Gambia Agriculture & Food Security Project (GAFSp)

PRESENTATION TITLE:
Harmony for Sustenance: Bridging Climate, Nutrition, and Gender for Sustainable Food Security in The Gambia

DATE:
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Climate Crisis within the Context of The Gambia

Decline in mean annual total rainfall by 30% in forty years (1950 – 2000)

Steady reduction in the length of the rainy season (growing period)

Reduction in the quantity of rains in the month August, inducing mid-season dry spells

Increased frequency of extreme rainfall events leading to numerous flooding and widespread run-off induced erosion.

Sea level rice leading to increased salinization of River Gambia

Low soil fertility

Low productivity of traditional crops and livestock species.

Loss of nutritional composition and value of major food crops.

Changes in biomass with disappearance of nutritive animal feed suitable for extensive livestock raring practices.
## The Gambia: Pre-Project Nutritional Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of Food Insecurity</td>
<td>13.4% with 23.9% for rural households (2021 CSVA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Insecurity 'emergency' phase</td>
<td>19,500 people considered to be in the ‘emergency’ phase (IPC4) with “large food consumption gaps which are reflected in very high acute malnutrition.”</td>
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<td>Stunting rate among children under five</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wasting Rate</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of hungry months</td>
<td>3 months</td>
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The Project aims to increase food and nutrition security as well as incomes for vulnerable households in project areas.

The project intends to achieve the PDO through the following:
- Structuring of the food demand side (school feeding) to match with supply side (local production by smallholder farmers)
- Improving smallholder’s income and productivity by increasing food production, post-harvest management, market access and resilience for identified food chains.
- Promoting social protection and food safety net programs to reduce food and nutrition insecurity of vulnerable populations in the Project areas.

- It is financed by GAFSP grant, supervised by AfDB. Implemented by GoTG and WFP
Climate Smart Interventions

Installation of climate smart water reticulation systems for women vegetable gardens to enable all year vegetable production in **26 women** vegetable gardens.

**5921** women benefiting from smart subsidy interventions through the provision of certified climate resilient vegetable seeds covering 150 Ha vegetable gardens.

The produce provide school children with needed micronutrient through Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF).

**5000** women received technical support through a climate resilient ‘farmer field school’ system to assist them produce within acceptable standards of quality and safety for the HGSF.

**1278** Smallholder farmers (44% women) supported with certified climate resilient seeds for cereals (short cycle rice varieties and biofortified maize) and legumes (groundnut and biofortified cowpea) putting **1167** Ha under climate smart farming systems in the 2022/23 cropping season.
Climate Smart Interventions

Smart subsidy interventions to support 1023 women poultry producers to raise layer chickens with minimal inputs to ensure the availability of meat protein within their communities.
Support ‘Master Farmers and aggregators for the Home-Grown School Feeding. This ensures the timely availability of fresh and nutritious school meals and incomes for smallholder farmers supported by the project.

A woman smallholder farmer (vegetable producer) displaying her packaged onions for the market in Kalagi village Western Gambia. She represents the voice of over 5000 women smallholder farmers supported by the project in 2022.

Processed poultry produced ready for consumption.
1,147 school children (56% girls) are fed with nutritious daily meals from produce of smallholder farmers within a climate resilient farming system.

22,000 school going children (54% girls) received Vitamin A Supplementation and Deworming tablets to combat Vitamin A deficiency and Worm infestation as major contributors to child malnutrition in the country.

600 women including school cooks, school mother clubs and Food Management Committee members reached through SBCC for improved hygiene and safety standards for school meal preparation.
Expected Impacts

There is increased food and nutrition security for vulnerable households.

Better educational attainments for school going children (enrolment and retention).

Smallholder farmers adapt climate resilient farming practices.

Lower FIES for schools with school meals and lower for girls than boys.
Higher FCS for schools with school meals and higher for girls than boys.
Higher HDDS for schools with school meals and higher for girls than boys.

Lower dropout rates for schools with school meals (7%) than those without (14%).
Improved cognitive skills for schools with school meals.

Increased incomes of farming households through the institutional market created by the Home-Grown School Feeding Program of the project.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION