report, one of the main current reasons for high levels of food insecurity worldwide is climate change. As the report states, "Climate change and increasing climate variability and extremes are affecting agricultural productivity, food production and natural resources, with impacts on food systems and rural livelihoods, including a decline in the number of farmers. All of this has led to major shifts in the way in which food is produced, distributed and consumed worldwide – and to new food security, nutrition and health challenges."<sup>5</sup> Smallholder farmers are in the front line of climate change impacts. The ecosystems on which they rely are increasingly degraded and their access to suitable agricultural land and to forest resources is declining.

**Activities in this component are designed to achieve pro-poor and climate-resilient approaches to production, productivity and post-harvest initiatives undertaken amidst increasing climatic uncertainty. Activities are also focused on strengthening the building blocks for creating a competitive smallholder agriculture sector to support institutional markets, (e.g. HGSF), with investments in identified inclusive food chains, under two sub-components:** (i) Boosting Productivity, Commercialization and Climate Resilience; and (ii) Improved Business Environment.

The project will as much as possible make use of Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) with the support from the AfDB. TAAT's approaches revitalize and transform agriculture while restoring degraded land and maintaining or strengthening the ecosystems that underpin agriculture, while modernizing and more fully commercializing agriculture. TAAT is a knowledge- and innovation-based response to the recognized need for scaling up proven technologies across Africa. Specific activities will be defined in sub-components 1.1 and 1.2 during the project preparation phase.

Selected foodstuff includes products that are based on a structured demand institutional market (for the current case, the HGSF food basket), to ensure a sustainable demand-supply process, guaranteeing a sure

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<sup>5</sup> FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, 2019. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI): Safeguarding against economic slowdowns and downturns. Foreword. Available at: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/2019-state-food-security-and-nutrition-world-sofi-safeguarding-against-economic>

market purchase at a fair price for smallholders, improving their agricultural productivity, production, and market access. Climate-change is also being taken into consideration for the selection of food products, which include rice, beans, cereals (millet and maize), cassava, vegetables, groundnuts and poultry.

***Sub-component 1.1: Boosting Productivity, Commercialization and Climate Resilience (US\$ 8.1 million)***

This sub-component was designed envisioning the alleviation of poverty, increase in the incomes of smallholders and rural labour – including women, youth and vulnerable groups – and contribution to overall economic development in The Gambia. This will be done by linking smallholders to stable institutional markets, and structuring the demand of food, as the case of the HGSF program.

Activities under this sub-component are organized aiming to reach two key outcomes focused on smallholder farmers: (i) Climate Smart Agriculture and Production Support; and (ii) Post-harvest Management and Commercialization Investments.

- **1.1.1 Climate Smart Agriculture and Production Support.** Activities are designed to reach four key outputs, directly aligned with GNAIP's two first priority areas.
  - **Increased production and productivity of the smallholder farmer.** This will be done on sustainable basis as a result of an intensified adoption of improved and appropriate farming and poultry production practices. This includes development of training curriculum, sensitization and organization of farmers into learning groups, establishment of FFS, training/equipping extension workers/facilitators and farmer group leaders, training sessions for farmers, producers and horticulturalists, and monitoring and evaluation.
  - **Inputs provision to smallholders.** Investment actions will include development of input financing schemes and agro dealer networks encouraged and support to assist women farmers; support establishment of facility for on-farm mechanisation leasing/hiring through private sector equipment hiring entities; service schemes through farmer organisation, youth groups, village development communities, and private entrepreneurs; and facilitate creation of e-registration schemes for input distribution (improved seeds, fertiliser and other agro-chemical) to enhance timely availability.
  - **Capacity strengthening to service providers and FBOs.** Producers will be organised in crop specific farmer (e.g. rice farmer, maize grower's, etc.) organisation with due consideration to any existing traditional groups, women and youth. The institution will be developed, strengthened financially and technically with environment specific and dynamic governing rules. The organisations will further have its leadership trained in areas of decision making, resource mobilisation, accounting and management, communication and conflict resolution to facilitate the coordination and operationalisation of the production system on sustainable bases. Service providers will also receive skills and knowledge training, and they will be enhanced through human resource development to improve extension service delivery, including climate smart agriculture and organisational development.
- **1.1.2 Post-harvest Management and Commercialization Investments.** This activity aims to support smallholder farmers by consolidating and improving climate resilient and low carbon post-harvesting procedures, drying, processing and value addition, storage, logistics, distribution and business development. The successful inclusion of smallholder farmers into organized and well-structured value-chains largely depends on their organization and capacity to provide food with the necessary quantity and quality, allowing farmers to improve their sales and access points to institutional markets, such as schools. This was identified as a good practice in previous similar projects and is a key bottleneck for The Gambia's farmers. Providing smallholder farmers with the adequate post-harvest and marketing skills

will help them to access more efficiently market inputs, procure supplies, and disseminate information that facilitate improvement in farm productivity and quality. Specific initiatives include:

- **Support for Development of Storage Infrastructure.** The outcome is that storage facilities for priority food crops and vegetables promoted and established with a view to reduce the post-harvest losses, sustain quality and assure availability for consumers and/or secondary processors. Specific activities include: (i) the refurbishment of existing warehouses at strategic locations (at the farmers and schools' levels); (ii) support establishment of bulking facilities at strategic locations (e.g. major weekly market sites); and (iii) establish multipurpose storage/processing facilities and collection centres for horticulture produce.
- **Support for Value Addition and Quality Management.** Post-harvest losses happen not only due to lack of storage, but also lack of quality material. In this activity, farmers on priority food crops, poultry and vegetables will be trained and receive support in processing and value-addition practices and resources (inputs and services). Activities such as upgrade/provide post-harvest processing and marketing facilities within improved communal gardens (as well as farms) will also take place in project areas. Training will be conducted on foodstuff processing and preservation techniques to reduce post-harvest losses. Furthermore, the resulting quality product will increase competitiveness of and demand for local products thereby improve market access and enhance returns.
- **Support for Market Development and Linkage Facilitation.** Smallholders producer and processors (especially youth and women) will associate into agricultural cooperatives and explore linkages with national (e.g. tomato producers and GACH Global), regional and international markets thus enhance income generation and poverty reduction. Investment action includes: establish/reactivate and strengthen producer and processor (especially women and youth) cooperatives; promote contract farming; promote access to improved market information system and promote/link smallholders to the HGSF institutional market.

### ***Sub-component 1.2 Institutional Strengthening and Improved Business Environment (US\$ 1.6 million)***

The sub-component aims at supporting the private sector to create a sustainable environment for food and nutrition sector sustainability. This translates into engaging as much as possible the private sector, to generate more economic opportunities for the poor and supporting the project's sustainability.

- **1.2.1 Promotion and Support for Agribusiness Development.** Growth, poverty reduction, and improving people's lives require a vibrant private sector. The private sector is recognized as a critical stakeholder and partner in economic and social development, a provider of income, jobs, goods, and services to enhance people's lives and help them escape poverty. Unfortunately, the private sector in low-income and fragile countries faces many constraints. Many low-income country economies face the so-called "Missing Middle" – large numbers of micro-enterprises and some large firms, but very few small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This scarcity of SMEs hinders growth. In most high-income countries, it is SMEs that comprise upwards of 60-70% of private sector employment and account for the bulk of new job creation. This context hinders frontier economies to drive private sector development (PSD) and create jobs. The project will support the creation of a PSD Facility.
  - **Private Sector Development (PSD) Support Facility.** This facility will support project preparation, playing a key role in filling the "Missing Middle". By working directly with SMEs to strengthen business plans, conduct market analyses and environmental impact assessments and structure their finances, project preparation can "buy down" risk for to obtain multilateral development banks resources, and, therefore, unlock investment for promising investment projects. Activities include (i) business management training (including training tools that cover the whole range of



target groups from illiterate micro entrepreneurs to growth oriented small and medium scale entrepreneurs); (ii) develop and scale business models to strengthen value chains; (iii) design and deliver training programmes to build capacity of suppliers and staff; and (iv) build multi-stakeholder initiatives to drive cross-industry improvements. This activity will also support SMEs with competitive financing, available to eligible farmers and agribusiness SMEs to finance approved business plans. This is built on international best practices of eligibility criteria—within the priority food chains. Financing will be demand driven and will support investments such as agricultural technologies, services, and processing. Women and Youth managed enterprises will have access to a dedicated technical assistance package that includes technology, business skills development, leadership coaching and networking for business management.

## **COMPONENT 2 - REDUCING VULNERABILITY THROUGH SOCIAL PROTECTION (US\$ 6.8 million)**

Low-income countries are increasingly expanding their social protection systems, particularly social assistance. The systems may include social transfers and other programmes that ensure access to social services, in addition to legislation and policy reforms that certify equity and non-discrimination. Social protection plays a critical role in improving vulnerable households' access to food, which is essential for adequate nutrition, particularly for women and children.

Aligned with the National Nutrition Policy, as well as other national social protection policy instruments, this component aims at strengthening The Gambia's social protection and resilience initiatives related to food and nutrition security, envisioning a Gambia free of malnutrition.

This component aims to address gaps in these areas, with activities based on structured demand led by HGSF. School meals' food demand promote large, predictable sources of demand for agricultural products to small farmers. This reduces risk and encourages improved quality, leading to improved resilient systems, increased income and reduced poverty.

School feeding's first social protection objective is focused on nutritional status of school-aged children, by delivering fresh and nutritious food during school calendar days and by providing complementary social services. All actions are nutrition focused and are sensitive to gender issues.

School feeding's second social protection objective focuses on the economic and technical transformation of smallholders agriculture. By structuring demand, the Government ensures basic income for smallholder farmers on a regular basis. This includes not only those smallholders who already produce food surpluses or have enough capacity to supply food for school feeding, but also farmers who have the potential sustainably to produce marketable food of quality but have not yet realized this potential.

Two sub-components will focus on tackling the abovementioned challenges: (i) Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Improvement; and (ii) Fostering Inclusive Transformation via Social Protection and Food Safety Nets.

### ***Sub-component 2.1: Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Improvement (US\$ 3.2 million)***

This sub-component aims at improving the level of food and nutrition security standards in the country and providing nutrition-sensitive interventions, with especial attention to women, youth and vulnerable populations. As such, key activities in this sub-component have the objective of improving food and nutrition security at household and community levels; preventing and controlling micronutrient malnutrition among the population, especially women and children; and improving food standards, quality and safety.

- *2.1.1 Food and nutrition security resilience improvement at national, community and household levels.* Interventions under this activity include: (i) improve household nutritional knowledge; (ii) develop

nutritional awareness/education programmes integrated into curricular throughout the basic cycle; (iii) promote nutrition sensitive agricultural practices through methodological and technical support; (iv) support IEC campaigns on the management of agricultural waste, food hygiene and safety; (v) promote inter-sectoral collaboration on addressing food and nutrition security; and, (vi) mainstream nutrition into investment policies and plans at national level.

- *2.1.2 Prevent and control micronutrient malnutrition among the population, especially women and children.* Key interventions include: (i) increase household consumption of iodized salt; (ii) eliminate Vitamin A Deficiency and its consequences; (iii) promote fortification of foods with micronutrients; (iv) promote the production and consumption of biofortified crops (e.g. African leafy vegetables, orange flesh sweet potato, pearl millet, etc.); and (v) increase awareness through IEC on the importance of micronutrient and their consumption.
- *2.1.3 Prevention and management of food and nutrition cyclical crises.* The Gambia ranks as one of the most vulnerable country's to climate change. According to the GAINS Index, it is the 16th most vulnerable (163rd out of 180 countries). The food security vulnerability to climate change, measured in terms of food production, food demand, nutrition and rural population is 177 out of 186 ranked countries. The indicators for the score include projected changes of cereal yields, projected population growth, food import dependency, rural population, agriculture capacity and malnutrition. In the bid to improve vulnerability and resilience of households, the interventions aim to: i) support and strengthen the information and early warning systems on crisis risks and developing the harmonized framework analysis; and, ii) support and strengthen capacity in national and community food reserves.

### ***Sub-component 2.2: Fostering Inclusive Transformation via Social Protection and Food Safety Nets (US\$ 3.6 million)***

Activities for this sub-component aim at supporting and promoting the linkage between food chain stakeholders in component 1 and the ongoing HGSF programme (including other markets later), as well as tackling children malnutrition through a range of complementary activities based on Gambia's HGSF programme. The project will provide direct nutritional support particularly targeting primary school-age children and children under five years through the national HGSF program. The NSPP proposes a set of priority actions to guide the establishment of a comprehensive social protection system in the country, being HGSF one of the main programmes.

During periods of economic difficulty, children face the risk of being taken out of school to contribute to the household income as well as of having less access to nutritious and balanced meals. HGSF, which features among several possible social protection programmes, help policymakers reduce this risk. This approach links school feeding programmes with local smallholder farmers to provide millions of school children with food that is safe, diverse, nutritious and above all local. Nearly half the world's school children, some 310 million, in low- and middle-income countries eat a daily meal at school, making this the most widespread food safety net.

Moreover, HGSF can not only tackle food insecurity for school-age children but can also provide income benefits to communities at large. HGSF programmes generate positive impacts, with the available evidence pointing to multiple benefits. The programme generates high returns in four critical areas that translate into human capital growth and sustainable development. These include increasing access to education, especially for girls; improving nutrition and health which, in turn, benefits cognition and learning, especially for the most vulnerable children; providing essential safety nets for poor children and their families; and stimulating local economies, especially in the agricultural sector.

In general, the value of meals in school is equivalent to about 10 percent of families' income. For families with several children, this could mean substantial savings and generate new economic activity. Linking local consumption to local production helps create a stable and predictable market for local farmers, especially smallholders, including many women and mothers. With the schools as reliable markets, farmers earn more income, which they spend in other parts of the economy. As the process continues, school feeding programmes create local income multipliers and spill overs by linking the school feeding programmes to caterers, traders, households, businesses and other activities in the local economy.

- *2.2.1 Nutritious school meals planning delivery.* This activity aims to provide nutritious meals including fortified commodities for at least 195 school days to 131,900 thousand primary school children and pre-schoolers – 52% are girls (where they are co-located with primary schools) in regions WCR, LRR and CRR. This includes supporting the shift towards HGSF through an increased use of cash transfers to schools, based on an assessment of local smallholder farmers' food production potential. This activity will also undertake a thorough analysis of the ration's content using the specialized software to better address children's' specific nutritional needs and promote healthy dietary habits while optimizing costs. Through an integrated resilience initiative, in partnership with other UN agencies and stakeholders, the project will implement, at school level, complementary activities that contribute to food diversification and income generation, particularly for women: community vegetable gardens, school herds, grain mills and fuel-efficient stoves to reduce the workload of women and girls which are key barriers to girls' education. It will also include the training of cooks and storekeeper, for safe food preparation and storage practices, to strengthen food quality management in schools. It will include the nutritional needs of children and adolescents, preparation of nutritionally balanced and safe meals and proper food storage. This activity will also consolidate and expand previous efforts of FASDEP related to the local procurement for school meals, according to WFP modalities. It involves procurement of locally produced food items for school feeding programs through innovative ways. Procurement arrangements will likely include: (i) purchasing through small agribusiness enterprises contracting with rice-out-growers (i.e. smallholder farmers); (ii) direct procurement through selected small farmer groups in major rice growing regions; and/or (iii) procuring from regional cereal bank stocks proposed in sub-component 1.1 (i.e. prevention and management of food and nutrition cyclical crises activity). These options will provide linkages between producer organizations and agribusinesses supported under Component 1.
- *2.2.2 Gender-sensitive training for school communities.* Social protection outcomes will be supported by the mentoring school and communities girls benefiting from the programme. Mothers Clubs (MC), in close collaboration with school management committees and implementing partners, will promote girls' school attendance and retention, and, in secondary education ensure that girls' living and studying conditions are adequate. UN partners will ensure that MC members are trained on nutrition, health, hygiene and sanitation, reproductive health, and other related issues and are empowered to provide coaching to the adolescent girls.

### **COMPONENT 3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION (US\$ 4.4 MILLION)**

This component will focus in reducing existing gaps in the Government policies, strategies and investment plan for smallholder agriculture development and analytical capacity, while improving Government capacity. It will finance two sub-components: i) Enabling Environment Support for Food and Nutrition Security; and ii) Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation.

#### ***Sub-component 3.1: Enabling Environment Support for Food and Nutrition Security (US\$ 2.2 million)***

The sub-component aims at creating the enabling environment for project results and food and nutrition sector sustainability. Thus, it will address existing weaknesses in implementation capacity and government

coordination for development of smallholder agriculture by (i) providing capacity building and technical assistance to the involved stakeholders to coordinate project activities, (ii) providing resources support to key stakeholders; and (iii) creating and implementing a continuous dialogue and coordination platform. By financing technical assistance and capacity development for institutional strengthening, activities will enable the implementation of specific cross-cutting pro-active institutional development programs which should be integral of the design and of the subsequent implementation of the project sustainably.

Last, the sub-component will support South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) activities, as a powerful way to share, multiply, and scale up what works in agriculture development and food security. Direct results from knowledge exchanges can influence results at the institutional and even systemic levels. Specific activities for this sub-component include:

- **3.1.1 Institutional Capacity Strengthening.** To foster sustainability and lasting impacts, this activity seeks to strengthen government institutions' by providing technical assistance and training to the Ministry of Agriculture and key project implementers. By international good practices, FNS and HGSP have been proved to be successful when a multisector approach is used to coordinate project implementation; for enabling a proficient and sustainable capacity on project development planning within partners (ministries); and for creating an effective multi-sector and inter-ministerial HGSP development planning coordination mechanism. This can be supported by the Multisector Working Group that was created to handle the country's School Feeding Programme, with several Ministries participating. Other initiatives also involved in this activity include: (i) to undertake capacity and sector assessments in food security Governance of civil society actors; (ii) build capacity in harmonized framework through the strengthening of analytical and information processing skills of various stakeholders in FSN at different points of the value chain; (iii) build the analytical capacity of national institution in FSN (e.g. PMU, NaNA and GBOs); and (iv) provide support to FSN data collection, analysis and dissemination.
- **3.1.2 Promoting South-South Cooperation and Policy Coherence.** This activity has a two-fold objective: (i) to promote the exchange of FNS knowledge, experiences, skills, resources and technical know-how among countries, and (ii) to support the Government of The Gambia consolidate a solid and functional FNS policy setting (including HGSP), rooted in strong governance, responsive institutions and an enabling environment.
  - **South-South Cooperation.** This activity seeks to support the Ministry of Agriculture and related project partners to (i) to assist in the development of study visits, internal procedures and information systems and / or knowledge aimed at South-South and Triangular Cooperation between The Gambia and participating countries; (ii) to establish channels of communication or cooperation with Latin American and African countries in sectors in which they have relevant experiences to share; (iii) to share countries experiences and lessons learnt on how to scale up food security practices; (iv) to partner with regional or sub-regional organisations (the African Union and European Union) to bolster collaboration on reducing hunger and malnutrition; and (v) to provide technical assistance with training, management and strategic planning, technological support, resource mobilization support (including continuous support from WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil) in areas such as HGSP, social protection and safety nets, climate change linked to agriculture, smallholder farmers resiliency, food and nutrition security related to HGSP and other topics related to the project.
  - **Policy Coherence.** This activity seeks to support GoTG efforts in consolidating a strong and enabling policy environment for FNS programmes, with emphasis on the HGSP programme. A national dialogue for HGSP can lead to a consensus of the population, civil society, private sector and the government on the relevance and vision, the goals and objectives, the impacts, the

feasibility of the programme and on the required investments and actions to be undertaken for its implementation, continuous strengthening, and sustainability. A comprehensive context analysis should take place, as to help establish or review the objectives and targeting of the HGSF programme, including the following assessments: (i) existing national school feeding programme; (ii) relevant value chains and supply chains; (iii) cost efficiency and effectiveness, including the impacts on the local economy; (iv) existing and potential synergies with social protection and development programs; and (v) monitoring, reporting and evaluation system. Additional actions related to this activity include: (i) multi-stakeholder mobilization and coordination (Agriculture, Health, Woman and Social Development, Finance, Education, and civil society); (ii) integration of HGSF into multi-sectoral frameworks (Agriculture, Health, Woman and Social Development, Finance, and Education); (iii) development of a national “HGSF Strategy”; (iv) finalization of the national “HGSF Policy”; (v) implementation of HGSF Programme multi-sectoral regimentations; and (vi) national programme design and delivery, including the establishment of policy and legal frameworks, scale-up planning, handover preparation and resource mobilization.

***Sub-component 3.2: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (US\$ 2.2 million)***

This sub-component focuses on the establishment and operation of the Project Management Unit (PMU), including operational costs and multisector coordination—technical, fiduciary (procurement and FM), and social and environmental safeguards—at the central and decentralized levels; (ii) M&E activities and information systems; (iii) communications strategy and information dissemination; (iv) baseline and impact evaluations; (v) mid-term and final project evaluations; and (vi) project results dissemination.

Strong M&E systems for project implementation will be a top priority, as will be strengthening the PSU’s capacity to plan and execute them. Strong emphasis on capacity building based on the previous experience from FASDEP will be included in this component. The PSU will be comprised of a technical team, supplemented by external consultants, to manage the following activities: project management and coordination, financial management, technical advisory and assessment initiatives, procurement, advocacy and events preparation, monitoring & evaluation, technology & information, among others.

The PSU will be responsible for the implementation and execution of all monitoring and evaluation activities, presenting semester/annual reports on the project's development objective, as well as intermediate outcome indicators. These indicators will be collected, synthesized and agreed with the participating stakeholders to be presented to the supervising entity of the project. They will also be used as a performance tool for the project. Experience from FASDEP will also be used and upscaled in this case.

***For each project component/activity, describe:***

***a) Evidence of past performance and impact of activities and models being proposed:***

With increased agricultural growth of 3.5% attributed to favourable cropping seasons coupled with a strong rebound of the tourism and trade subsectors under the services sector contributed to the improvement of the macroeconomic imbalances, resulting in economic stabilization. GNAIP implementation period witnessed the upsurge of donor investment in the agricultural sector through several projects still being implemented. These projects are supporting food, nutrition and income security and poverty reduction strategies through a range of interventions such as animal breeding and improvement of rangeland, support to income generating activities and rural livelihoods. Evaluation reports from most of these project report favourable outcomes and results from projects’ performance in complementary activities. This could be interpreted as a positive sign for activities implemented under component 1 of the current proposal.

The Building Resilience Programme Against Food and Nutritional Insecurity in the Sahel/P2RS funded by AfDB; as well as horticulture and food security activities funded by FASDEP, *Nema/Chosso/P2RS*, ACVDP and

Dryland project also have produced effective results to the Gambia. Evaluation and implementation status reports from the World Bank, IFAD and AfDB related to these projects showcase positive impact from these activities, in terms of reducing food and nutrition security. With specific exceptions, mostly related to M&E and fiduciary aspects, beneficiaries have improved their lives in terms of improving food insecurity. As a direct result from development interventions in FNS, including school feeding and other activities related to Component 2 of this proposal.

***b) Links with the investment plan, and the scope of the GAFSP Framework Document:***

The current project proposal is fully aligned with the National Development Policy (2018-2021), the Gambia National Agriculture Investment Plan (GNAIP) and the GAFSP Framework Document. The GNAIP II (already drafted, but still in phase for validation and adoption) constitutes the main investment framework for agricultural development in The Gambia in the medium term. It reflects sector priorities such as modernization and transformation with the private sector as the major catalyst for growth and development in the sector. The GNAIP aims to increase food and nutrition security at household level including for vulnerable household through increased ANR productivity based on sustainable use and management of natural resources in support of national goals of poverty reduction and improved livelihood. The following constitute the six priority axes of the GNAIP II:

- Production and value chain promotion on food crops and vegetables sub-sector;
- Production and value chain promotion on livestock husbandry and pastoralist sub-sector;
- Production and value chain promotion on fishery and aquaculture sub-sector;
- Production and value chain promotion on forestry and environment sub- sector;
- Food and nutrition security, resilience, social protection; and,
- Promote good governance of the whole agriculture and natural resources sector.

It should be noted that all first four include capacity building, youth employment and women empowerment, climate change adaptation, regional trade promotion, whilst the 6th includes Institutional capacity, steering and coordination, monitoring and evaluation and communication.

Sub-component 1.1 directly correlates to GNAIP priority areas 1 and 2, having food crops, vegetables and poultry as the main foodstuff intervention areas. Activities and indicators are in full alignment with the GNAIP, making sure the project supports the country's work in these two priority areas.

Sub-component 2.1 and 2.2 are in direct correspondence to GNAIP's priority area 5 – food and nutrition security, resilience and social protection. Every activity of the project reflects into a GNAIP indicator, ensuring that project results will directly benefit the country's efforts in improving its people livelihoods.

Sub-component 3.1 is directly aligned with priority area 6 – good governance. Strengthening the institutional capacity of the government and the private sector will support good governance of the ANR sector in the Gambia, as well as project results and impact sustainability.

In terms of aligning with GAFSP scope, as stated in the GAFSP Framework document, "Raising their income and improving their food security will require stimulating farm and non-farm entrepreneurial activity through additional investments to **raise agricultural productivity, improving food security, linking farmers to markets, reducing risk and vulnerability, and improving non-farm rural livelihoods**. Enhancing women's roles as agricultural producers and the primary caretakers of their families, while expanding their access to productive resources, assets and services, will be essential for maximizing the impact of agricultural development, nutrition and social protection mechanisms on food security.". Even though the current project proposal does not cover all focus areas of intervention for GAFSP funding, it tackles five of them: climate change (sub-components 1.1 and 2.1), fragility (sub-components 1.1, 2.1 and 2.2), gender (all sub-

components), inclusive business (sub-component 1.2) and nutrition (indirectly, all sub-component, although directly, sub-components 2.1 and 2.2). In terms of scope, the current project proposal contains activities that will approach all objectives mentioned above, while ensuring that resources are not pulverized, and thus, indeed generating strong impact at beneficiaries' livelihoods.

**c) Links with other projects and government programs and activities:**

Through the linkage with the GNAIP, the medium-term investment framework for agriculture, food and nutrition security, the project will contribute to filling the financing gap. It is linked with ongoing and pipeline projects supervised by MoA and anchored in the CPCU fostering communication and coordination, that minimizes overlap and duplication of efforts. The project is linked with the medium-term National Development Plan which aims to modernize the agricultural sector by enhancing the productivity and value addition and supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Ongoing projects in Agriculture and Food security are funded by development partners including the AfDB, BADEA, AUC, EU, Green Climate Fund, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Global Environment Facility (GEF), World Bank (WB) and United Nation agencies (FAO, United Nations Environment, UNDP). With medium framework of four to six years their interventions range from agricultural value chain management and development, resilience building to climate change adaptations. Most of them are already past their half-life, with many of them closing in the next couple of years. Several priority projects have been designed and await implementation (final pipeline stage), notable among these are the Rice value Chain Transformation Project to be funded jointly by the AfDB, IsDB and BADEA; the pilot project to be funded by AFD and the ROOTS follow-up to *Nema/Chosso* for the next cycle of IFAD funding.

In view of the agricultural productivity enhancement, value addition, and climate resilience interventions (component 1), the project has similar goals to that of major projects such as *Nema*, GCAV, FASDEP, AVCDP, although activities were carefully studied in the project design, not only to avoid double efforts, but to complement results from other projects in favour of the country.

This translates into activities that are harmonizing to other projects in the same regions (complementary effect), or very similar to other projects, but in different regions (scale-up effect)

**d) Approach to gender equality and women's empowerment:**

Most women farmers are unskilled agrarian wage earners and are responsible for about 40 percent of the total agricultural production in the country. Women account for around 50 percent of the total labour force in the country and 70 percent of unskilled labourers. Their significant contribution does not translate to the desired improved social status for women. Their productive activities are mainly subsistence-based and for home consumption. 42 percent of female employment is in agriculture against 22 percent of male employment. 84.6 percent of women are considered in vulnerable employment against 71 percent of males, and only 14 percent as wage- and salary-workers against 29 percent of male. Women are also active in horticultural production that generates relatively good income. However, income gained from such activities is often ploughed back into maintenance of the household. Their limited capacity and skills to embark on viable agro-based and entrepreneurial activities, lack of ownership and control over resources such as land and modern agricultural equipment, coupled with the triple roles of women, impede all efforts for rural women to graduate into the mainstream livelihood economy.

Most of the agriculture work is done by women, who support themselves and their children. Rice is the main staple food in the country and its production is mostly done by women on a subsistence basis to feed their families. Similarly, horticultural production is mainly practised by women on a small scale, partly for

consumption and for sale at local markets as primary products to earn little income to supplement their subsistence earnings with cash income. Women farmers also raise and manage most of the small ruminants and rural poultry for the same purpose.

The identified gender gaps in the agricultural sector include access to economic resources - land, cash, machinery, and credit - and to market institutions and public infrastructure; access to agricultural inputs and technical knowledge; and access to income-generating projects.<sup>6</sup> Based on the recommendations of the gender assessments<sup>7</sup>, the project has identified several entry points to support gender equality and women's empowerment in every component. Specific activities towards gender equality and women's empowerment are directly cited at the project design. Follow a summary:

In sub-component 1.1, both activities (agricultural support and post-harvest management) will bring gender-specific training for women, with focus on strengthening the capacity of farmers and organizations to ensure balanced access to project benefits. Intensive efforts will be made to ensure that women gain access to producer organizations and influence project investment decisions.

Sub-component 1.2 (business improvement) will focus on female-owned and managed enterprises to have access to a dedicated technical assistance package that includes technology, business skills development, leadership coaching and networking for business management. The project will favour the participation of women and youth in several types of activities for example, training, technical assistance, among others. On the investments support, female-owned businesses will also have priority on the selection criteria.

Sub-component 2.1 focus on the availability of food in a household being also dependent on food prices, poverty, and natural disasters. Rising food prices and natural disasters reduce access to food, especially for poor households. Poor households are as such, vulnerable to price shocks as well as droughts and floods, and can easily be made food insecure by these phenomena. Malnutrition is an important development challenge because it is women and children, the most vulnerable groups, that are most affected. Most women in rural areas are constantly energy-deficient because of poor dietary habits, heavy work, and frequent infections. Thus, both activities under this sub-component aims to strengthen integration of nutrition in agricultural programmes to deal with the increase in malnutrition, paying attention to women's stronger role in preparing food, cultivating staple foods and generating income to feed the family.

Sub-component 2.2 is the strongest in terms of gender-equity and women's empowerment. In the first activity, through an integrated resilience initiative, the project will implement, at school level, complementary activities that contribute to food diversification and income generation, particularly for women: community vegetable gardens, school herds, grain mills and fuel-efficient stoves to reduce the workload of women and girls which are key barriers to girls' education. It will also include the training of cooks and storekeeper, for safe food preparation and storage practices, to strengthen food quality management in schools. It will include the nutritional needs of children and adolescents, preparation of nutritionally balanced and safe meals and proper food storage. The second activity is all about Gender-Sensitive Training for School Communities. Social protection outcomes will be supported by the mentoring of beneficiary girls. Mothers Clubs (MC), in close collaboration with school management committees and implementing partners, will supervise girls' results and attendance, investigate cases of absence and, in secondary education ensure that girls' living and studying conditions are adequate.

Sub-component 3.1 has in its first activity of this sub-component (institutional strengthening) will seek cooperation with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Children, and Social Welfare in efforts to strengthen

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<sup>6</sup> FAO. "National gender profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods – The Gambia". 2019.  
African Development Bank. "Gambia - Country Gender Profile". 2012.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.



multisector coordination at the high level. This will allow for gender-specific collaboration and policy alignment with a gender perspective.

***e) Approach to environmental sustainability:***

The project will adhere to environmental regulations stipulated in the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) as well as relevant national and international regulations regarding environmental protection. It will also abide by the environmental (and social) safeguards policy and practices by the African Development Bank, providing guidance to project interventions based on principles of conservation and sustainability. Implementing partners will be made aware of and given support to mitigate and/or adapt to the impact of climate change through applying smart agriculture practices.

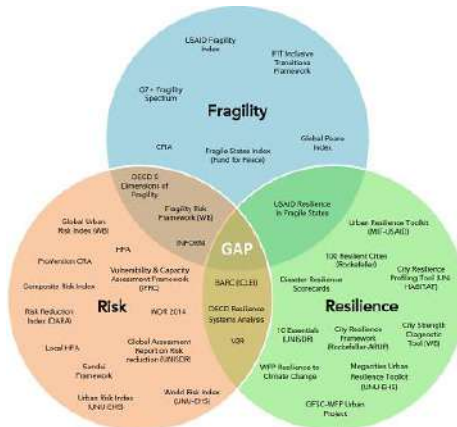
The Gambia legislation entails that environmental impact assessments (EIA) must be enforced to guarantee that environmental safeguards are integrated in project designs. The environmental legislation is recent and inspired by international conventions signed by The Gambia and provides sufficient basis to manage the environmental and social aspects of the FASDEP activities. No relevant gaps between The Gambia environmental legislation and the AfDB's safeguards policies and guidelines were identified. Regarding the environmental impact assessment, the existing The Gambia regulatory framework covers the most relevant principles and best practices, including public consultation and participation, monitoring, and licensing procedures. MoA and the PMU have acquired experience in managing the AfDB's safeguards requirements of projects, specifically through the FASDEP. With AfDB support under this project, MoA will build on it. Nevertheless, capacity development and training will be provided if further required to handle project safeguards, especially in ensuring subproject screening and subsequent preparation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)/Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), as necessary.

The Government intends to further strengthen its capacity for safeguards management under the project by recruiting new environmental and social focal point staff, technical assistance, and training (in situ and abroad) funded by the project. Regional training seminars/workshops will be organized for all actors involved in the implementation of social and environmental safeguards policies to follow project effectiveness. More specifically, a small, two-person Safeguards Unit will be established in the PMU comprising a social safeguards specialist (to advise on and oversee gender and social inclusion aspects) and an environmental safeguards specialist (in charge of natural resources management and environmental oversight and compliance issues).

The project will promote environmentally friendly practices. No large infrastructure construction that has a major impact on the environment is envisaged. Nonetheless, project interventions including the use and storage of manure and the application of agricultural chemicals such as chemical fertilizers and pesticides could be detrimental to the environment. In this regard, appropriate soil and water conservation practices will be adhered to minimize any adverse environmental impact. The project will only promote small equipment, and bulking facilities, undertaking appropriate disposal of any wastes and following AfDB's guidance.

***f) Approach to risk and resilience in a fragile context:***

The ability of households, communities and nations to absorb and recover from shocks, whilst positively adapting and transforming their structures and means for living in the face of long-term stresses, change and uncertainty. The project aims to help The Gambia regions to better manage risks and shocks, ensuring that development investments are not undermined or destroyed by crises.



Vulnerable communities in The Gambia live in areas that are prone to climate shocks (droughts and floods, depending on the season and region), and lacking the means to prepare for and recover from these disasters can destroy homes, crops and livelihoods. To cope with this harsh reality that took place many years in the Gambia, food insecure families were often forced to sell their productive assets, take their children out of school, or cut down on meals. United Nations studies show increased wasting and stunting rates in children after a flood or drought.

To help GoTG and communities strengthen their resilience and better manage climate shocks, the project will use WFP support for large-scale resilience-building initiatives that address the challenge. Sub-components 1.1, as well as 2.1 and 2.2 bring activities in three

main lines of action for resiliency building: crisis prevention, technical capacity for resiliency building and crisis shock. In addition, WFP is aligning an Adaptation Fund Project that will also support resiliency building at the Gambia, working in parallel with this project, to boost results for climate resilience of the Gambia’s most food insecure people. Additionally, WFP’s R4 Rural Resilience and risk management approach will be used in alignment with the Adaptation Fund, to cover any project gap related to building resilience initiatives at the Gambia. Lastly, early warning systems and food banks will be strengthened under sub-component 1.1 (Boosting Productivity, Commercialization and Climate Resilience).

The Gambia understands that this GAFSP call is all about tackling fragility and boosting resiliency levels for its most vulnerable. Thus, every component has envisioned resilience-building measures, while working with key stakeholders to support these initiatives, developing innovative tools and strategies to reduce and mitigate risks to overcome hunger, achieve food security and enhance resilience.

**g) Only for activities involving subsidies, grants, or asset distribution: provide rationale for public financing and a clear description of the program (including objectives, intended recipients, approximate subsidy rates, transfer modality, mechanism to eventual exit, other aspects contributing to sustainability).**

In the case of inputs resources, distributed in component 1, these will be provided to enhance productivity for the first production season or the production cycle in the case of livestock (e.g. poultry). This was a successful case of FASDEP and will make sure to consolidate previous experience. The support is aimed at encouraging the adoption of improved production practices. Typical cases include seed or fertilizer support to crop production or feed and medication for community poultry enterprises. In the subsequent seasons, the beneficiaries assume responsibility for provision of the inputs for their enterprises.

In the case of asset provisions (e.g. storage facilities or machinery), the capacity of beneficiaries will be built to ensure continuity of the intervention. In this regard, maintenance mechanisms for sustainability of operation including opening and maintaining funds, having stocks of spare parts and ability to optimally manage the assets are key to sustainability.

**h) Only for value chain projects: provide market diagnostics (references to associated market studies) and anticipated returns:**

A Horticulture Value Chain Analysis of six agricultural regions in the Gambia, commissioned by United Purpose in 2018 showed that actors in all regions gained positive profitable margins from the vegetables they were active in. It showed that for growers, seeds and fertilizers were the major cost item accounting for 61%

of the total cost of D15,123 (US\$302.50) and a profit of D19,215 (US\$384.30). Wholesalers, who are the major suppliers of major vegetable products to retailers, restaurants and hotels have marked-ups ranging from 15-25% depending on the market. A market study in 2012 for the Livestock and Horticulture Development Project (LHDP) showed profitable margins and economic benefits and opportunities for growers of vegetables and livestock including poultry by smallholder farmers. Crop budgets for rice and other cereals for ongoing projects such as *Nema* show farmer yields double that of their baseline of 1 -1,2mt/ha.

***i) Only for activities involving public-private partnerships: clarify public and private roles, and how the partnership is intended to be structured.***

Not applicable. No PPP schemes involved in the Project.

**2) Rationale for public financing of components and activities chosen to be financed**

The Gambia does not have a strong private sector that funds smallholder agriculture development, nor nutrition and social protection initiatives. In this regard, support for improving food and nutrition security comes mainly from public financing. Thus, the funding of interventions including the following are envisaged from public resources.

Component 1: Improving smallholder farmers agricultural production and productivity through financing - Support in skills development through training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) by extension service agencies, adoption of which will lead to improved yields, crop intensity or production cycles in the year for crops and poultry respectively. Production support through provision of production inputs and services such as improved seeds, fertilizers, day-old chicks and feed to enhance production and productivity as catalytic support to smallholders who experience climatic shocks rebuild resilience and livelihood. Several completed (Livestock and Horticulture Development Project-LHDP) and ongoing projects (GCAV) have initiated contract farming arrangements between a few vegetable schemes and Radville Farms in the production of baby corn. This is a form of Public Private Producer Partnership brokered by the project, the partnership arrangement has improved the water system in the concerned gardens and a market for the produce grown.

As for institutional capacity support for producer organizations in group management, governance, marketing and negotiation skills, with strengthened capacity they will be able to aggregate and deal more effectively in trade transactions on their produce.

Enhancing post-harvest management and market access for smallholder through financing - support for the development for the provision of storage infrastructure for identifies crops and poultry to increase the shelf life and quality of produce; capacity development and technical assistance for value addition and quality management; and capacity development in marketing, business development and market access. Post-harvest management has been identified as one of the main bottlenecks for improving the value chain, and public financing will be essential to unlock further potential in this area. Once again, private sector financing for these activities at the Gambia is almost non-existent. The project intends to kick-start some initiatives to break this vicious cycle.

Private Sector investments will always be welcomed to support the agriculture and food security initiatives at the Gambia, thus the rationale for the project to propose an activity especially designed to support this task. Establishing private sector development support for food and nutrition security through financing project preparation, market assessment and business development for food chains and agricultural investment support for SMEs will reign in much needed investment resources for the private sector.

Component 2 will seek to strengthen nutrition resilience of youth, women and vulnerable groups through financing and improving food and nutrition security at national levels, also preventing and support in the

control of micronutrient nutrition among the population, especially among women and children, to improve food standards quality and safety.

Enhancing social protection and food safety nets through financing of school meals, providing gender-sensitive training for school communities, and support in the local procurement for SFP are all activities that the private sector does not cover in the Gambia, yet are extremely important to reduce poverty and boost share prosperity. During the consultations, Commercial Farmers Agribusiness Network (CFAN) has indicated willingness to partner with the GoTG, WFP and other project stakeholders, in supplying to the SFP through as aggregators of farmer associations/smallholders, but they will also need an initial support to scale-up activities.

In component 3, promoting South-South Cooperation and Policy Coherence will ensure the acquisition of skills and the sharing of knowledge and experience with similar economies in the subregion or elsewhere. This has been showcased by multilateral banks and the UN as an effective leapfrogging strategy to boost results in the FNS sector. Private sector does not do this sort of activities yet at the Gambia, especially for the agriculture sector, thus, obtaining funding from the private sector will be very cumbersome, if not doable at all.

***For each component and activity, answer the following:***

***a) Does the private sector currently fund similar activities in the country? If yes, explain why public financing is needed for the proposed activities:***

Unfortunately, the private sector in the Gambia comprise mostly of micro, small and only a few medium enterprises which could support financing of any of the components. The whole reasoning to have a private sector development activity in the project proposal was precisely to support this kick-start of filling “the missing middle”, explained at the specific activity in sub-component 1.2 in the project design.

***b) If the answer to the above (“a”) is yes, describe the nature of the private sector entities (i.e., size, type of organization, ownership):***

Not applicable.

***c) If the answer to question “a” is no, then explain why that is the case:***

As mentioned, the private sector is not engaged in financing interventions of smallholder farmer productivity enhancement and value chain financing. As such the Home-Grown School Feeding programme (and other future institutional markets), through the provision of the foodstuff in the school menu (2,686 Mt of rice, 1,611 Mt of cereals, 322 Mt beans, 818 Mt of assorted vegetables, 80 Mt salt, 805 Mt of groundnut oil, etc.) provide a good market for aggregated agricultural products. The structured demand from the HGSF programme allows a sure market for farmers (for the foodstuff basket of the programme), as long as they produce with the right quantity and quality (which is still lacking). The assured market strategy of institutional markets has proved to be an effective poverty alleviation tool, improving smallholders’ livelihoods, and boosting private sector activities, as they will also participate in the value chain.

