STATE OF FOOD SECURITY IN THE GAMBIA

Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis

November 2021

Data collected: September–October 2021

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Preface

Being a country located in the Sahel region, The Gambia sees a high level of food and nutrition insecurity highly vulnerable to climate shocks such as droughts, floods, windstorms in addition to the fluctuation of prices of food and other basic items. The years 2020 and 2021 were marked by the COVID-19 pandemic that significantly affected the socio-economic situation in The Gambia.

The Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) is a nation-wide food security study conducted every five years, which generates evidence and comparable baseline information on food and nutrition security and the vulnerability of households and how they cope with in the context of food and nutrition crisis. The 2021 CFSVA is the third one conducted in The Gambia following the one in 2011 and the other one in 2016, and it analysed the food security situation in the context of COVID-19 and provided analysis at the regional and national level. This required obtaining information on the socio-economic and agricultural context, food situation, markets, livelihoods, coping strategies, education, health, and expenditure patterns of households.

The 2021 CFSVA provides the government, UN agencies and other development partners, non-governmental and civil society organizations, and the academia timely and relevant information on household's food and nutrition insecurity as well as their vulnerability status. It attempts to provide answers to the following key questions: who and how many people are food insecure? How are they affected? and where are they located?

The recommendations herein can be used as a baseline and need assessment to design and develop new strategic documents such as the National Development Plan as well as UN Common Country Analysis and the new UN Sustainable Development Corporate framework and provide a baseline for the monitoring of their impacts. The analysis will also support in tracking progress made towards SDG2: Zero hunger by 2030.

The report contains statistical and narrative findings of the survey as well as a detailed information on the survey methodology. Specifically, the survey provides information on these five key components: food security, food availability, food accessibility, food utilization (malnutrition etc.), market functionality and the effects of COVID-19.

Representative and Country Director

World Food Programme

The Gambia

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Acronyms

BCC	Banjul City Council
BSF	Blanket Supplementary Feeding
CARI	Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators
CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis
CRRN	Central River Region North
CRRS	Central River Region South
CS	Coping Strategy
CSI	Coping Strategy Index
DDS	Dietary Diversity Score
EAs	Enumeration Areas
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCS	Food Consumption Score
GBoS	Gambia Bureau of Statistics
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMB	Gambian Dalasi
HH	Household
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IYCF	infant and young child feeding
KMC	Kanifing Municipal Council
LCSI	Livelihood Coping Strategy Index
LGA	Local Government Area
LRR	Lower River Region
MAD	Minimum Acceptable Diet
MDD	Minimum Dietary Diversity
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
MFI	Market Functionality Index
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MT	Metric Ton
NBR	North Bank Region
PCC	International Panel on Climate Change
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
rCSI	Reduced Coping Strategy Index
TSF	Targeted Supplementary Feeding
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
URR	Upper River Region
VISACA	Village Savings and Credit Association
WCR	West Coast Region
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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Executive summary

This is the third Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) in The Gambia providing food security trends for the last 10 years. The CFSVA 2021 was conducted at a crucial time when COVID-19 has had a severe impact on the country's economy and resultantly on the households' vulnerability. The Government of Gambia took several measures including lockdown, closure of businesses and restrictions on movements that caused a decline in income of the households, and many lost their jobs. Moreover, the prices of essential commodities increased in the country since 2019, crops production declined, especially in rainfed farming and petty traders, mostly women suffered in getting enough to meet their basic food needs.

After strong growth, at 6.1% in 2019 and 7.2% in 2018, the economy has been affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic and was expected to stagnate in 2020 due to trade disruption and the fall in tourism. The tourism and trade sectors were the most affected, while the trade disruption and decline in tourism receipts widened the current account deficit to 8.6% of GDP from 5.3% in 2019.

Consequently, the CFSVA 2021 found that 13.4 percent of the population or 329,189 people are food insecure in the country. Among all, 1.8 percent are severely food insecure, while 11.6 percent moderately food insecure. Food insecurity increased from 5.6 percent in 2011 to 8 percent in 2016 and 13.4 percent in 2021. The population at the borderline increased from 29 percent in 2016 to 60 percent in 2021. More than half of the country's population are at the borderline of food security and can drop down to the insecure category with any shock.

The prevalence of food insecurity was observed to be higher in female-headed households at 14.8 percent compared to male-headed households at 13 percent. Rural area households have higher food insecurity at 23.9 percent compared to urban 10.8 percent. Among Local Government Areas (LGAs), the highest food insecurity was witnessed in Janjanbureh at 29.8 percent, followed by Kuntaur at 24.1 percent and Mansakonko & Brikama at 15.8 percent each. In terms of population the highest number of food insecure are 180,175 in Brikama, followed by 46,295 in Janjanbureh and 33,359 in Kuntaur.

Besides gender, there are several vulnerable groups at risk of food insecurity in the country. Food insecurity is much higher in households with illiterate heads at 15.3 percent compared to those with higher education at 6.6 percent. The CFSVA 2021 found that with the increase in the level of education of the households' heads the food insecurity declines. People affected by shocks during the past 12 months have more food insecure at 15.3 percent compared to 11.3 percent of those not affected by any shock. The households with heads working for earning have less food insecure population at 11.7 percent compared those not working at 15 percent. Disability is a limiting factor in earnings, thus households with disabled heads have higher percentage of food insecure population at 17.4 percent compared non-disabled at 12.9 percent.

Households with better accommodation have better food security. Households where 8 or more people sleeping in one room have the highest percentage of food insecure at 19.9 percent, followed by those where 5-7 persons living in one room at 14.8 percent and 2-4 persons in one room at 13.3 percent, while households with one room per person have the highest percentage of food secure households.

It is alarming to note that the percentage of food insecure population is higher in households that have access to cultivated land at 21 percent compared to non-farmer ones at 10.1 percent. The majority of farmers (75.5 percent) have 5 hectares or less cultivated land and mostly rainfed, with low productivity and high cost of production. Similarly, the livestock rearing households have a higher percentage of food insecure population at 16.2 percent compared to those not holding at 11.5 percent.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout have further exacerbated living conditions and access to basic amenities in 2020-21. Households severely affected by the pandemic have higher percentage of food insecure at 16.6 percent compared to moderately and insignificantly affected households at 10.2 and 10 percent respectively.

Some of the livelihoods are more affected by COVID-19 than others. However, the price hike, below optimum productivity and decline in income and unfavourable climatic conditions coupled with other factors impacted several livelihoods negatively and consequently deteriorated the food security of the concerned households. Per CFSVA, the highest percentage of food insecure people are those involved in agriculture-based livelihoods, such as production and sale of food crops, fishing, unskilled wage labour (agriculture) and animals' sale. These livelihood activities are mainly performed by households in rural areas. The non-agricultural labours and petty traders are the most food insecure among urban livelihoods.

Availability and condition of toilet facilities are strongly correlated with the level of food security. Households with flush latrines have a lower percentage of food insecure people (5.6 percent), while those go for open defecation have higher percentage of food insecure (28.3 percent). Of those who have pit latrine, 16.7 percent are food insecure. Similarly, households with access to improved water sources for drinking have lower percentage of food insecure (12.3 percent) than those with unimproved sources (21.2 percent).