***d) Describe tangible efforts made to date to attract private investment to finance similar activities in the country, as well as their outcomes. These may include public-private dialogue on constraints to private investment and how these are being addressed, including through policy improvements:***

GIEPA promotes and facilitates private sector investment and offers concessionary facilities including tax holidays and development certificates. Agriculture and agribusiness are considered priority area for

investment. Both the National Development Plan (NDP) and the GNAIP propose a Private sector led growth. The NDP has as its 8<sup>th</sup> priority, making the private sector the engine of growth, transformation and job creation. This is to be accomplished through modernization of manufacturing, industrialization, improved trade and services. Due to fiscal restructure and adjustments, the GoTG hasn't still been able to fully pick up the slack of investments in the sector, including support to private sector, although all the right tools are in place. GNAIP gap funding initiatives, such as the GAFSP, will surely support and mainstream efforts to improve private investments in the agriculture sector

***e) Related to the question above ("d"), describe what kind of private investments (i.e., size, type of organization, ownership) the country is attempting to attract:***

In terms of private investments, the country is attempting to attract medium and large enterprises with an investment capacity of at least US\$ 800,000, with the following attributes: (i) willingness and able to partner and leverage funding through PPP to promote the export of priority products; (ii) willingness to strengthen and coordinate smallholders for commercialization; and (iii) willingness to upgrade storage, storage and marketing infrastructure in line with good safe management practices. International firms are not present in the Gambia (at least in the agriculture sector). Usually, these are the kind of firms that support social protection initiatives (either through corporate social responsibility funds, or other PPP mechanisms). The Gambia is setting up the enabling environment to further attract these firms, by improving, for example, business conditions and indicators in the "Doing Business" report from the World Bank.

***f) Describe what is needed to contribute to increasing private investments to finance similar activities in the country and whether this project will help to put this in place:***

There is increased recognition of the importance of private sector development for food and nutrition security, as referred in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation. Nevertheless, to maximise the benefits of private sector investments for food and nutrition security in The Gambia, concerted efforts are needed. Improving the business environment is a priority. The Malabo Declaration also points to limited progress made in agro-industries and agribusiness development, which hampers value addition and competitiveness of local agricultural products in trade at the local, regional, and international level and undermines the potential of the sector to generate employment opportunities, particularly for the youth and women.

The Gambia understand that its Government can only do a certain amount at any given time. Most activities must be taken up by the private sector and through the operation of markets to free the GoTG to concentrate on those areas where the private sector cannot be expected to come forward. Several issues that characterize the private sector practitioners need to be addressed to foster effective engagement and leverage their contribution to the agricultural sector. Importantly is issue of profit and profitability of the different initiatives that the private sector will participate in. The predominant peasant/subsistence system that concentrates on household food security and sales of the extras for cash will require a change (although GoTG understand it will take some time); such change should ensure increased productivity with intensification, access to market, access to input etc. All these items are covered in component 1 of the project, although would be presumptuous that one single project would solve all the country's challenges in the sector. This will necessarily require considerable inputs and support of the policy environment to ensure market competitiveness of the commodities. It further implies that the smallholder's system needs to be transformed into small-scale enterprise, which will operate in a business mode. Again, the project seeks as much as possible to bring these items under component 1.

Another issue that requires attention is the risk associated with the conventional agricultural production system. The predominant agricultural system in The Gambia is the rain-fed system which is susceptible to

the erratic rainfall pattern rainfall failure and its subsequent effect on incidence of pest, diseases and crop failure. Reducing the risk of agricultural production will largely require policy support to develop pro-agriculture infrastructures, such as irrigation, grain storage facilities, cold storage facilities, electricity, rural feeder roads etc. These should also be complemented by a workable agricultural insurance scheme. The project will tackle post-harvest infrastructure, (bulking facilities), complementing other projects' work related to infrastructure (feeder roads, irrigation infrastructure, electricity, among others).

The private sector is concerned more with the possibility of business expansion and availability of outlet for produce. Thus, the support of the policy system for local production, utilization and market competitiveness is vital. Some commodities produced locally are not competitive price-wise when compared with the same commodity imported from the West and Asia; this difference is often attributed to the concessional affordable financing for agricultural production, availability of good infrastructure and supportive policies that engender production at scale. These conditions and facilities are not available in optimal level in The Gambia and they negatively affects the competitiveness of the commodities. This aspect will also be undertaken in the Policy Coherence activity of the project (sub-component 3.1), as the country understands that some policy assessments will have to be made to keep the country's products more competitive.

Smaller activities will also be undertaken to kick start private sector engagement, such as seed money, private sector technical assistance and further engagement of enterprises in the value-chain development approaches. Some pilots will be implemented in sub-component 1.2 to kick-start this process.

## **2.4 Implementation arrangements**

### **1) Institutional arrangements and inter-ministerial coordination (if any):**

As the Ministry responsible for the coordination of the GNAIP II implementation, MoA will work in synergy with ANR ministries including MoWRF and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources. The inter-ministerial roles will be through the Ministerial Council. The three ministries share a joint policy: ANRP (2009-2015) and ANRP (2017-2016); GNAIP I (2011-2015) and have a joint working group (Agriculture and Natural Resources Working Group) which is a permanent system for continuous consultation and dialogue among stakeholders in order to ensure that sectoral programs are complimentary to maintain maximum impact from often limited resources.

Other ministries that are directly involved in activities design and will participate through various specific initiatives include the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Children, and Social Welfare (gender and social protection activities), Ministry of Education (school feeding programme), and the Ministry of Finance (financial commitments of the project).

The project will be executed by the MoA and implemented by a fully fledged PMU under the supervision of the CPCU, for monitoring and alignment of GNAIP related projects. For effective delivery of GAFSP, a lean PMU will be established to be responsible for the day-to-day management, monitoring and evaluation, financial management, procurement, audits and reporting, and work smoothly with the selected supervising entity, presented in the next item for this project proposal. It is important to remember that this structure has been working with FASDEP for the past six years, and a learning curve of operations and implementation has been importantly acquired, which should streamline processes for this new project.

Project activities will be implemented with partners in the public sector, NGOs, farmer organizations and the private sector, through clearly defined and signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The use of performance-based MOUs between projects and implementing partners ensures adherence to timelines and outputs.

## **2) Role of non-government stakeholders (e.g., civil society groups, producer organizations and private sector):**

NGOs and FBOs were already extremely helpful in the design of this proposal, as it will be presented in section 2.8 of this proposal. As for project implementation, they will also have a key role in reaching out to farmers and communities at the field, as showcased below:

In sub-component 1.1, producer organizations and service providers will be mostly composed by NGOs and FBOs. The GAFSP project intends to work with civil society and NGOs through Action Aid The Gambia (AATG) and the National Coordinating Organization of Farmers Associations The Gambia (NACOFAG). There are 16 organization members and 5 affiliated members. It's a network of farmers, fisheries and forest organizations established to promote the development of its members especially in the areas of Agriculture, Forestry, Commerce/trade (Market Access and information), advocacy and empowerment of Youth and Women economically. The NACOFAG mission is to reinforce and protect the interest of peasant producers and processor organizations and to work with government and donors to built an enabling policy environment.

They will receive training from the project and serve as trainers, or multipliers, for farmers for the different food chains the project will work with. NGOs and FBOs will have a key role in the capacity development of farmers. The organizations will be strengthened technically with environment specific and dynamic governing rules and will further have their leadership trained in areas of decision making, resource mobilisation, accounting and management, communication and conflict resolution to facilitate the coordination and operationalisation of the production system on sustainable bases. Their skills and knowledge will be enhanced through human resource development to improve extension service delivery, including climate smart agriculture and organisational development.

In sub-component 1.2, private sector will be the main actor. The project will engage MSMEs to further support the food chain activities for HGSF. The GAFSP project intends to work with the private sector through the Commercial Farmers and Agri-business Network (CFAN). This is an association of over two dozens private Gambian companies who have invested their own resources and producing, processing and providing services to the agricultural sector.

The project will support private sector into stimulating players in value chains, as to create an enabling environment for project sustainability. Private sector participants will receive technical assistance and capacity strengthening for business development services and marketing purposes.

Activities in component 2 will highly engage NGOs and other CSOs related to nutrition, social protection and gender. For example, Social protection outcomes will be supported by the training of beneficiary girls. Mothers Clubs (MC), in close collaboration with school management committees and implementing partners, will supervise girls' results and attendance, investigate cases of absence and, in secondary education ensure that girls' living and studying conditions are adequate. UN partners will ensure that MC members are trained on nutrition, health, hygiene and sanitation, reproductive health, and other related issues and are empowered to provide coaching to the adolescent girls.

## **3) Describe how the project plans to strengthen the capacity of implementing parties so that this capacity extends beyond the life of the project:**

Capacity strengthening is all about supporting national systems and services and that the achievement of national development targets hinges on capacities of individuals, organizations and societies to transform in order to reach development objectives. As such, to maintain capacity beyond project life, three domains will have to be tackled at once in order to ensure long lasting results. Without supportive laws, policies, strategies and procedures (enabling environment), well-functioning organizations (organizational domain), and educated, skilled people (individual domain) state and non-state duty bearers cannot effectively plan,

implement and review their efforts to deliver intended products and services to their target groups. Effective capacity strengthening support from the project must therefore address all three domains, recognising the interdependencies between them. Single interventions (e.g. trainings) are not likely to make a significant difference unless they represent a key leverage point that can shift an entire system's behaviour. Both technical components of the project have projected capacity strengthening activities in all three levels, to ensure precisely long-term impact based on the rationale above.

Component 1 will focus on capacity strengthening at all three levels.

In sub-component 1.1, where farmers will receive capacity training on production, productivity, post-harvest management, processing, storage, marketing and business development for the different foodstuff based on the HGSF food basket. Individual capacity strengthening will also be provided related to climate smart agriculture techniques (e.g. soil and nutrient management, water harvesting and use, pest and disease control, resilient ecosystems). At the organizational level, capacity strengthening will be provided to NGOs and FBOs as key multipliers of extension services and knowledge providers. This multiplier effect will ensure that individual capacity strengthening reaches more smallholders, and keep the momentum flowing.

In sub-component 1.2, capacity strengthening will focus on the organizational and enabling environment levels. The main activity gears toward strengthening organizational actors at the private sector, also focusing on long term results for the project. The key idea for this activity is to support Gambia SMEs prepare bankable projects, and leverage resources from donors, multilateral development banks, large international enterprises CSR, and other financial resources, including the private sector window for GAFSP funding. Other capacity strengthening activities include business management training (including training tools that cover the whole spectrum of target groups from illiterate micro entrepreneurs to growth oriented small and medium scale entrepreneurs); develop and scale business models to strengthen value chains; increase value chain transparency through low-cost traceability solutions; design and deliver training programs to build capacity of suppliers and staff; and build multi-stakeholder initiatives to drive cross-industry improvements.

Component 2 also aims to strengthen capacities at all three levels.

Sub-component 2.1 will seek to strengthen capacity at the individual levels related to food and nutrition security practices at national, community and household levels: improve household nutritional knowledge; develop nutritional awareness/education programs integrated into curricular throughout the basic cycle; and promote nutrition sensitive agricultural practices through methodological and technical support; support IEC campaigns on the management of agricultural waste, food hygiene and safety.

Sub-component 2.2 will aims at all three levels in terms of families, schools, NGOs, and the enabling environment (policy coherence level). At the individual and organizational levels, partners will be supported in nutrition practices, gender-sensitive training, garden techniques, HGSF procurement, among other capacities. At the enabling environment level, the project will seek to support GoTG efforts in consolidating a strong and enabling policy environment for FNS programmes, with emphasis on the HGSF programme. Details include: a needs assessment of the vulnerable population in terms of food security, education, nutrition, health, economic poverty, job creation, social cohesion and social protection; an identification of the extent to which existing programmes are addressing these needs; and a review of the existing production potential of local agriculture and value chains involving smallholder farmers. Additional assessments include: assessment of the existing national school feeding programme; assessment of relevant value chains and supply chains; cost efficiency and effectiveness, including the impacts on the local economy; existing and potential synergies with social protection and development programs; and a monitoring, reporting and evaluation system, among others. This will allow the GoTG to sustain project results even after project closure.



In sub-component 3.1, institutional strengthening, will focus on strengthening national policy-making and information systems. Several national food security and nutrition information systems already exist. These are largely fragmented, requiring coordination and support (financial and equipment) to ensure timely and comprehensive information for rational decision-making. The project will build capacity for the GoTG to design, implement, and monitor a harmonized framework for safety net programmes and initiatives that benefit food and nutrition security, such as the HGSP programme, smallholder farming, and value chains; build the analytical capacity of national institutions in FSN (e.g. DoP, PMU, NaNA and GBoS); and provide support to FSN data collection, analysis and dissemination. Knowledge exchanges will also aim to strengthen capacity of local players, by supporting them learn what has been working in terms of FNS in similar countries, helping the Gambia leapfrog its challenges into faster solutions.

## 2.5 Amount of financing requested and time frame for implementation

### 1) Financing requested from GAFSP

#### **a) Requested grant amount for the project:**

US\$ 20,95 million (including contingencies)

#### **b) Requested amount for a GAFSP project preparation grant (The project preparation grant is optional and should be considered as part of the overall GAFSP award. If requested, it will reduce by the amount of the project preparation grant the funds that could otherwise be used for the proposed project):**

US\$ 0,7 million

#### **c) Total Requested grant amount (sum of "a" and "b" above):**

US\$ 21,65 million

#### **d) Minimum necessary amount. GAFSP funds are very competitive with demand typically exceeding available funds to finance eligible proposals. Thus, countries are asked to also indicate the minimum amount to enable the proposed project (as described in this document) to be viable and have a development impact (in case GAFSP cannot allocate the full requested amount):**

US\$ 16,65 million

#### **e) Modifications that would need to be made to the proposed project (as described in this document) if only the minimum amount was awarded (e.g., specify reduction in geographical areas, elimination of certain sub-components, reduction in number of project participants):**

In component 1, activities related with climate smart agriculture would be "diluted" into the first two activities, eliminating the third activity for sub-component 1.1. In addition, fewer farmers would be benefited with input resources (approx. 25% of farmers), since they represent the largest share of costs in this component. Additionally, the project team would have to revise the number and location for bulking facilities.

In component 2, fewer schools and students (approx. 30%) would be reached with the reduction of the proposed value. About 20% of trainings would also have to be removed from the first two sub-components. Also, fewer exchange activities would have to take place, in order to avoid jeopardizing key results from other

areas. The project team understands that knowledge exchanges are very important for the leapfrogging strategy to take place, but in detriment of other activities, would be considered secondary in priority.