Poverty and food insecurity are deeply related, as poverty adversely affects the social determinants of health and creates unfavourable conditions in which people experience unreliable food supply. Poor, on average, spend 70-80 percent of their expenditure on food but still have no access to diversified and nutritious food. In order to understand this phenomenon, the CFSVA 2021 examined the relationship of the wealth index (poverty index based on assets score) with food insecurity. The poorest group on wealth index has 22 percent of food insecure, the highest among all, followed by poor group at 16.1 percent and borderline at 10.1 percent, while the rich group has only 7.6 percent food insecure.

Agriculture is the mainstay of 86 percent of the rural population and feed the urban population in the country. However, subsistence farming with inadequate or low levels of mechanization, improper and low-quality inputs, low capacity of farmers and unstable weather conditions made the sector less productive and even uneconomical for many farmers. The rainy season is quite short and inconsistent with the cropping calendar, thus, rainfed farmers lose a significant amount of money on seeds and other inputs due to poor germination. Quite few farmers produce sufficient maize, millet, sorghum and rice to be able to sell in the market. Markets in rural areas are at distance for many communities, not well integrated and prices fluctuate on regular basis. Some of the food items are not available in local markets on regular basis.

What should be done to improve food security?

- Effective policy and action plan to counter the growing food insecurity.
- Humanitarian assistance should be expanded and properly planned.
- Adequate and timely availability of quality inputs to farmers (fertilizer, seed, pesticide etc.) should be ensured.
- The capacity of farmers should be increased through proper mechanization, and they should be encouraged to use it properly.
- Farmers should be trained in farming including water harvesting, cultivation, harvesting, processing, preservation, storage, and marketing.
- An awareness programme for the food diversification and use of nutritious food should be developed and implemented.
- Access roads to farms should be constructed/rehabilitated.

- Credit programme should be easily accessible to farmers in rural and petty traders in urban including other livelihood groups.
- Commercialization of agriculture should be encouraged and facilitated for an increase in production.
- Livestock, aquaculture, and poultry farming should be encouraged for both food security and income to farmers.
- Support should be given to small and medium enterprises (SME) for food processing and transformation.
- Food security should be regularly monitored, and necessary measures be taken in view of changes.

CHAPTER 1: Introduction

Background

The Republic of The Gambia is the smallest country within mainland Africa and is surrounded by Senegal, except for its western coast on the Atlantic Ocean. The country's population is living on both sides of the lower reaches of the Gambia River, which flows through the centre of The Gambia and empties into the Atlantic Ocean. It has an area of 11,295 km^2 (4,361 sq miles) with a population of 2.455 million (2021).

Rice is the main staple food in Africa followed by millet, sorghum and tubers. Africa produces about 37.02 million tonnes of rice per year, and 20.38 million tonnes (29 percent) is imported (FAOSTAT, 2022). Among the 39 rice-producing countries in Africa, about 21 import rice between 50 and 99 percent of their annual requirement. The average consumption of rice in Africa amounted to 53.02 MMT (FAOSTAT 2022) including feed, seed and other usages. Among Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the West African sub-region is the biggest rice market, accounting 53 percent of the region's rice demand with 35.5% imports (FAOSTAT 2022). In West Africa, the consumption of rice set to grow by 70% to 24 million metric tons by 2025. Nevertheless, the average rice yield in the sub-continent is the lowest in the world at 1.4 tonnes per hectare compared to Asia's average of 4 tonnes, while more than 6 tonnes in China. The rice cultivation in SSA is dominated by small landholders with subsistence farming. In the Gambia, rice is traditionally cultivated both in upland areas and in the seasonally flooded swamps, lie adjacent to the River Gambia and its tributaries. Around 40-50% of total rice consumption is met from local production, while the balance met from imports.

Like many other African countries, The Gambia has been going through a steady urbanization process**.** According to the Integrated Household Survey 2015-16, the urban population in the country increased by 3.5 per cent between 2013 and 2016. In 2020, an estimated 61.9 percent of the population was living in urban areas. The urbanization trend continues to grow at an annual rate of approximately 4 percent with a projection of 77.2 percent of the population will be living in urban areas by 2050 (UN World Urbanization Prospects, 2018)**.**

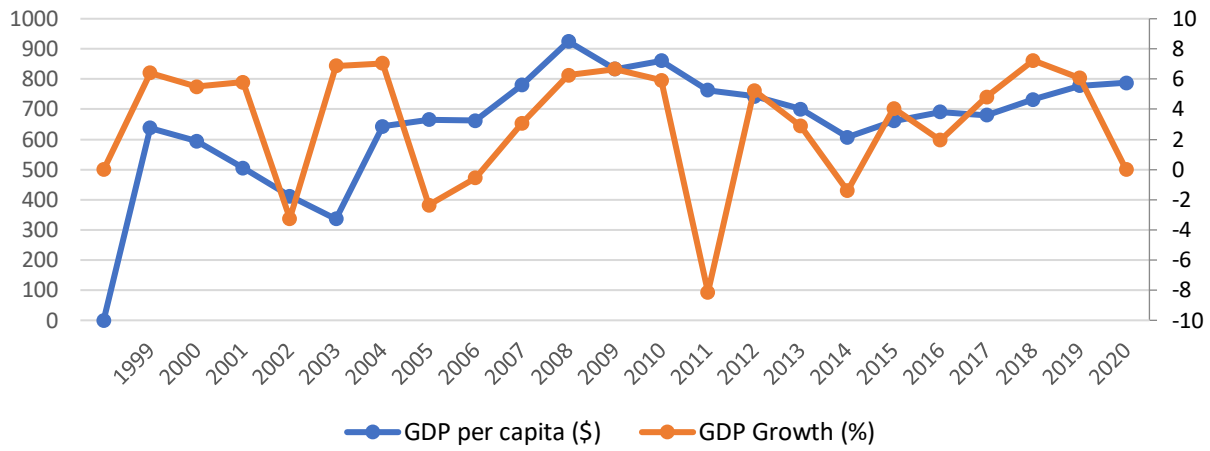
Mostly the young population migrate to urban areas looking for jobs but also run away from farming being more laborious. Thus, the pressure on urban areas is on increase, especially on the amenities and resources available. The rapid increase in urban population has brought with it several environmental and socio-economic problems including deforestation, soil erosion, pollution and waste generation, and stress on health, education, and employment services (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2007-2011) The Gambia). Consequently, it increased urban food insecurity over time.

The Economy

The Gambia's economy with strong growth, at 6.1% in 2019 and 7.2% in 2018, has been affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic and is expected to stagnate in 2020 due to trade disruption and the fall in tourism[1]. Declining incomes, rising food prices, and school closures resulting from the health crisis took a toll on the livelihoods of many households. The economy witnessed a contraction in growth by 0.2% and in real GDP per capita by 3.1%, reversing gains in poverty reduction, with international poverty rate (US$1.9 in 2011 PPP) increasing from 8.4% in 2019 to 9.2% in 2020.