## 2) Project financing table

	Cost (US\$ million)	Share (%)
<b>Project implementation</b>		
GAFSP	20.95	95.4%
Government	1.0	4.6%
<b>Project Implementation Total</b>	<b>21.95</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Project preparation</b>		
GAFSP	0.7	100%
Government	0	0%
<b>Project Preparation Total</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 3) Project cost table

COMPONENT	SUB-COMPONENT	OUTCOME/ACTIVITY	GAFSP	GoTG	TOTAL
			(million US\$)	(million US\$)	(million US\$)
<b>1. Developing Sustainable Food Systems for Improved Livelihoods, Productivity and Climate Resilience</b>	1.1 Strengthening Skills, Productivity, Commercialization and Climate Resilience	1.1.1 Climate Smart Agriculture and Production Support	3.3	0.5	3.8
		1.1.2 Post-harvest Management and Commercialization Investments	3.8	0.5	4.3
	1.2 Improved Business Environment	1.2.1 Promotion and Support for Agribusiness Development	1.6	0	1.6
<b>SUBTOTAL FOR COMPONENT 1 (US\$ million)</b>			<b>8.7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9.7</b>
<b>2. Reducing Vulnerability through Social Protection</b>	2.1 Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Improvement	2.1.1 Improving Food and Nutrition Security at national . community and household levels	1.1	0	1.1
		2.1.2 Prevent and control micronutrient malnutrition among the population . especially women and children	1	0	1
		2.1.3 Prevention and management of food and nutrition cyclical crises	1.1	0	1.1
	2.2 Fostering Inclusive Transformation via Social Protection and Food Safety Nets	2.2.1 Nutritious school meals planning and delivery	3.1	0	3.1
		2.2.2 Gender-sensitive training for school communities	0.5	0	0.5
<b>SUBTOTAL FOR COMPONENT 2</b>			<b>6.8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>3. Strengthening FNS Coordination and Management</b>	3.1 Enabling Environment Support for Food and Nutrition Security	3.1.1 Institutional Capacity Strengthening	1.2	0	1.2
		3.1.2 South-South Cooperation and Policy Coherence Support	1.0	0	1.0

COMPONENT	SUB-COMPONENT	OUTCOME/ACTIVITY	GAFSP	GoTG	TOTAL
			(million US\$)	(million US\$)	(million US\$)
	3.2 Project Management Unit	3.2.1 Establishment and Operation of the PMU	2.2	0	2.2
SUBTOTAL FOR COMPONENT 3			4.4	0	4.4
SUBTOTAL			19.9	1	20.9
			Contingencies (5%)		1.05
			Preparation Grant		0.70
			TOTAL		22.65

**a) Explanation of indicative unit costs for each major investment (e.g., irrigation costs per hectare):**

Key unit costs of the project include:

Item	Monitorable Indicator	Unit Costs (USD)
Seeds, fertilizer	No. kg of fertilizer and seeds	750
Fertilizer (urea and compound)	No. of kgs of urea compound procured and distributed	6,000
Land preparation services	No. of ha prepared	2,400
Capacity Building activities	No. of sessions conducted	2,000
Consolidation of FFS	No. of FFS established/consolidated	20,000
Purchase of vaccines	No. of vaccines purchased	17,000
Capacity building of field staff and FBOs on good poultry management practices	No. of capacity building sessions conducted	20,000
Capacity development of FBOs on leadership, organizational, business management	Training sessions on capacity development of FBOs conducted	20,000
ToT (50 extension workers)	No. of training sessions conducted	7,500
Training of farmers (50 farmers/session)	No. of training sessions conducted	30,000
Purchase of day-old chicks for first production Cycle	No. of day-old chicks purchased (batch)	7,500
Purchase of equipment (drinkers, feeders, brooding materials, nest boxes)	No. of equipment purchased	1,167
Purchase of feed for first production Cycle	Feed (lot) purchased	13,500
Purchase of vaccines and drugs	vaccines and drugs (lot) purchased	2,250
Design and construction supervision	No. of poultry houses designed, and construction supervised	4,000
Construction of poultry houses for FBOs	No. of poultry houses constructed for FBOs	2,000
Construction of poultry houses for schools	No. of poultry houses constructed for schools	15,000
Watering facilities (well and hand pump)	No. watering facilities constructed	30,940
Fencing of community gardens with chain links	No. of rolls of chain links purchased	12,800

Concrete pillars for fence	No. of concrete pillars purchased	16,000
Gates and binding wires	No. of gates produced	2,000
Water source for 4ha community gardens-boreholes	No. of boreholes drilled and installed	64,667
Overhead tank	No. of o/head tanks constructed	139,667
Water lifting devices for 4ha-solar pumping devices (supply and installation)	No. of solar pumps installed	306,000
Distribution network (pipes and field reservoirs)	No. of gardens fitted with dist. Network	137,600
Garden tools for community gardens	No. of garden tools purchased	15,133
Farm shed	No. of farm sheds constructed	34,000
Fencing of school gardens with chain links (25m/roll)	No. of rolls of chain links purchased	12,800
Concrete pillars for fence	No. of concrete pillars purchased	8,000
Gates and binding wires	No. of gates purchased and fixed	2,000
Water source for school garden – concrete lined wells	No. of concrete line wells constructed	78,667
Water lifting devices – hand pumps	No. of hand pumps fixed	53,333
Garden tools for school gardens	No. of garden tools purchased & distributed	3,783
Initial production inputs-fertilisers (U&NPK)	No. of Mt of fertilizers purchased	10.00
Farmer training on improved crop husbandry practices through FFS (200 participants)	Farmer training session on improved crop husbandry practices conducted	30,000
Sanitary facility for community gardens	No. of sanitary facilities constructed	10,000

#### 4) Other donor funded agriculture and food security projects

Project Title	Amount (million)	Currency	Development Partner	Instrument	Status
<i>Nema</i> CHOSSO <sup>8</sup>	39.40	USD	IFAD	Grant	Ongoing (2013-2019)
Programme for building resilience against food and nutritional insecurity in the Sahel (P2RS)	20.40	UA	AfDB	Loan	Ongoing (2014-2019)
Building Resilience to Recurring Food Insecurity in The Gambia (BRRFI)	17.90	USD	IsDB	Loan & Grant	Ongoing (2014-2019)
The Gambia Commercial Agriculture and Value Chain Management Project (GCAV)	15.92	USD	WB	Loan & Grant	Ongoing (2014-2019)
The Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (AVCDP)	8.50	USD	AfDB	Loan	Ongoing (2016-2020)

<sup>8</sup> Note the Management of *Nema Chosso* also executes the Program for Building Resilience against Food and Nutrition Insecurity (P2RS) and the Building Resilience for Recurring Food Insecurity in the Gambia funded by the IsDB

Community-Based Sustainable Dry Land Forest Management	3.20 <sup>9</sup>	USD	GEF	Grant	Ongoing (2016-2020)
Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change	6.30	USD	GEF	Grant	Ongoing (2016-2020)
Post-Crisis Response to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in The Gambia (EU EDF 11 Envelope B)	4.60	USD	EU	Grant	Ongoing (2018-2021)
Agriculture for Economic Growth	15.80	USD	EU	Grant	Ongoing (2018-2021)
Building Resilience through Social Transfer for Nutrition Security in the Gambia (BREST)	3.46	USD (3 Million EURO)	EU	Grant	Ongoing(2017-2020)
Action Against Desertification (AAD) -GGW	1.73	USD (1.5 Million EURO)	AUC/FAO	Grant	Ongoing (2016-2019)
Strengthening climate services and early warning systems in The Gambia for climate resilient development and adaptation to climate change – 2nd Phase of the Early Warning Project	10.96	USD (9.5 Million EURO)	GEF/UNEP /UNDP	Grant	Ongoing (07/15 - 06/19)
Maternal and Child Nutrition and Health Results Project	13.68	USD	World Bank (IDA, HRITF)	Grant (\$11.205m) Loan (\$2.475m)	Ongoing (05/14-07/19)
Large-scale Ecosystem-based Adaptation in The Gambia: developing a climate-resilient, natural resource-based economy.	25.52	USD	Green Climate Fund	Grant (\$ 20,546,756) GOTG (\$ 4,974,611)	Ongoing 01/17 -12/22

Note: List all projects related to agriculture and food security funded by GAFSP Supervising Entities, development finance institutions, and major donors over the last 5 years. Include closed projects.

**5) Preferred Supervising Entity - The choice of Supervising Entity is not scored in the assessment of the proposal.**

**Supervising Entities for Investments and Technical Assistance (Select only one)**

- African Development Bank
- Asian Development Bank
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- Inter-American Development Bank
- World Bank

**Supervising Entities for Technical Assistance only (Optional)**

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- World Food Programme (WFP)

<sup>9</sup> 3,066,347US\$

**Only if more than one Supervising Entity is selected**, provide the anticipated cost share between the Supervising Entities. This should be decided in consultation with the preferred Supervising Entities. For successful proposals, grants will be awarded by the Steering Committee. The final share of the proposed project that will focus on investment and on technical assistance will be reviewed and finalized during the joint detailed project formulation and appraisal.

	<b>Anticipated cost share (%)</b>
<b>African Development Bank</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: The anticipated cost shares should add up to 100%.

**Reasons for selecting the preferred Supervising Entity(ies):** (e.g., comparative advantage of supervising entity(ies), considerations of safeguard policies on environment and governance etc., leveraging of other resources, historical relations with the country). Describe evidence of prior discussion with the preferred Supervising Entity regarding this proposal.

The preferred supervising entity for investments is the AfDB based on numerous engagements of the Bank in the Agriculture sector with The Gambia. Since 1974, the Bank has been a partner of the country, establishing a comprehensive knowledge in Agriculture and Food Security, that keep ongoing with new operations. By Dec. 2018, 10% of the Bank’s portfolio was allocated to agriculture and 34% of new approvals were destined to West Africa alone. With the Feed African Initiative, 19 million people were provided with improved agricultural technologies and 1,700 tons of agricultural inputs (fertilizers, seeds, and the like) were provided. Operations have contributed to capacity development in the Gambia agriculture and food security sectors, having the MoA as the key partner of choice for the sector. The regional representation of the Bank provides close support in operational activities such as general guidance, disbursement, procurement and financial management. The AfDB has been very active in supporting the Gambia’s agriculture and food security sectors, bringing important lessons emanating from its portfolio, including the latest GAFSP project in the Gambia, FASDEP, also supervised by the AfDB. These lessons have immensely supported the design of the current project proposal, such as: need to engage private sector in a whole new and innovative manner for further results sustainability; importance of not only prioritizing agriculture activities, but also give an equal weight for food security initiatives, supporting the country’s social protection system (grey infrastructure development); community and social stakeholders participation in the direct implementation of projects, confirming ownership; practical solutions for post-harvest management; and simplified and adaptable procurement system, enabling for smooth and appropriate implementation of the project. Another important feature for a successful partnership is the AfDB’s new policy on Nutrition, completely aligned with the Gambia’s vision for the sector, as well as the GNAIP. In addition, the Bank’s Feed Africa Initiative walks hand in hand with the Gambia’s vision for a malnutrition free country. Along with agriculture and food security (including nutrition), the AfDB also has many important lessons and work (from its extensive portfolio) in Africa to support the project proposal in cross-cutting themes, such as food production, climate change, youth, gender, and environment. Finally, the AfDB is a regional champion for SDG2 – the keystone SDG for this project proposal.

The World Food Programme (WFP) will provide technical assistance during preparation and implementation. The WFP has been a partner in The Gambia's development and emergency feeding program since 1972 through project-oriented food assistance. The WFP-assisted projects are innovatively designed as catalyst, combined with other inputs, to revitalise the rural economy through a range of complimentary development of The Gambia's human resources through institutional feeding programme. WFP-assisted programme in the country is closely aligned to the Government's Strategy for Poverty Alleviation. WFP sees the eradication of poverty and the elimination of the need for food aid as aspect of one and the same objectives and to this

end; WFP directs its efforts towards supporting the development of a food security strategy based on enhancing capacity for increased production while at the same time strongly advocating the reduction of dependence on food aid. As poverty is perpetrated by hunger which in itself is a manifestation of food insecurity, WFP's food assistance to the Government is aimed at helping the poor to build assets and promote self-reliance through food-for-work support to labour intensive works which are initiated by the communities themselves, have adequate material, financial and technical support, are technically sound, and are integrated into the overall divisional and/or national development aims and objectives. As it is often the poor who actively participate in food-for-work activities, food assistance becomes a more efficient means of reaching the poor with food at times when they need it most and in ways that achieve lasting impact. WFP in the fight against poverty and hunger will continue to deploy food assistance rationally to alleviate hunger, establish a base for future food security, and save lives of disaster and conflict affected persons. Targeting of food assistance is also essential to reach those most in need, and to minimise the adverse effects such as creation of dependency, production disincentives and market displacements. For all these reasons, and their historic background of delivering results on the ground, the GoTG has chosen WFP as the partner of choice for technical supervision.

## **2.6 Post project sustainability and exit strategies**

### **1) For project asset and services: Describe how assets and services will be maintained after the life of the project:**

During project implementation, internal controls will ensure inventorying, managing and controlling the project's fixed assets. These assets are subsequently transferred to the relevant parent ministry/stakeholders at project closure to be mainstreamed and the services sustained. The project is planned to provide smart inputs and services such as land preparation on a one-time basis to build the production and productivity base of smallholders so that in the subsequent production seasons or cycles they are themselves responsible for acquiring and utilizing the inputs. Similarly, the project will only provide simple machinery (post-harvest handling, processing and packaging) that beneficiaries themselves can manage and operate without external resources. In the case of group ownership of such assets, a management committee, which is trained on the operation, maintenance, recording and financial management of proceeds will be in place well before project closure. Beneficiaries will be encouraged to set up a revolving fund for the maintenance of project such assets and services.

### **2) For institutions and management structures: Describe capacities needed to continue providing support and coordination and assurances or strategies to ensure these will be in place:**

As the project works with and within local institutions and structures; activities can be mainstreamed within current institutional set up e.g. training of extension staff as Training of Trainers (ToT) so that they could continue to impart skills and improved practices to farmers. The project will build the capacity of farmer-based organizations including their negotiations and local procurement skills so that they could independently undertake marketing supply contracts. Similarly, the capacity of stakeholders including school management committees, mother's clubs and nutrition promoters will be enhanced for sustainability. The capacity of project staff will also be built, through experienced sharing to facilitate their eventual reabsorption, into the relevant cadre after project completion. As the project will support MSMEs to access investment resources, that they will be providing markets and services to supply the HGSF beyond the project.