[1] World Bank Economic Update, March 2021

Figure 1: GDP growth (% of GDP at current prices) and per capita GDP (USD) 1999–2020



Source: World Bank, October 2021

The GDP growth declined during 2019, while contracted to zero in 2020. The tourism and trade sectors were the most affected, while on the demand side, subdued domestic and external demand hurt the economy. The government responded with expansionary fiscal policy—health spending increased by 0.5 percent of GDP and food assistance increased by 0.7 percent[2]. The fiscal deficit widened to 3.7 percent of GDP in 2020 from 2.4 percent in 2019 as a result of increased spending amid a shortfall in revenue collections. The trade disruption and decline in tourism receipts widened the current account deficit to 8.6 percent of GDP from 5.3 percent in 2019.

The inflation started increasing from January 2021, mostly impacted by food price increases, which is affecting household food security and increasing vulnerability. However, it decelerated slightly to 6.9 percent in August 2021[3]. The pandemic has hurt social indicators. An estimated 20,000 jobs were lost in 2020, the unemployment rate was about 40 percent, and the poverty level was estimated at 48.6 percent[4].

Climate change in The Gambia

Considered as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change impacts in the Sahel region, The Gambia is globally positioned at 143rd out of 181 countries in the ND-GAIN Index in terms of vulnerability. This generally implies that the mean annual temperature has increased by 1.0°C since 1960 and the wet season rainfall has decreased significantly between 1960 and 2006 resulting in high temperatures, lower rainfall, prolonged dry spells, significant loss of soil fertility, and flooding[5].

According to the most reliable sources such as the UNFCC, 2016 report, the mean temperature is expected to increase by 1.1 to 3.1°C by the 2060s, and 1.8 to 5.0°C by the 2090s. The global coastal areas are projected to lie within 20% of the global mean sea-level rise of 26cm to 98cm by 2100. This predicts a sea-level rise in The Gambia between 19cm and 43cm by 2050. A 1m rise in sea level will effectively submerge up to 8 percent of the country's land area especially around mangroves,

[2] African Development Bank Group
[3] World Bank Report, October 2021
[4] African Development Bank Group
[5] Climate Change knowledge Portal-For Development Practitioners and Policy Makers

swamps, and lowland rice-growing areas, resulting in a projected economic loss of approximately $788 million[6].

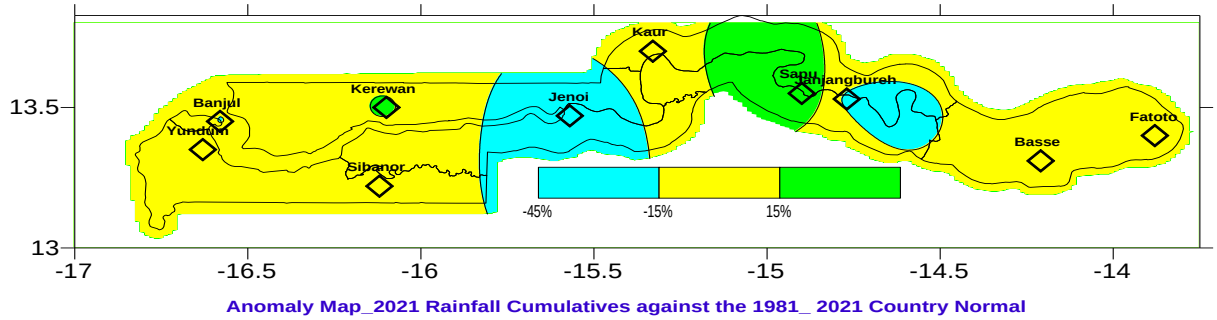
Problems such as land degradation, salinization, coastal erosion, have become frequent and common climate-related issues in the past years impeding agricultural production and threatening national food and nutritional security.

Several studies and assessments show that climate change negatively influences the yields of major crops grown in The Gambia[7]. The 2011 and 2014 droughts in The Gambia led to a 50% drop in crop output while the 2016 short rainy season led to a drop in crop production and boosted food price inflation[8]. According to IFAD, 2020, rural poverty and food insecurity are related to low productivity of rain-fed farming systems, particularly in the Lower River Region.

Besides, The November 2021 Cadre Harmonisé analysis lays out a decrease of **8.66 percent** in cereal production compared to 2020/2021 and **19.97 percent** compared to the 5-year average because of prolonged dry spell at the onset of the 2021 rainy season. Women and youths appear as the most impacted by the effects of climate change.

Furthermore, The Gambia experienced considerable inter-annual and inter-decadal climate variability. Rainfall is largely seasonal, lasting only for 3 months generally starting from July to September limiting the production power of farmers highly dependent on rainfed agriculture.

Figure-2 Rainfall Anomaly in the Gambia[9]



[6] Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA), The Gambia National Development Plan 2018-2021 (2018), www.mofea.gm

[7] Njie, M, Gomez, BE, Hellmuth, Callaway, JM, Jallow, BP and Droogers, P (2007) Making economic sense of adaptation in upland cereal production systems in The Gambia. In: Adejuwon, J, Barros, V, Burton, I, Kulkarni, J, Lasco, R and Leary, N (eds). Climate Change and Adaptation. Routledge; Schlenker, W and Lobell, DB (2010) Robust negative impacts of climate change on African agriculture. Environmental Research Letters 5(1): 1–8. https://bit.ly/3qqY8Az; Knox, J, Hess, T, Daccache, A and Wheeler, T (2012) Climate change impacts on crop in Africa and South Asia. Environmental Research Letters 7(3). https://bit.ly/38lOh91; Blanc, E (2012) The impact of climate change on crop yields in sub-Saharan Africa. American Journal of Climate Change 1(1): 1–13. https://bit.ly/3ejYLtj; Yaffa, S (2013) Coping measures not enough to avoid loss and damage from drought in the North Bank Region of The Gambia. International Journal of Global Warming 5(4):467–482; Trawalley, DNA (2016) Modelling heat stress impact on maize productivity in the Northern Region of Ghana. Unpublished PhD thesis. KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana, The Gambia Cadre harmonise Analysis, November 2021

[8] IFAD (2020) Gambia (The): resilience of organizations for transformative smallholder agriculture programme. Project design report. https://bit.ly/3t0YZtr

[9] Department of Water resources, November 2021 CH analysis, meta data 2021

The 2021 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) was conducted at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on the global economy, put enormous pressure on national health systems and paralyzed the world's population for a longer period. Similarly, Gambia was also impacted by the COVID-19 not only through the direct attack but also squeezed the economy by applying preventive measures like the closure of schools and businesses, restrictions on travel and social gathering, which led to price increases in goods and services and loss of income for many. The social norms were disrupted, and many people became vulnerable to meet their basic food and non-food needs.

Although this CFSVA is not a COVID-19 impact study, it does provide insights into the fragility of livelihoods in the country. The CFSVA 2021 trend analysis in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic is comparable with previous CFSVA's that were implemented in the country: the first was conducted in 2011, the second in 2016 and now the third CFSVA 2021. However, it must be noted that the effect of seasonality is not taken into account in the comparisons despite time variation in the implementation, as the 2021 CFSVA data collection was at the peak of lean season while previous CFSVAs were at pre-lean season[10]. The field work for this CFSVA started on 2nd September 2021 and was completed on 31st October 2021. However, the household survey was completed by 27th September 2021.

Objectives

- Assess changes in levels of food insecurity since the CFSVA 2016.
- Assess the nutritional status of children
- Update the profiles of food insecure and vulnerable people and their livelihoods.
- Assess the impact of COVID-19 on people's livelihoods.
- Determine the Minimum Expenditure Basket.
- Evaluate the markets functionality for cash interventions.
- Identify the underlying causes and risk factors that result in food insecurity and the potential impact on the most vulnerable; and
- Identify the medium- to long-term response options to address food insecurity.

Methodology

The CFSVA 2021 provides information regarding food security and vulnerability situations at the Local Government Area (LGA) level. This will help in planning various activities that effectively target the most vulnerable population. The modules included in the CFSVA are household's information, demographics, agriculture, education, nutrition, livelihoods, food security, health, water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH), expenditure, coping strategies and impact of COVID-19.

Household Sampling

1. Study Design

The primary objective of the sample design for the CFSVA 2021 was to produce statistically reliable estimates of most indicators, at the national level, for urban and rural areas, and the eight Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the country: Banjul, Kanifing, Brikama, Mansakonko, Kerewan, Kuntaur, Janjanbureh and Basse. A multi-stage, stratified cluster sampling approach was used for the selection of the survey sample. Stratification was achieved by separating each LGA into urban and rural areas. In total, 14 sampling strata had been created since Banjul and Kanifing are entirely urban settlements. Implicit stratification and proportional allocation were achieved at each of the lower administrative unit levels by sorting the sampling frame within each sampling stratum before sample selection. This

[10] CFSVA 2021 was undertaken during September-October while CFSVA 2016 in April 2016

provides a very representative distribution of the sample EAs** within each stratum. Samples were selected independently in each stratum, by a two-stage selection procedure.

2. Household Sample size determination

The sample size for the CFSVA 2021 is determined by the accuracy required for the survey estimates for each domain, as well as by the logistical, timing and resource constraints. The accuracy of the survey results depends on both the sampling error, which can be measured through variance estimation and the non-sampling error, which results from all other sources of error, including response and measurement errors as well as coding, keying and processing errors. Taking into account the predicted or anticipated value of the indicator, proportion of the total population upon which the indicator is based, average household size (mean number of persons per household), design effect for the indicator, 95% level of confidence, relative margin of error of predicted value of the indicator, the overall sample size for the Survey was calculated as 5,600 households. Calculations assumed an expected household response rate of 95%. The sample size was proportionally allocated to sampling strata before initiation of selection process.

Coverage

1. Sampling frame

The sampling frame was based on the 2013 Gambia Population and Housing Census. The primary sampling units (PSUs) selected at the first stage were the EAs defined for the census enumeration. A listing of households was conducted separately in each sample EA, and a sample of households or secondary sampling units (SSUs) was selected at the second stage. Also important is that the sampling frame excludes the population living in institutions, such as hospitals, prisons and military barracks.

2. Sample EA/cluster selection

At the first selection stage, 280 EAs were independently selected using probability proportional to the size (PPS) of the EA. PPS was applied in the selection of clusters to improve the precision of the survey estimates. The size of the cluster is the number of residential households in the cluster. The LGA and area (urban/rural) levels constitute the stratification variable and therefore, clusters were proportionately allocated within LGAs based on a total number of clusters in each LGA as shown in Table 1. The Complex Samples Module of the SPSS software was used for the first stage selection of EAs with PPS. Thus, cluster level selection probabilities and weights were quantified and documented for analysis.

Table 1: Distribution of sample EAs and households in the LGAs

	Total EAs on Census Frame			Sample EAs			Total Sample Households		
LGA	**Total**	**Urban**	**Rural**	**Urban**	**Rural**	**Total**	**Urban**	**Rural**	**Total**
Banjul	74	74	-	30	-	30	600	-	600
Kanifing	773	773	-	45	-	45	900	-	900
Brikama	1,466	1,338	128	46	14	60	920	280	1,200
Mansakonko	204	32	172	7	20	27	140	400	540
Kerewan	493	106	387	11	21	32	220	420	640
Kuntaur	237	16	221	3	23	26	60	460	520
Janjanbureh	297	43	254	7	21	28	140	420	560
Basse	554	158	396	13	19	32	260	380	640
Total	**4,098**	**2,540**	**1,558**	**162**	**118**	**280**	**3,240**	**2,360**	**5,600**

3. Household Selection

Listing operations for all the 280 clusters selected in the first stage was conducted prior to household selection. Listing teams were trained and allocated with a number of EAs. The listing operation consists of visiting each cluster, recording on listing forms a description of every structure together with the names of the heads of the households found in the structure. The resulting list of all the residential households in the 280 clusters serves as the updated sampling frame for second stage selection. Therefore, at the second stage, 20 residential households were selected in each EA using a systematic random sampling procedure. The number of households selected per EA/cluster was based on several considerations, including the design effect, the budget available, and the time that would be needed per team to complete one cluster. The second stage selection probabilities and weights for households were quantified and use together with that of first stage in the analysis.

4. Selection of sample respondents

For this study, the definitions of a household and household head were culled from the 2013 Population and Housing Census report. The third step of sampling, executed on the level of household, is the selection of the target person by Kish grid. In each of the selected households, one woman aged 15-49 years was selected for interview after completion of the household roster. Also, all children aged 0-59 months in the selected households were eligible for anthropometric measurements. Overall, the total minimum expected children aged 0-59 months for measurement was 7,616 as shown in Table 2. Households that refused or choose not to respond were not replaced as the sample size was adjusted for potential nonresponse.

Table 2: Number of EAs per LGA, households per EA and expected number of Children

LGA	Total EAs	Total No. Of HHs Sampled	Average No. of U5s/HH	Expected Total No. of U5s	Average No. of 6-59 months/HH	Expected Total No. of 6-59 months
Banjul	30	600	0.67	402.0	0.496	298
Kanifing	45	900	0.90	810.0	0.863	777
Brikama	60	1,200	1.22	1,464.0	0.891	1,069
Mansakonko	27	540	1.45	783.0	0.902	487
Kerewan	32	640	1.56	998.4	0.845	541
Kuntaur	26	520	2.09	1,086.8	1.885	980
Janjanbureh	28	560	1.65	924.0	0.901	504
Basse	32	640	2.58	1,651.2	1.896	1,214
Total	**280**	**5,600**	**1.36**	**7,616.0**	**0.771**	**5,870**

5. Weighting procedure

The weights are useful in the computation of sampling errors for key estimates. For us to examine the statistical efficiency of the design, it is important to tabulate the sampling errors, confidence intervals and design effects for key estimates from the Survey data. The design effect, a ratio of the variance of an estimate from the actual sample design and the corresponding variance from a simple random sample of the same size, is a measure of the relative efficiency of the sample design, which mostly depends on the clustering effect. Accounting for clustering and stratification, the final household weights were used in the analysis, tabulation of standard errors, 95% confidence intervals and design effects for selected indicators (key estimates) based on the stratified two-stage sample design.