### **3) Social access and inclusion: Describe arrangements that will be put in place to ensure that social and gender equity gains on the project will persist:**

Interventions proposed are pro-poor and target youth, women and children. It is expected that tangible benefits will accrue to them in terms of improved food and nutrition security, reduced vulnerability and increased income through the provision of a secured market for their produce. In addition to providing technical skills, the project will provide group leadership, promote good governance and knowledge sharing to engender integration of good practices. Group cohesion will be encouraged. Given that HGSP is a key safety net for poor children and their families continuity will ensue both a secured market and school meal.

## 2.7 Risk and risk management

### 1) Describe the process used for the risk analysis, including who participated and their roles:

The Gambia Government and the GAFSP preparation team fully comprehend that project implementation, will not be without risks. Most risks are expected to have a moderate level. The project will not be an isolated process, it will be implemented through existing structures and experienced partners that have already implemented a GAFSP funding project with the AfDB, thus benefiting from a learning curve that will support the team with risk mitigation measures.

To ensure that risks and their mitigation measures were properly accounted for, risk management was initially structured in the HLTT and TWG meetings, where the team developed a context risk assessment of major areas (political, economic, implementation, sector strategies, project design, fiduciary aspect, etc.). These are presented below. Further to this context risk assessment, a validation workshop, described in the next session (2.8 – consultations), dedicated a whole afternoon with 3 groups (a total of 31 participants) evaluating risks and their mitigations measures for every aspect of the project design. Results from each group were then presented in plenary, with further discussion and validation of the proposed risks and their mitigation measures. The following table presents the results from this workshop.

### 2) Describe in the table below major risks to the achievement of the specific objectives, and to each component (activity), and identify mitigation measures for each risk. These risks could include, among others, political, economic, institutional, environmental, social inclusion, gender, or market risks:

Sub-Components	Risks	Mitigation measures	Is the mitigation measure included in the project budget (Yes/No)?
<b>Key Project Risks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political interference</li> <li>• Economic Shocks</li> <li>• Climate change effects (drought, flood, erratic rainfall)</li> <li>• Delayed project implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement of legal confidence (political interference)</li> <li>• Establishment of steering committee – public and NGOs (political interference)</li> <li>• Early maturing and deep flooded crop varieties</li> <li>• Establish a well-functioning early warning system</li> <li>• Familiarity with donor values and reputation</li> </ul>	Yes
<b>Component 1: Developing Sustainable Food Systems for Improved Livelihoods, Productivity and Climate Resilience</b>			
1.1 Strengthening Skills, Productivity,	erratic rainfall pattern	Use of climate smart agriculture techniques and skills (conservation techniques), use of short cycle	Yes



Sub-Components	Risks	Mitigation measures	Is the mitigation measure included in the project budget (Yes/No)?
Commercialization and Climate Resilience		species, enhance utilization of river and ground water. Also, consolidate early maturing and deep flooded crop varieties, and establish a well-functioning early warning system	
	inadequate capacity of farmers to adapt good agricultural practices	Provision of training support through direct extension and farmer field schools	Yes
	limited access and untimely availability of inputs and services	timely availability of inputs and services to farmers through plan procurement processes	Yes
	Disease outbreak in the traditional and commercial poultry	Vaccination against NCD and deworming	Yes
	Inadequate capacity of institutions for delivery of services to farmers	Capacity building of service delivery institutions ( professional training for staffs)	Yes
	High post-harvest losses	Capacity building of technician and farmers on post-harvest techniques and skills, and post-harvest infrastructure	Yes
	Loss of produce due to lack of storage facilities	Provision of appropriate storage facilities	Yes
	Inadequate marketing facilities for agricultural produce	Provision of marketing resources for agricultural produce	Yes
	Farmers are not organised as groups to carry out marketing and negotiation of prices for agricultural products	Establishment of cooperatives to facilitate marketing and negotiation of prices	Yes
	Inadequate value addition for agricultural produce due to lack equipment, skills and techniques	Provision of equipment and skills training	Yes
1.1 Strengthening Skills, Productivity, Commercialization and Climate Resilience			
1.2 Improved Business Environment	Limited private sector involvement and lack of viable market outlets and opportunities for agribusiness e.g. lack of organization at production level, postharvest (bulking aggregating and	SMEs capacity will be strengthened and will be linked to markets, initially via institutional markets and consequently to other open markets.	Yes

Sub-Components	Risks	Mitigation measures	Is the mitigation measure included in the project budget (Yes/No)?
	processing) and market price information.		
<b>Component 2: Reducing Vulnerability through Social Protection</b>			
2.1: Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Improvement	Poor dietary habits	Adoption of healthy eating behaviour through SBCC	Yes
	Difficulties in adapting new innovations by communities	Participating awareness creation	Yes
	Competition from imported products	Use of positive deviance, strengthen market surveillance system and preference clause	Yes
2.2: Fostering Inclusive Transformation via Social Protection and Food Safety Nets	Unavailability of funds	Government to provide budget line for funding	Yes (in the policy coherence activity)
<b>Component 3. Strengthening FNS Coordination and Management</b>			
3.1: Enabling Environment Support for Food and Nutrition Security	Failure to implement and follow up on recommendations from knowledge exchange and TA studies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country counterpart will be attached to TAs;</li> <li>Development and implementation of agreed plan of action from experience exchange visits;</li> <li>Impact assessment will be carried out to assess outcomes of knowledge exchange experiences;</li> <li>Interventions on south-south cooperation will be implemented through international standardized methodology</li> </ul>	Yes
	Uncoordinated/poor quality FNS data management system	Operationalise the Gambia National Agriculture database at the Planning Service Unit	Yes
	Limited capacity at office of the Vice President to provide oversight functions for FNS Policy coordination	Strengthen capacity of the FNS policy unit at OVP to be able to carry out the functions	Yes
	Government sectors failing to align to the required FNS Policy Structure	Identification of focal person at the OVP to coordinate the FNS Policy Structure	Yes

## 2.8 Consultation with local stakeholders and development partners

### 1) Describe the process and extent of consultation with stakeholders (e.g., central and local government, private sector, farmer groups, individuals, development partners), providing in Appendix 2 a full list of stakeholders consulted:

The construction process for the current project proposal was led by a multi-stakeholder High Level Task Team chaired by the PS of MoA, and included representatives from government ministries and agencies, NGOs, private sector, farmer organizations, technical experts, development partners and UN agencies. Additionally, understanding the immense importance of ownership and collective building, consultations were key to the proposal preparation phase. Three moments of official consultations took place: an institutional thematic stakeholder consultation, regional social consultations with farmers, and a validation workshop. Detailed reports on each of the mentioned above consultations are presented in Appendix 2.

**Regional Social Consultations.** These consultations were supported through Government and led on the ground by the NGO Action Aid International The Gambia jointly with the apex body of farmer organizations, the NACOFAG, who is the national focal point of the regional West African network of farmers and agricultural producers. Over 300 smallholders attended including community leaders, smallholders, private sector, civil society organizations, and staff from government departments and projects. In total, ten consultative meetings were organized in all the agricultural regions targeting farmers, especially women and youth farmers. Farmer representatives included apex associations such as NaLOA, AGFP, Cashew Federation, AFET, NAWFA, NaYAFS among others all of which representing large interest groups of family farmers. NGOs representing other large interest group included AATG, WASDA, FFHC, among others as well as representative from school feeding programme and Area Councils. Consultative meetings were held from July 28<sup>th</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, where meetings facilitated discussion among participants on the level of preparation, as well as shared experiences and best practices from FASDEP interventions, identifying gaps, emerging issues, and sustainability plans, in order to make recommendations for possible actions towards this new project proposal.

**Institutional Thematic Consultations.** Three days of thematic consultations took place, from July 24-26<sup>th</sup>, in order to discuss three key areas of possible intervention for the project. Almost 50 participants participated in the three events, analysing good practices and results from the previous GAFSP funding project – FASDEP – as well as not so successful cases. In addition, participants discussed thoroughly the alignment with the GNAIP, and possibilities of scaling up related to the HGSF programme, as an assured market entry point for foodstuff. Many lessons learned were drawn from these thematic consultations, with the following topics: Day 1. Production/Productivity Enhancement and Value Chain Development; Day 2. Food, Nutrition Security and Social Protection; Day 3. Climate Change/Resilience. Results from the discussion are presented in Appendix 2.

**Validation Workshop.** A validation workshop was done on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, to engender participatory endorsement of the proposal design and risks management measures through interactive group sessions. This was a crucial moment to complete and update the GAFSP project proposal structure for design, implementation and M&E which entailed reviewing of project's component, sub-components and activities at design; log frame specifying outcomes, outputs and indicators; identification of target beneficiaries by region and the key implementing partners. The teams also completed and validated the proposal structure for risk management by identifying the risks to the achievement of the specific objectives and each component and sub-component identify the mitigation measures.

In addition to the consultations, two teams (HLTT – High Level Task Team; and the TWG – Technical Working Group) were assembled to prepare the project proposal since day one. The overall aim of this GASFP

institutional model approach and preparation arrangement was to provide analytical, advisory and technical support; to coordinate the proposal drafting and to pipeline and ensure country readiness for project implementation as of 2020, in case of proposal acceptance. The ToRs for these groups are also presented in Appendix 2.

**2) Describe how traditionally marginalized groups (e.g., women, landless, youth, pastoralists, pregnant and lactating women, ethnic or social minorities) were involved and any special measures that were put in place to engage their participation:**

Traditionally marginalized groups were involved in each of the ten regional social consultations. The team made sure that Action Aid and NACOFAG would request that participants from these groups would be present at every consultation meeting. The consultations approach targeted different groups in each of the regions (Farmers, NGOs, CBOs, TAC ANR sub-committees and others), making sure that at least half of the participants belonged to marginalized groups. The meetings were conducted in local dialects (Mandinka, wolof and fula) in addition to the use of English, making sure that every person involved would benefit from her/his participation. 38% of participants from the social consultations were women; a youth breakdown was not made (details in the report presented in Appendix 2).

**3) Describe ways in which the consultation added value or enhanced the project design:**

A theory of change was developed in the initial phase of project preparation and presented for both HLTT and TWG. The rationale behind it was developed based on FASDEP's success activities, and the GNAIP's priorities. The theory of change already went through some initial changes after these meetings, but only after the social consultations with farmers did the team fully understand the real needs on the ground.

As such, project design took the major concepts from the theory of change, and finetuned sub-components and activities based on three key ideas: i) GNAIP's key priorities; ii) farmer's needs on the ground for project ownership and meaningful results, and iii) successful activities that could be consolidated and scaled up from FASDEP (again, based on the smallholder's perspective, and not only on institutional evaluation reports). For example, not enough attention was being given to post-harvest management activities as they should have been. Smallholders would like to receive more inputs, but even more, they want to make sure that whatever they produce as surplus, can have value added to their products to be sold at a better price. In addition, a key issue they raised was market access. When explained the rationale behind the institutional market, where they will sell their goods to schools and feed the children (which, in most cases, are their own kids), they were very happy (and anxious) to see this system working on the ground properly and sustainably. In regions where the HGSF system is working (even if not fully), smallholders already understood the benefit from this system, and would like to see it scaled up.

The team understands that not all smallholders wishes could be attended with one single project, although the team consolidated as much the country's capacity challenge with the needs of smallholders on the ground, thus arriving to the presented project design.

## **2.9 Detailed plan for preparation (in the event of a successful proposal)**

**1) Planned responsible person: Name and current title of full-time national government administration team member who is expected to be the key liaison person with the Supervising Entity(ies) and lead the preparation of the project with the Supervising Entity(ies) if the proposal is selected.**

Name	Current Title	Role
Lamin Camara	Permanent Secretary 1, Policy, Ministry of Agriculture	Lead Government Preparation Team
Momodou Mbye Jabang	Permanent Secretary, 2, Programs and Projects, Ministry of Agriculture	Member, Government Preparation Team
Abdoulie Touray	Director, Central Project Coordination Unit (CPCU)	Member, Government Preparation Team
Dr. Saikou E. Sanyang	Director General, Department of Agriculture (DOA)	Member, Government Preparation Team
Ansumana Jarju	Director General, National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)	Member, Government Preparation Team
Tabi Karikari	Senior Agric & Natural Resources Management Officer African Development Bank	Member Supervising Entity team
Wanja Kaaria	Country Director, World Food Programme	Member Supervising Entity Team

**2) Expected project preparation time (including time needed for reviews and any subsequent clearances needed from bodies such as government committees and parliament):**

From reference of previous projects, six to eight months are expected for project preparation.

**3) Sources and amounts of funding for project preparation (e.g., for feasibility studies, environmental safeguard analysis, private sector engagement assessment, operational manuals). Add lines as needed. If the source of funding is still unknown, write “to be decided (TBD).”**

Source name	Purpose	Secured or not	Amount (secured or requested)	Other remarks
ADF of AfDB	Project Preparation and Operations Manual	TBD	TBD	None
Adaptation Fund	Project Preparation – Environmental Feasibility Studies	TBD	TBD	WFP is securing the Adaptation Fund – Final stage of Request

WFP and GoTG is in conversations with other funding partners, such as the IsDB, EU and BADEA, for possible project co-financing. Confirmed positive reactions have been signalled for further funding possibility. This is still being discussed by donor partners. Currently, the Adaptation Fund is being requested by WFP, with a very high chance of success.

## **Part 3: Supporting Documentation and Appendices**

Appendix 1: Results Framework at proposal stage.

Appendix 2: Full list of stakeholders engaged in consultation process during proposal preparation

Appendix 3: Project preparation grant request

Attachment 1: ToRs, Minutes of Meetings and Attendance Lists for Project Proposal Preparation

Attachment 2: Social Consultations Report

Attachment 3: Thematic Consultations Results

Attachment 4: Validation Workshop Report

Attachment 5: National Development Plan (2018-2021)

Attachment 6: Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan II (2019-2026)

Attachment 7: Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy (2017-2026)

Attachment 8: National Social Protection Policy ( 2015-2025)

Attachment 9: National Education Sector Policy (2016-2030)

Attachment 10: Gender and Women Empowerment Policy (2017-2020)

Attachment 11: National Youth Policy (2019-2028)

Attachment 12: National Nutrition Policy (2018-2025)

Attachment 13: National Horticulture Sector Masterplan (2015-2035)

Attachment 14: The Gambia Trade Policy (2018-2022)

Attachment 15: Zero Hunger Strategic Review 2018

Attachment 16: GNAIP I Technical Review

## **Appendix 1: Results Framework at proposal stage**

This appendix presents the results framework for the proposed project, along with the rationale used to construct this chain.