Survey components and Instruments for primary data collection

Standardized questionnaires/tools for CFSVA adapted to the country context were used to collect quantitative and qualitative data in addition to secondary desk reviews.

The assessment had 3 components: Household, market and Community Focus Group Discussions each using the tool(s) listed below

- Household Survey: A household questionnaire consisting of 14 modules was used to collect data on household demographics, assets, income and expenditure, shocks, consumption and coping strategies. Individual-level data were also collected under the child anthropometry module, IYCF and Women dietary diversity.
- Market Assessment: The market assessment used 2 questionnaires, the Market questionnaire and Trader questionnaire, to measure market functionality based on the following 9 dimensions used questionnaire: assortment, availability, price, resilience of supply chain, competition, infrastructure, services, food quality and access and protection
- Community Focus Group Discussions: A FGD guide was used to collect mainly qualitative data from the selected communities

Interviews and discussions were all held face-to-face. All data collection tools were developed using XLS forms and data collected through ODK collect application on android tablets. All forms were submitted and securely stored in MODA.

Survey organization/management

A multi-stakeholder technical working group (TWG) co-chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture through the Department of Planning Services and WFP was constituted to provide technical support and guidance to the conceptualization, finalization of tools and products, implementation, and dissemination of findings. The TWG provided oversight of the whole process. Members of the TWG identified above are senior technical staff who were able to bring together the relevant expertise and practical experience to elaborate the work plan, support the sampling strategy design, mobilize resources and guide the implementation of the assessment.

Data collection, staff and training

Prior to the household data collection, A listing exercise was conducted in all selected EAs to develop the sampling frame for the selection of households to be interviewed. The 2 days listing training and 1-day pre-test was led by GBoS. The 8 days listing exercise was conducted by 76 listers and coordinated by 3 GBoS staff.

To ensure the reliability and appropriateness of the household questionnaire a pilot test was conducted before the training of the household survey personnel. Twelve participants took part in the pilot training and pilot data collection which was very crucial in enhancing and adapting the questionnaire. The household questionnaire pilot training was led by GBoS and WFP.

The 5 days household survey training was led by GBoS and WFP from 26th-30th July 2021, followed by a one-day pre-test on 31st July 2021. 54 Enumerators, 18 supervisors and 4 coordinators were sourced through GBoS and the Ministry of Agriculture. The anthropometry training which was done concurrently with the household training was led by NaNA. The 18 anthropometrists were the Ministry of Health staff and 2 NaNA staff who coordinated the anthropometric data collection. The household survey took place from 2nd to 27th September 2021 (inclusive).

The 2-days Market survey and FGD training of 20 personnel from GBoS and MoA was led by WFP and GBoS on 29th-30th September 2021. A one-day pre-test was conducted on 1st October following the training. The same teams comprising of 15 interviewers and 5 supervisors collected both the Market survey data and FGD in 6 days from 9th – 14th October 2021. The exercise was coordinated by 1 GBoS staff.

The field work for this CFSVA started on 2nd September 2021 and was completed on 31 October 2021. However, the household survey was completed by 27th September 2021.

The overall coordination across the various components of the CFSVA was led by WFP VAM & M&E staff.

Data processing and analysis

Data were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and Emergency Nutrition Assessment software (ENA) for the MUAC component.

Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) guidelines are used for the food security analysis. According to the CARI guidelines the household's food consumption (measured through the Food Consumption Score), coping capacity (measured through the Coping Strategy Index) and the share of monthly expenses devoted to food, households are classified into one of the four food security categories.

Per CARI guidelines, the food insecure population is comprised of the following categories:

Table-3: Description of overall WFP food security classifications

	Food secure	Marginally food secure	Moderately food insecure	Severely food insecure
Food Security Index	Able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical coping strategies	Has minimally adequate food consumption without engaging in irreversible coping strategies; unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures	Has significant food consumption gaps, OR marginally able to meet the minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies	Has extreme food consumption gaps, OR has extreme loss of livelihood assets will lead to food consumption gaps, or worse

Table-4: Final prevalence of food insecurity

Food Security Index	Description	Food secure/ Food insecure
Food secure	Able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical coping strategies	Food secure
Marginally food secure	Has minimally adequate food consumption without engaging in irreversible coping strategies; unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures	
Moderately food insecure	Has significant food consumption gaps, OR marginally able to meet the minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies	Food insecure
Severely food insecure	Has extreme food consumption gaps, OR has extreme loss of livelihood assets will lead to food consumption gaps, or worse	

The above CARI modules have been followed in the food security analysis of the CFSVA 2021 and presented in this report.

Chapter 2: **General and sectoral information**

Introduction

The information about the households is aggregated at the Local Government Area (LGA) level. There are 8 LGAs in The Gambia, where Banjul and Kanifing are urban, while other LGAs are pre-dominantly rural.

Size of households

According to the CFSVA 2021, the average household's size is 9.9 persons. In rural areas, it accounts for 11.5 while 8.5 persons in urban. The female-headed households have a smaller size comprised of 7.9 persons while 10.5 for male-headed.

Among the LGAs, the largest size was reported in Basse (13.5 persons), followed by Kerewan and Kuntaur (11.9 persons each), while the smallest size was found in Banjul (6.4 persons) and Kanifing (8.5 persons).

Table-5: Average size of households

Category		HH size
LGA	Banjul	6.4
	Kanifing	8.5
	Brikama	9.2
	MansaKonko	9.0
	Kerewan	11.9
	Kuntaur	11.9
	Janjanbureh	9.7
	Basse	13.5
Sex of the Household head	Male	10.5
	Female	7.9
Area	Rural	11.5
	Urban	8.5
	Total	**9.9**

Gender of households' head

Among the head of households, on average, 22.3 percent are females. The percentage of female-headed households are much higher in urban areas (24.2 percent) as compared to rural (14.5 percent). The majority of female-headed households in urban areas are involved in petty trading and small businesses with subsistence income sources. Many of them are single parents and overburdened with multiple tasks while taking care of children as well as of work.

Table-6: Gender of the household head

		Sex	
Category		Male	Female
LGA	Banjul	56.8%	43.2%
	Kanifing	73.5%	26.5%
	Brikama	76.5%	23.5%
	MansaKonko	80.7%	19.3%
	Kerewan	83.9%	16.1%
	Kuntaur	94.4%	5.6%
	Janjanbureh	91.4%	8.6%
	Basse	88.0%	12.0%
Area	Rural	85.5%	14.5%
	Urban	75.8%	24.2%
	Total	**77.7%**	**22.3%**

In Banjul, the percentage of female-headed households is much higher as 43.2 percent, followed by Kanifing (26.5 percent) being the urban areas. On the other hand, Kuntaur has the lowest percentage of female-headed households at 5.6 percent.

Age of households' head

The highest percentage of households' heads are between 41 and 60 years of age. The second higher group is of 21-40 years of age. Around 50 percent of the female-headed households are of 41-60 years of age. The young heads of households are more in urban compared to rural areas, while higher age is more in rural areas.

House structure

The house structure reflects the status of people living in it. According to the CFSVA 2021, a great majority of the households (97.4 percent) have finished roofing-metal/ tin, wood, calamine/ cement fibre, ceramic tiles, cement and roofing shingles. However, 1.6 percent has no roofing or thatch/ Palm leaf roof. The majority of households with no or temporary roofing are in Kuntaur LGA at 17.2 percent, followed by Janjanbureh at 13.6 percent and Basse at 12.6 percent. Almost all such households are in rural areas. It shows that severe poverty is in rural areas and especially in the above LGAs.

Table-7: Age of households' heads

Category		Age group of HH heads				
		20 yrs and below	21-40	41-60	61-80	81 and above
LGA	Banjul	.6%	30.8%	48.4%	17.1%	3.1%
	Kanifing	.2%	35.2%	46.3%	17.3%	.9%
	Brikama	.1%	37.4%	50.8%	11.2%	.5%
	MansaKonko	.4%	29.0%	45.9%	24.1%	.6%
	Kerewan	.3%	23.8%	48.8%	24.2%	3.0%
	Kuntaur	0.0%	38.8%	41.8%	18.0%	1.4%
	Janjanbureh	.8%	38.0%	42.4%	17.6%	1.2%
	Basse	.2%	33.7%	44.4%	19.4%	2.3%
Sex	Male	.2%	34.8%	48.6%	15.4%	1.0%
	Female	.0%	39.8%	50.0%	9.5%	.7%
Area	Rural	.3%	30.7%	47.6%	19.7%	1.8%
	Urban	.1%	37.3%	49.3%	12.7%	.7%
	Total	**.2%**	**35.9%**	**48.9%**	**14.1%**	**.9%**

Table-8: Main materials of roof

		The main material of the roof			
Category	Location	Natural roofing	Rudimentary roofing	Finished roofing	Other
LGA/Region	Banjul	0.0%	.2%	99.6%	.2%
	Kanifing	.1%	0.0%	99.9%	0.0%
	Brikama	.0%	1.0%	98.9%	.1%
	MansaKonko	1.4%	.9%	97.7%	0.0%
	Kerewan	1.5%	.2%	98.3%	.1%
	Kuntaur	17.2%	.4%	82.4%	0.0%
	Janjanbureh	13.6%	5.6%	80.7%	0.0%
	Basse	12.6%	1.7%	85.3%	.5%
Sex	Male	2.0%	.8%	97.1%	.1%
	Female	.2%	1.3%	98.4%	.1%
Area	Rural	7.9%	3.3%	88.7%	.1%
	Urban	.0%	.3%	99.6%	.1%
	Total	**1.6%**	**.9%**	**97.4%**	**.1%**

In the case of house structure walls, 82.8 percent of households have finished wall-cement, stone with lime/ cement, bricks, cement blocks, wood planks/ shingles and bamboo with cement, etc. Around 17 percent of houses have a rudimentary wall- bamboo with mud, stone with mud, uncovered adobe, plywood, cardboard, reused wood and mud/ mud bricks, etc. The percentage of houses with rudimentary walls is higher in Janjanbureh at 53.2 percent, followed by Kuntaur at 33.3 percent and Mansakonko at 31.1 percent.

Table-9: Main material of the wall

Category	Location	Please indicate the main material of the exterior wall: Natural wall	Rudimentary wall	Finished wall
LGA/Region	Banjul	0.0%	3.5%	96.5%
	Kanifing	.1%	3.5%	96.4%
	Brikama	.1%	16.6%	83.3%
	MansaKonko	0.0%	31.1%	68.9%
	Kerewan	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%
	Kuntaur	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%
	Janjanbureh	9.3%	53.2%	37.5%
	Basse	4.8%	21.8%	73.4%
Sex	Male	0.7%	17.8%	81.5%
	Female	.2%	12.6%	87.2%
9. Area category	Rural	2.5%	39.7%	57.8%
	Urban	.1%	10.9%	89.0%
	Total	**0.6%**	**16.6%**	**82.8%**

Living rooms

The average number of living rooms per household is 4, less in urban at 3.8 compared to rural at 4.9. Female-headed households have 3.5 rooms on average, while male-headed 4.2. The highest number of rooms per household are found in Basse and Kerewan at 5.5 each, while lowest in Banjul at 2.8. The CFSVA 2021 shows that households in urbanised LGAs have fewer rooms because of the family size and the high cost of house rent.

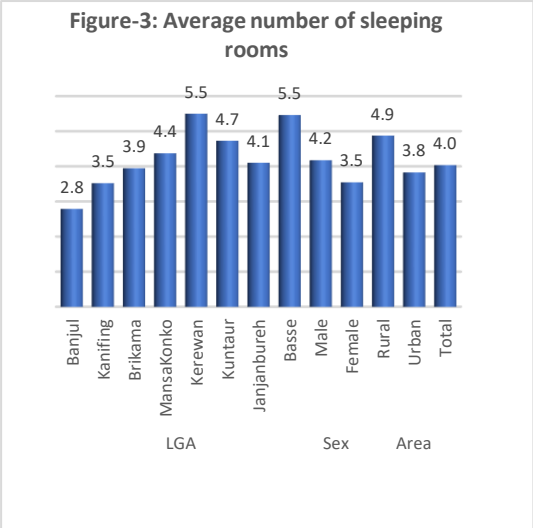
Table-10: Persons per room group

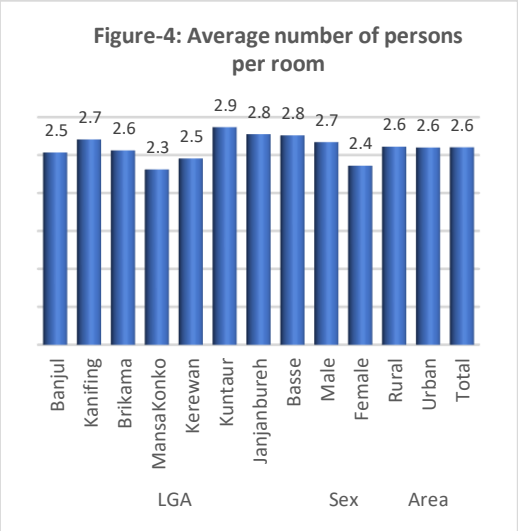
Category	Location	persons per room group: =<1	2-4	5-7	8 & above
LGA	Banjul	9.0%	84.3%	6.2%	.5%
	Kanifing	6.8%	83.8%	8.5%	.8%
	Brikama	7.5%	84.9%	6.9%	.7%
	MansaKonko	5.2%	91.1%	3.7%	0.0%
	Kerewan	7.3%	84.7%	7.2%	.7%
	Kuntaur	1.7%	89.1%	7.5%	1.7%
	Janjanbureh	2.8%	88.6%	7.5%	1.1%
	Basse	3.0%	88.7%	7.6%	.7%
Sex	Male	5.9%	85.4%	7.8%	.9%
	Female	10.3%	84.3%	5.1%	.3%
Area	Rural	4.6%	87.5%	7.1%	.7%
	Urban	7.4%	84.6%	7.2%	.8%
	Total	6.9%	85.2%	7.2%	.8%

Normally, the number of rooms is linked to the number of people living in a house. However, in practice, it is associated with the economic capacity of the households to have adequate rooms according to the size of the households. In The Gambia, on average, a household has 1 room for around 3 people.