### **PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED**

1. Smallholder farming sector in The Gambia remains weak, comprising mainly subsistence farmers with limited access to inputs and resources **(low productivity, low income, low climate resilience)**
2. Undernutrition and Global Acute Malnutrition affects as much as 30 percent and 10 percent of the Gambia population, especially rural children **(low food security, high malnutrition, and high vulnerability)**
3. Limited governance of national institutions related to agriculture and food security, including the link with the private sector and public institutional markets **(limited governance and sustainability)**

### **OUTCOMES TO TACKLE PROBLEMS**

1. Improved productivity, income and climate resilience to smallholder farmers by the adoption of a sustainable and adequate food systems
2. Reduced vulnerability by the increase in food and nutrition security and the consolidation of social protection initiatives
3. Strengthened capacities of national institutions to implement integrated and systemic initiatives for agriculture and food security

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

- i. Structure public food demand and improve smallholder's productivity by increasing food production, post-harvest management, stable market access and resilience for identified food chains;
- ii. Promote social protection and food safety net programmes to reduce food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations in the project areas;
- iii. Strengthen national capacities for ownership and good governance of the food and nutrition security sector.

### **PROJECT COMPONENTS**

1. Developing Sustainable Food Systems for Improved Livelihoods, Productivity and Climate Resilience (objective i.)
2. Reducing Vulnerability through Social Protection (objective ii.)
3. Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security Coordination and Management (objective iii.)

## RESULTS FRAMEWORK

COMPONENT (Impact)	SUB-COMPONENT (Long-term Outcome)	OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES
<b>Component 1 - Developing Sustainable Food Systems for Improved Livelihoods, Productivity and Climate Resilience</b>	1.1 Boosting Productivity, Commercialization and Climate Resilience	1.1.1 Climate Smart Agriculture and Production Support	Vegetable gardens equipped with adequate infrastructure to support secured year-round production: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 vegetable production schemes upgraded</li> <li>• 75ha additional schemes developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assess, improved design and rehabilitate/upgrade target existing schemes (15 schemes of 5ha each);</li> <li>- Select, assess including detailed field studies, design and develop (watering facilities, chain-link fence, nursery shed, farm store and sorting room</li> <li>- Train on operation and maintenance of provided facilities.</li> </ul>
			Production skills acquired and implemented for smallholder farmers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 630 trainers (30 trainers per foodstuff (7) x 3 regions)</li> <li>• 31,500 smallholder farmers trained (4,500 farmers on each foodstuff – 50 farmers per trainer)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 16,000 women farmers</li> <li>○ 15,500 men farmers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop of training curriculum of GAPs (climate smart production techniques) per target priority foodstuff - rice, coarse grains, vegetables, groundnuts, cassava, beans and poultry</li> <li>- Support awareness creation on climate smart crop varieties</li> <li>- Sensitise and organize farmers into learning groups</li> <li>- Conduct training of trainers for extension workers/facilitators and farmer group leaders</li> <li>- Consolidation and scale-up of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) established in FASDEP for each ecology and conduct trainings</li> <li>- Monitor and evaluate implementation</li> </ul>
			Availability and access of production inputs and services to farmers and producers, especially women and youth improved, and climate smart agricultural techniques adopted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,500 smallholder farmers benefitted from resources               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 800 women farmers</li> <li>○ 700 men farmers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitate creation of registration schemes for input distribution (improved seeds, fertiliser and other agro-chemical) to enhance timely availability</li> <li>- Provision of improved seeds</li> <li>- Support extension agents and farmers equipped with appropriate improved production technologies including climate change adaptation strategies</li> <li>- Provision of seed processing equipment and machinery - for various food crops and vegetables</li> <li>- Provision of fertilisers – organic and inorganic</li> <li>- Provision of land preparation services and access to other labour-saving devices</li> </ul>



COMPONENT (Impact)	SUB-COMPONENT (Long-term Outcome)	OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support to traditional village poultry production systems</li> <li>- Provision supply of day-old chicks</li> <li>- Provide starter kits for poultry</li> </ul>
			<p>Capacity of support services providers and FBOs enhanced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 Service Providers supported</li> <li>• 200 FBOs strengthened</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support extension field staff to implement FFS activities and other extension duties, including climate smart agriculture techniques</li> <li>- Assess and upgrade human and material resource requirement for implementing Institutions</li> <li>- Support to operation - extension workers</li> <li>- Strengthen farmer organisations and service providers through leadership and other trainings</li> </ul>
		1.1.2 Post-Harvest Management and Commercialization Investments	<p>Storage facilities for priority foodstuff upgraded and/or established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 120 bulking facilities upgraded and/or built (40 per region)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Refurbish warehouses at strategic location for bulk handling of priority food stuff</li> <li>- Support establishment of bulking facilities at strategic locations (major weekly market sites)</li> <li>- Establish multipurpose storage/processing facilities and collection centres for food crops, poultry, and horticulture produce</li> </ul>
			<p>Support to smallholders' in processing and value-addition practices and resources (inputs and services):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 840 trainers (40 trainers per foodstuff (7) x 3 regions)</li> <li>• 42,000 smallholder farmers trained (6,000 farmers on each foodstuff – 50 farmers per trainer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 23,000 women farmers</li> <li>○ 19,000 men farmers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen FBOs to conduct training in agro-processing technologies;</li> <li>- Upgrade skills of food chain actors in appropriate agro-processing technologies;</li> <li>- Assess and train food chain actors on agro-processing technologies including preservation and storage of priority foodstuff;</li> <li>- Promote improved management practices for chicken production</li> <li>- Provide initial support on improved sorting/grading, packaging and labelling of products including vegetables, vegetable products, food crops and poultry</li> </ul>
			<p>Links established between individual farmers and agricultural cooperatives (organizations) comprising of small-scale producer and processors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish/reactivate and strengthen producer and processor (especially women and youth) cooperatives – promote farmers' registry and</li> </ul>

COMPONENT (Impact)	SUB-COMPONENT (Long-term Outcome)	OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES
			(especially youth and women) with institutional markets (e.g. HGSP) and National (e.g. tomato producers), Regional and International Markets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 45 cooperatives developed (15 per region)</li> <li>• 250 links established with institutional markets (HGSP programme suppliers)</li> <li>• 30 links established with private markets (10 per region)</li> </ul>	adaption to legal food procurement regulations and to food quality and safety standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve market access through consolidating and scaling up connections with institutional markets (e.g. HGSP)</li> <li>- Promote contract farming – rice, vegetable growers, food crops and poultry</li> <li>- Promote access to improved market and food quality and safety information systems to stakeholders - TV &amp; Radio programmes, promotional show</li> <li>- Support enforcement of ECOWAS trade protocols</li> </ul>
		1.2.1 Promotion and Support for Agribusiness Development	Development of a private sector development (PSD) facility to support key challenges in boosting private sector participation for food and nutrition security: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSD facility established</li> <li>• 120 SMEs supported by PSD facility in agro-processing and agro-business related activities (40 per region)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support SMEs with project preparation for funding leverage</li> <li>- Business management training (including training tools that cover the whole spectrum of target groups from illiterate micro entrepreneurs to growth oriented small and medium scale entrepreneurs)</li> <li>- Develop and scale business models to strengthen value chains</li> <li>- Assessments on value chain transparency through low-cost traceability solutions</li> <li>- Design and deliver training programs to build capacity of suppliers and staff</li> <li>- Design and deliver training programs focused on food quality and safety standards for suppliers and staff</li> <li>- Build multi-stakeholder initiatives to drive cross-industry improvements</li> <li>- Provide agricultural Investment support for SMEs</li> </ul>
<b>2. Reducing Vulnerability through Social Protection</b>	2.1 Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Improvement	2.1.1 Improving Resilience of Food and Nutrition Security and Climate Change at national,	Household nutritional knowledge Improved 5 Nutritional awareness/education programs developed and integrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop IEC materials on household nutritional knowledge for use in knowledge building on nutrition topics;</li> </ul>

COMPONENT (Impact)	SUB-COMPONENT (Long-term Outcome)	OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES
		community and household levels	<p>into curricular throughout the early childhood education and lower education (1 per year):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 120,000 households (TV and radio)</li> </ul> <p>Nutrition sensitive agricultural practices promoted (diversification, food fortification, food quality and safety) through methodological and technical support</p> <p>5 IEC campaigns on the management of agricultural waste, food quality and safety supported (1 per year):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 120,000 households (TV and radio)</li> </ul> <p>Nutrition mainstream into investment policies and plans at national level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carry out sensitization community using developed materials to enhance nutrition knowledge</li> <li>- Develop awareness materials on nutrition and nutrition-sensitive tools for curricular of lower education</li> <li>- Train teachers and cooks on the use of developed materials</li> <li>- Provide support to the development of materials to support nutrition-sensitive practices</li> <li>- Provide training support on the use of materials developed to support implementation of nutrition sensitive practices</li> <li>- Provide equipment and input support for implementation of nutrition sensitive practices</li> <li>- Develop IEC materials on the management of agricultural wastes, food quality and safety</li> <li>- Disseminate IEC materials through Radio, TV and traditional media to communities and stakeholders</li> <li>- Increase the awareness of legislators, policy makers and the public on the importance of nutrition</li> <li>- Develop materials and disseminate through the mass media-Radio, TV and print media</li> </ul>
		2.1.2 Prevent and control micronutrient malnutrition among the population, especially women and children	<p>Increased household consumption of iodized salt</p> <p>Vitamin A deficiency is highly reduced</p> <p>Fortification of food with micronutrients promoted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare and implement monitoring plan on iodized salt production, consumption and quality</li> <li>- Carry out sensitization/awareness campaigns on Vitamin A deficiency and its consequences</li> <li>- Procure and distribute necessary supplies</li> <li>- Develop expansion plan on Vitamin A supplementation</li> </ul>

COMPONENT (Impact)	SUB-COMPONENT (Long-term Outcome)	OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES
			5 IEC campaigns on the importance of micronutrients and their consumption supported (1 per year): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 120,000 households (TV and radio)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sensitize communities on the importance of micronutrients and on why consume some types of fortified foods and iodized salt</li> <li>- Design and implement programmes on food fortification (local cereals, moringa, vegetable oil, sweet potato, etc.)</li> <li>- Develop an expansion plan to serve communities (unserved and underserved) in project area</li> <li>- Develop IEC materials on the importance of micronutrients</li> <li>- Disseminate developed materials to stakeholders including communities and decision-makers using Radio and TV</li> </ul>
		2.1.3 Prevention and management of food and nutrition cyclical crises	Integrated Information and early warning systems on crisis risks and developing the harmonized framework analysis established  Capacity in regional and community food reserves strengthened (1 replenishment per region)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen the FSN and early warning systems</li> <li>- Develop capacity in the harmonized framework</li> <li>- Strengthen alert systems</li> <li>- Prepare response plans that are dependent on quality information</li> <li>- Strengthen capacity in national food reserves and community cereal banks</li> <li>- Strengthen the national food reserves mechanism with food stocks</li> </ul>
	2.2 Fostering Inclusive Transformation via Social Protection and Food Safety Nets	2.2.1 Nutritious school meals planning and delivery	School feeding programme implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 249 schools</li> <li>• 131,900 primary school children and pre-schoolers (52% are girls) located with primary schools attended</li> <li>• 821 cooks (all women)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Map the needs and capacities of the schools in the targeted regions</li> <li>- Design and implement appropriate and harmonized mixed-model HGSF implementation strategies and plans of actions</li> <li>- Design and implement nutrition-sensitive school menus for targeted regions</li> <li>- Training of school staff, including cooks, on programme management, delivery (storage and</li> </ul>

COMPONENT (Impact)	SUB-COMPONENT (Long-term Outcome)	OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES
			<p>Nutrition-sensitive menus designed and implemented</p> <p>Local procurement for SFP piloted in project areas according to school menus</p>	<p>food safety), and in-class food and nutrition education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design a procurement strategy and regulation for the cash-based and for the in-kind models</li> <li>- Purchase of the local produce in a mixed-model HGSF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- purchasing through small agribusiness enterprises contracting with rice-out-growers (i.e. smallholder farmers)</li> <li>- direct procurement through selected small farmer groups in major rice growing regions</li> <li>- procuring from regional cereal bank stocks</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Carry out joint monitoring and evaluation of implementation and delivery</li> <li>- Prepare and deliver diversified in-school meals to all target schools through the home-grown school feeding modality.</li> <li>- Distribute take home rations to girls and vulnerable children</li> <li>- Implement, at school level, complementary activities that contribute to food diversification and income generation, particularly for women: community vegetable gardens, school herds, grain mills and fuel-efficient stoves to reduce the workload of women and girls which are key barriers to girls' education</li> </ul>
		2.2.2 Gender-sensitive training for school communities	<p>School communities trained on gender sensitive and women empowerment issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 120 school communities in the project area</li> <li>• 6,000 women and girls trained (2,000 per region)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advocate for the enrolment of girls in schools through public sensitization and take-home rations</li> <li>- Trainer of Trainer (ToT) for community facilitators on nutrition, health, hygiene and sanitation, reproductive health, and other related issues and are empowered to provide coaching to the adolescent girls</li> </ul>

COMPONENT (Impact)	SUB-COMPONENT (Long-term Outcome)	OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct SRHR/ GBV dialogue sessions, mentoring and role modelling for in and out of school girls.</li> <li>- Train and Support Girls' networks (GBV survivors, mother groups and readmitted adolescents) to manage menstruation and produce affordable sanitary pads</li> <li>- Participatory consultation meeting to develop a programme criterion on awarding best performing head teachers (schools) and communities</li> <li>- Mobilizing, lobbying and advocating for girl's education and services with chiefs, parents and other relevant stakeholders</li> <li>- Develop a multi-pronged communication campaign, distribute and disseminate advocacy and IEC materials on nutrition, hygiene, SRH and sanitation and gender related laws and policies</li> <li>- Mapping of bi-laws around girls' education in the targeted areas</li> </ul>
<b>3. Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security Coordination and Management</b>	3.1 Enabling Environment Support for Food and Nutrition Security	3.1.1 Institutional Capacity Strengthening	The Government of The Gambia agencies and Gambian communities have strengthened capacities to sustainably implement and coordinate HGSF activities during and after project lifetime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Define the current level of capacities for rural and school feeding programme implementation and delivery of the national institutional framework, organizations and individuals in the three targeted regions. This includes:</li> <li>- Design capacity strengthening projects and partnerships to address the lack of full, joint-ownership of the programme across sectors and levels of government.</li> </ul>
		3.1.2 South-South Cooperation and Policy Coherence Support	At least 5 exchanges of Food and Nutrition Security knowledge, experiences, skills, resources and technical know-how among countries promoted.	Promote the establishment and functioning of the foreseen multi-sectoral committees at different levels (incl. clear roles and budgets), and including NGOs for mapping of contributions and better planning