Some of the LGAs have a better facility in terms of accommodation, while others are more congested. At the country level, 7.2 percent of households have one room for 5-7 persons, higher in Kanifing at 8.5 percent, followed by Basse at 7.6 percent and Kuntaur & Janjanbureh at 7.5 percent each. On the

other hand, 6.9 percent of the households have 1 room per person, majority are in urban and especially in Banjul.





Sources of light at the house

The major source of light is electricity in the country used by 62.8 percent of the households. The second major source is the Solar lantern used by 14.7 percent, the third source is battery-powered flashlight used by 10.6 percent and the candle is the fourth source used by 6 percent. Electricity is mostly used by households in urban areas (72.3 percent), while less than one-quarter of households use it in rural areas. A more common source of light in rural areas is Solar lanterns used by 32 percent and followed by battery-powered flashlights at 23.1 percent.

Table-11: Sources of light

Type	Sex		Area		
	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Total
Electricity	59.5%	74.0%	24.4%	72.3%	62.8%
Wood	.3%	.2%	.1%	.3%	.3%
Animal dung / waste	.0%	.0%	.1%	.0%	.0%
Oil lamp	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%
Candle	6.0%	5.9%	8.3%	5.4%	6.0%
Other	.2%	.4%	.3%	.2%	.2%
Solar lantern	16.9%	7.1%	32.0%	10.4%	14.7%
Rechargeable flashlight, torch/lantern	2.5%	1.4%	2.8%	2.1%	2.2%
battery powered flashlight	11.6%	6.9%	23.1%	7.4%	10.6%
torch or lantern	2.9%	3.2%	8.0%	1.7%	3.0%
biogas lamp	.0%	0.0%	.0%	0.0%	.0%
gasoline lamp	0.0%	.7%	.8%	0.0%	.2%
Kerosene or paraffin lamp	.0%	.2%	.0%	.1%	.1%
Charcoal	.0%	.0%	.1%	.0%	.0%

Credit Union or Association

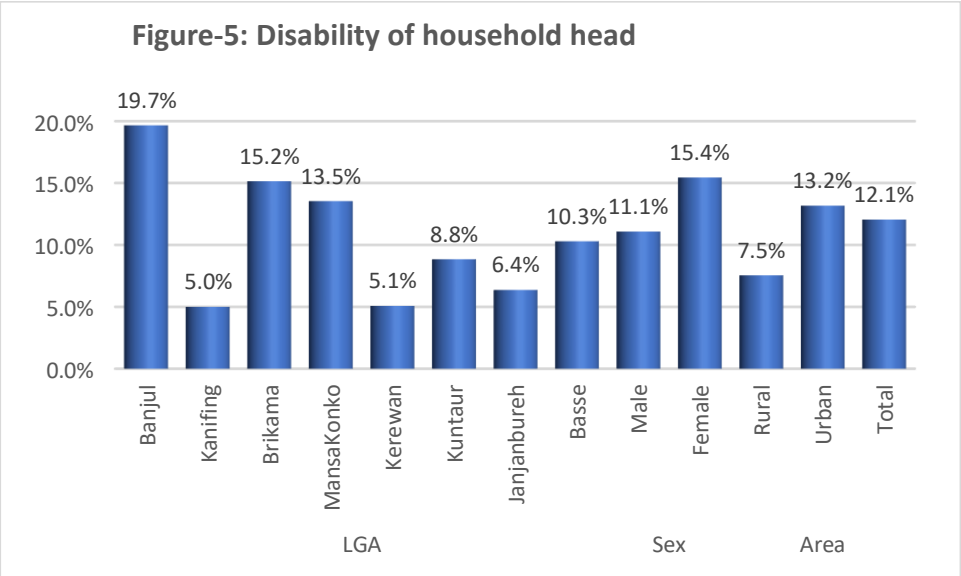
Credit unions or associations are becoming part of the daily business to provide access to people for loans during the crisis. The CFSVA 2021 investigated this window of opportunity. Overall, 19.6 percent of households are part of the credit unions/associations, a majority in urban at 20.6 percent. This percentage is lower in female-headed households compared to male-headed households. The highest percentage of households associated with any credit union/association is in Kuntaur (29.7 percent), followed by Banjul (24 percent) and Kerewan (21.1 percent).

Table-12: Credit Union Membership

Category	Location	Are you/any household member part of a credit union/ credit association?		
		No	Yes	Don't know
LGA	Banjul	75.3%	24.0%	.6%
	Kanifing	82.0%	16.2%	1.8%
	Brikama	78.0%	20.9%	1.2%
	MansaKonko	82.1%	16.2%	1.7%
	Kerewan	77.6%	21.1%	1.3%
	Kuntaur	70.2%	29.7%	.1%
	Janjanbureh	83.1%	15.6%	1.2%
	Basse	87.3%	12.4%	.4%
Sex	Male	78.6%	20.2%	1.2%
	Female	81.4%	17.5%	1.0%
Area	Rural	81.3%	17.7%	.9%
	Urban	78.1%	20.6%	1.3%
	Total	79.2%	19.6%	1.2%

Disability of household's head

Disability hampers the capacity of a person to perform a certain activity. Overall, 12.1 percent of the household's heads have a disability. The percentage of disabled is higher in female-headed compared to male-headed households. Among LGAs Banjul has the highest percentage of disabled heads (19.7 percent), while the lowest is in Kanifing (5 percent). It is surprising to note that one urban LGA has the highest percentage while the other the lowest in terms of disability of household's heads.



Major disability types reported by the respondents are vision, hearing mobility, cognition/mental, self-care and communication. The highest percentage of disabled is of mobility (6.8 percent), followed by vision problem (5.5 percent). The percentage of both mobility and vision is reported by a higher percentage in urban areas compared to rural and by female-headed compared to male-headed

households. The percentage of households with vision disability is higher in Banjul (15.9 percent) and hearing in Mansakonko (3.1 percent).

Table-13: Type of disability

Category		Vision	Hearing	Mobility	Cognition (remembering)/ Mental	Self-care	Communication
LGA	Banjul	15.9%	1.9%	7.2%	.4%	1.7%	.2%
	Kanifing	2.8%	.4%	2.3%	.4%	.3%	.1%
	Brikama	6.6%	.9%	9.1%	.5%	.2%	.1%
	MansaKonko	7.5%	3.1%	4.7%	1.1%	0.0%	1.2%
	Kerewan	1.8%	2.1%	1.7%	0.0%	.5%	.7%
	Kuntaur	5.7%	1.6%	3.8%	.1%	.7%	.4%
	Janjanbureh	2.6%	2.0%	2.4%	.3%	.2%	.1%
	Basse	5.2%	1.5%	4.5%	.5%	.9%	0.0%
Sex	Male	4.8%	.7%	6.6%	.3%	.3%	.2%
	Female	8.0%	2.2%	7.3%	1.0%	.3%	.0%
Area	Rural	3.9%	1.7%	3.0%	.3%	.5%	.3%
	Urban	5.9%	.8%	7.7%	.5%	.2%	.1%
	Total	5.5%	1.0%	6.8%	.4%	.3%	.1%