COMPONENT (Impact)	SUB-COMPONENT (Long-term Outcome)	OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES
			<p>Consolidation of a solid and functional Food and Nutrition Security policy setting (including HGSF) consolidated, including:</p> <p>HGSF Policy finalized and in place HGSF Strategy established</p>	<p>Organize annual national school feeding meetings and annual/bi-annual regional-level school feeding meetings (e.g. at the occasion of the African Day of School Feeding)</p> <p>MoE and MoA to increase joint advocacy with parliamentary committee to consider increasing school feeding budgets and to promote a cabinet decision on HGSF support/budget</p> <p>The multi-sector stakeholders to work with international HGSF champions and use any relevant forum (including African regional and continental)</p> <p>Articulate and enforce high-level demand for timely, correct and informative reports (e.g. by national inter-ministerial committee, annual school feeding meeting), and ensure that all stakeholders involved in monitoring also receive feedback</p> <p>Assist in the development of study visits, internal procedures and information systems and / or knowledge aimed at South-South and Triangular Cooperation between The Gambia and participating countries</p> <p>Establish channels of communication or cooperation with Latin American and African countries in sectors in which they have relevant experiences to share</p> <p>Share countries experiences and lessons learnt on how to scale up food security practices</p> <p>Partner with regional or sub-regional organisations (the African Union and European Union) to bolster collaboration on reducing hunger and malnutrition</p>

COMPONENT (Impact)	SUB-COMPONENT (Long-term Outcome)	OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES
				<p>Provide technical assistance with training, management and strategic planning, technological support, resource mobilization support (including continuous support from WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil) in areas such as HGSF, social protection and safety nets, climate change linked to agriculture, smallholder farmers resiliency, food and nutrition security related to HGSF and other topics related to the project</p> <p>Development of a national “HGSF Strategy”</p> <p>Finalization of the national “HGSF Policy”</p> <p>Implementation of HGSF Programme multi-sectoral regimentations</p>
	3.2 Project Management Unit	3.2.1 Establishment and Operation of the PMU	GAFSP Project Management Unit established and operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hire Project officer</li> <li>- Hire Food and nutrition Specialist</li> <li>- Hire Commercialization and Post-Harvest Specialist</li> <li>- Hire M&amp;E specialist</li> <li>- Hire Fiduciary Specialist</li> <li>- Hire Safeguards Specialist</li> <li>- Establish and operationalize the GAFSP Project Management Unit</li> <li>- Consolidate IT equipment and financial management system from FASDEP</li> <li>- Consolidate vehicles and furniture from FASDEP</li> <li>- Support running costs, operational expenses and O&amp;M</li> <li>- Provide M&amp;E operations support</li> </ul>



## Appendix 2: Full list of stakeholders engaged in consultation process during proposal preparation

### High-Level Country Taskforce Team (HL TT) Participants

Institution	Name	Position
Ministry of Agriculture	Musa Humma	DPS
Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education	Masaneh Phatty	Education Officer (SAFMU)
Ministry of Youth and Sports	Penda Sallu Bah	Senior Assistant Secretary
World Food Programme Country Office	Wanja Kaaria	Representative & Country Director
World Food Programme Centre of Excellence (COE) in Brazil	Igor Carneiro Bruno Magalhaes	Programme Policy Officers
United Nations Population Fund	Kunle Adeniyi	Country Representative
African Development Bank (AfDB)	Tabi Karikari	Snr. Agri & Natural Resources Management Officer
FASDEP	Kebba Jarju	Director
CPCU	Abdoulie Touray	Coordinator
DLS	Lamin Saine	Deputy Director General
NACOFAG	Musa F. Sowe	President
NaNA	Malang Fofana	Deputy Executive Director
Action Aid	Omar Badji	Executive Director
WFP Secretariat	Anta Kah Janneh Sarah Yehouenou	Government Partnerships Officer Budget and Programming Officer

### Technical Working Group (TWG) Participants

Institution	Name	Position
Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education	Masaneh Phatty	Senior Education Officer -SF
World Food Programme Country Office	Njogou Jeng Adam McVie	Programme Assistant (DRR) Programme Policy Officer (DRR)
World Food Programme Centre of Excellence (COE) in Brazil	Igor Carneiro Bruno Magalhaes	Programme Policy Officers
United Nations Population Fund	Kunle Adeniyi	Country Representative
African Development Bank (AfDB)	Tabi KariKari	Snr. Agri & Natural Resources Management Officer
FASDEP	Sulayman Sonko Ali Jawo	Livestock expert Business Development officer
DOA	Lamin Darboe	Deputy Director Admin
CPCU	Momodou Sowe Bakary O. Camara	M&E officers
DLS	Fafa O. Cham	Principal Livestock production officer
NARI	Lamin Sanneh	Principal Research Officer
NACOFAG	Alieu Sowe	National Coordinator
NaNA	Malang Fofana	Deputy Executive Director

Action Aid	Foday Kanyi	Programme Manager; Resilience and Livelihoods
NEDI	Abass Bah	General Manager
Planning Services	Bakary Sillah Amet Sallah	Principal Planner

**Participants List: Validation Workshop, GAFSP Joint HL and TWG, UN House, 20th August, 2019**

Name	Institution	Designation
Sanyang Jobarteh	DOA	Deputy Director Head
Musa B. Dahaba	NaNA	Senior Program Officer
Ousman Jammeh	United Purpose	Pro. Manager
Masaneh Phatty	MoBSE	Senior Education Officer
Omar Badjie	Action Aid	Director
Foday Kanyi	Action Aid	Program Manager Resilience/ Livelihood
Ali Jawo	FASDEP	Business Development Officer
Alhagie Kolley	UNFPA	Prog. Analyst
Fatoumattah Saho	UNWFP	Programme Assistant
Sulayman Sonko	FASDEP	Livestock Expert
Fafa O. Cham	DLS	Principal Admin Production Officer
Lamine Saine	DLS	DDG
Malang N Fofana	NaNA	Programme Manager.
Kebba L. Jarju	FASDEP	Director
Musa F. Sowe	NACOFAG	President
Omar Jammeh	MoA	DPS
Bakary Sillah	PSU	P. Planner
Njogou Jeng	WFP	Program DRR
Pearl Kobuyenje	WFP	COMMS Intern
Anni Boiro	WFP	COMMS Intern
Constance Kobolar	WFP	Program
Kebba Fatty	DoA	Officer
Njagga B. Jawo	NAWFA	Executive Director
Momodou S.W Sowe	CPCU/MoA	M&E Specialist
Mustapha Badjie	NEDI	P. Officer
Kawsu Conteh	NACOFAG	National Treasurer
Igor A.B Carneiro	WFP	CoE
Anta Kah Janneh	WFP	Government Partnership Officer.
Kebba Jallow	WFP	Volunteer OCD
Musa Mbenga	WFP	Consultant
Mamadi B. Ceesay	WFP	Consultant

**Participants List: Thematic Consultations, UN House, July 24-26, 2019**

<b>Wednesday 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY GAFSP CONSULTATIONS G1</b>					
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12.	Famara Darbo	Fisheries	Director	<a href="mailto:darboefams@yahoo.com">darboefams@yahoo.com</a>	6313375/ 9830711
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<b>Thursday 25<sup>TH</sup> of JULY GAFSP CONSULTATIONS G2</b>					
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13.	Musa F. Sowe	NACOFAG	President	<a href="mailto:Musowe@hotmail.com">Musowe@hotmail.com</a>	7779959
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3.	Kanimang Camara	NACO	Director	<a href="mailto:Nacoggambia@yahoo.com">Nacoggambia@yahoo.com</a>	9902140
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11.	Bakary Sillah	PSU	P. Planner	<a href="mailto:jalangbukary@hotmail.co.uk">jalangbukary@hotmail.co.uk</a>	7968059
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14.	Fatou Samba Njie	NAWFA	Member	<a href="mailto:Sambanfu@yahoo.com">Sambanfu@yahoo.com</a>	9920315/ 7917374
15.	Foday Kanyi	Action Aid	Program Specialist	<a href="mailto:Foday.Kanyi@actionaidorg">Foday.Kanyi@actionaidorg</a>	3513281

### Social Consultations Attendance: Number of Participants

Regions	Categories	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
North Bank	Farmers	16	14	30
	TAC/Others	21	9	30
Central River	Farmers- CRRN	17	14	31
	TAC/Others –Janjanbureh	19	11	30
	Farmers -CRRS	17	12	29
Upper River	Farmers	24	6	30
	TAC/Others	23	7	30
Lower River	Farmers	15	15	30
	TAC/Others	24	8	32
West Coast	Farmers	17	13	30
	TAC/Others	14	17	31
<b>Total</b>		<b>207</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>330</b>

## Appendix 3: Project Preparation Grant Request

### GAFSP | Application for Proposal Preparation Assistance

#### Technical Assistance for Proposal Preparation

Basic Information	
Country:	Republic of The Gambia
Project Name (indicative):	Productive Gambia: Integrating nutrition sensitive and climate-smart agriculture for sustainable food and nutrition security
Project Objective (indicative):	<p>The project aims to strengthen the socioeconomic resiliency for climate change impacts and increase food outputs of smallholder farmers as a great proportion of food purchased from them will feed into the nationally-owned home-grown school feeding programme expands.</p> <p>The project will also emphasize the creation of a resilient and enabling environment for smallholder farmers, targeting especially women and youth, in vulnerable communities to start accessing a sustainable school feeding market in The Gambia.</p>
Subsector(s) that the project will target (e.g., crops, water management, rural roads, livestock, nutrition, etc.):	Nutrition, malnutrition & undernutrition, climate change, gender & youth, fragility, resiliency-building, crops, climate-related shocks, migration, climate smart agriculture, school feeding, agricultural insurance, disaster risk management, private sector engagement, (bio)fortification, post-harvest losses,
National Executing Agency:	Ministry of Agriculture
Supervising Entity requested for Proposal Preparation Assistance (please signal the preferred organization):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WFP <b>or</b> <input type="checkbox"/> FAO
Confirm attachment of written agreement by the selected SE (WFP or FAO) to provide assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WFP Country Representative – confirmation attached <input type="checkbox"/> FAO Investment Centre – confirmation attached
Other partners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil (WFP CoE)</li> <li>• African Development Bank (AfDB)</li> <li>• International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)</li> <li>• United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</li> <li>• Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)</li> <li>• International Organization for Migration (IOM)</li> <li>• National Nutrition Agency (NaNA)</li> <li>• National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)</li> <li>• Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoSW)</li> <li>• Ministry of Youth and Sports</li> <li>• Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoEduc)</li> <li>• Ministry of the Environment, Climate Change &amp; Natural Resources (MoEnv)</li> </ul>

<p>Brief description of activities for which assistance is requested, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical area</li> <li>• Specific deliverable(s)</li> <li>• Timeframe</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposal Preparation Assistance is necessary to: (i) review the technical, social, environmental, economic and financial aspects of the project and ascertain the project rationale, scope, cost, schedule, implementation arrangements, risks and mitigation measures; (ii) ensure the compliance with the supervising Entity’s elementary safeguard policy and identify mitigation measures and institutional strengthening; and (iii) assist the project executing agency in advance project implementation measures and arrangements.</p> <p>The Proposal Preparation Assistance is necessary as: (i) the investment program is urgently needed in the Gambia Republic; (ii) feasibility reviews to process the project are required; (iii) various consultations need to take place on the ground before any project activity may be initiated, or even planned; and (iv) expertise of qualified international and national consultants/partners is needed to prepare the project considering its technical complexity and scale.</p>																						
	<p><b>Major TA Activities and Outputs Involved during Proposal Preparation</b></p>																						
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Major Activity</th> <th>Outputs</th> <th>Expected Completion Date (2019)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Consultant Hiring Process</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual National Consultant supporting proposal preparation</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 2019</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p><b>Stakeholders Consultations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smallholders, FBOs and CSOs</li> <li>• Government</li> <li>• Donors</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultations report with Identified and engaged project participants</li> <li>• Project Target Area Identified</li> <li>• Initial Concept Note</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May to July 2019</li> <li>• May 2019</li> <li>• May 2019</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p><b>Sector review and risk assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review sector policy, institutions, regulatory framework, investment, and development plan</li> <li>• Assess procurement capacity</li> <li>• Assess sector and project risk and recommend mitigation measures</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture Sector assessment report (focus on smallholders)</li> <li>• Procurement Capacity Assessment Report</li> <li>• Risk Assessment and management report</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 2019</li> <li>• May 2019</li> <li>• June 2019</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p><b>Social safeguard and gender</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct brief social and poverty analysis (including gender analysis)</li> <li>• Site visits, surveys and consultations as required.</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inception report</li> <li>• Brief Social and poverty analysis report</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 2019</li> <li>• 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considering lessons and experiences from FASDEP		
<b>Preparatory work for procurement</b> • Prepare Initial Procurement Plan • Procurement risk assessment	• Initial Procurement plan • Procurement risk assessment	• Aug. 2019 • Aug. 2019
<b>Final Government Workshop</b> • Proposal Validation • Government Mobilization and Readiness activities	• Final Proposal Validated	• Aug. 2019
GAFSP Project Proposal Submission		• Sept. 2019

**Project Preparation Readiness Activities - Timetable**

Major Activity	Months 2019						Responsibility
	04	05	06	07	08	09	
Consultants hiring							WFP
Stakeholders Consultations							WFP, MoA, AfDB
Sector Review and Risk Assessment							WFP, FAO, AfDB, IFAD
Social Safeguard and Gender							WFP, AfDB, MoA, UNFPA, IOM
Project Implementation Arrangements							WFP, AfDB, MoA
Economic and financial analysis							WFP, AfDB, IFAD, MoA
Preparatory work for procurement							WFP, AfDB, MoA
Final Government Workshop							All partners
Proposal submission							MoA