CHAPTER 3: Food security in The Gambia

Food Security

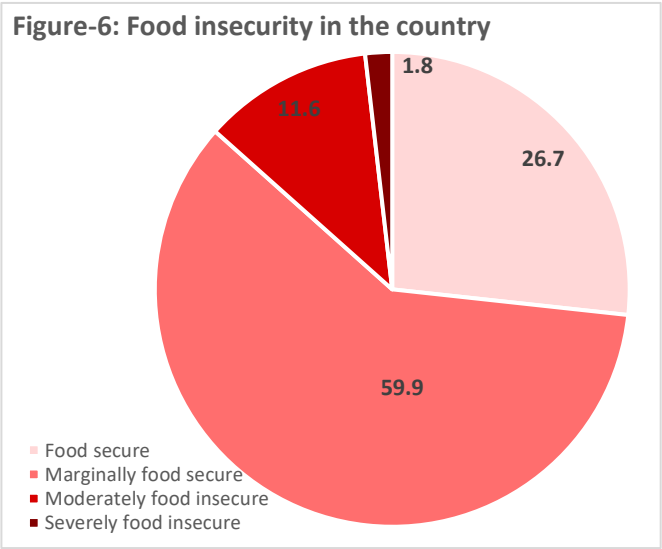
Per definition, "Food security exists when people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life".[12]

Food security is a composite indicator of food consumption, food expenditure share and coping strategies. Change in any component among these three directly impact the food security of a household, an area or a country.

The CFSVA 2021 was conducted at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic made a serious impact on the households' economy due to restrictions or closure of businesses and job avenues for a longer period. Thus, the CFSVA 2021 witnessed the prevalence of food insecurity at 13.4 percent at the country level (11.6% moderately and 1.8% severely). This means that 329,189 people are food insecure in the country. Among them, 44,965 people are severely food insecure, while 284,224 are moderately food insecure[11].

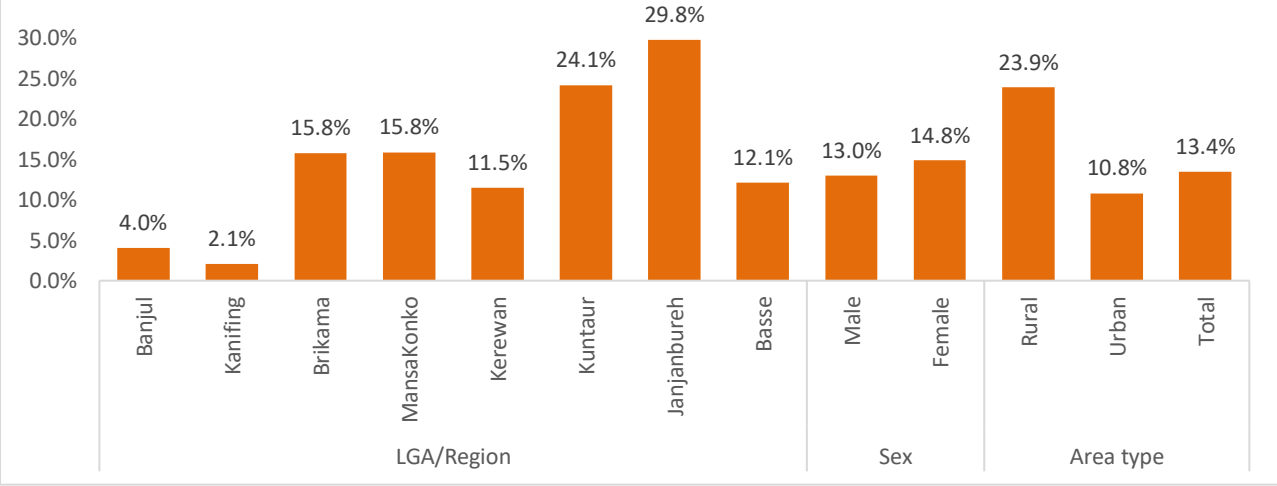
It is also important to note that more than half of the population in the country are at the borderline of food security and can drop down to the insecure category with any shock.

Figure-6: Food insecurity in the country



The level of food insecurity varies by LGA and area. Rural area households have higher food insecurity at 23.9 percent compared to urban at 10.8 percent. Among LGAs, the highest food insecurity was witnessed in Janjanbureh as 29.8 percent, followed by Kuntaur as 24.1 percent and Mansakonko & Brikama as 15.8 percent each.

Figure-7: Food insecurity by LGA and area

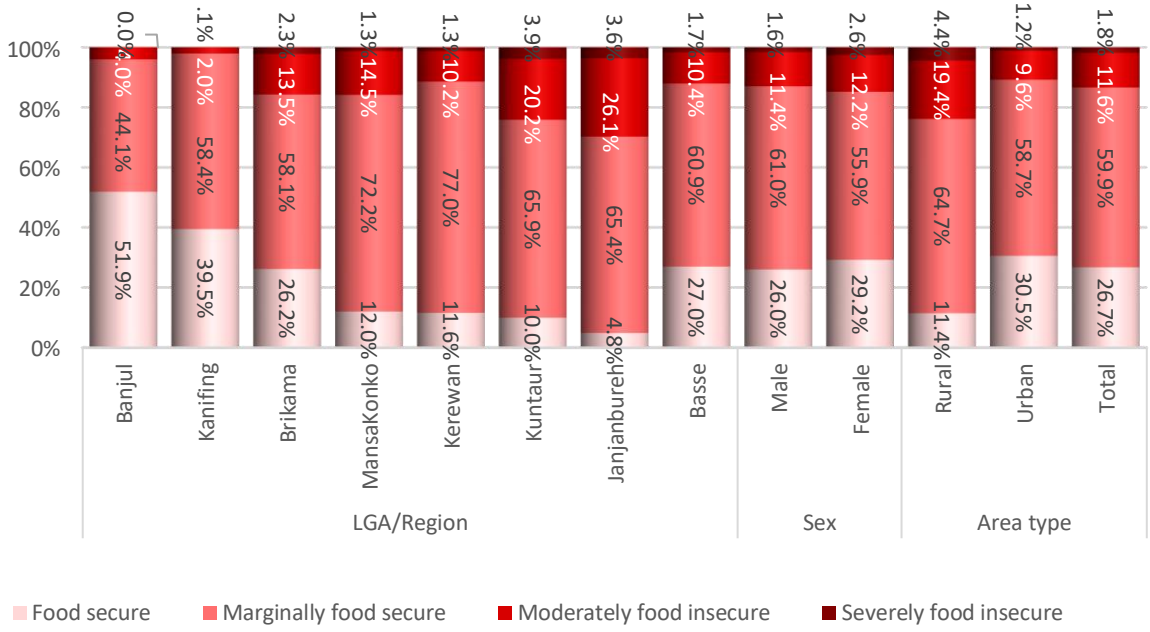


[11] According to the 2021 projected population 44,965 people are severely food insecure and 284,224 moderately, thus total 329,189 people are food insecure in the country.

The prevalence of food insecurity was observed higher in female-headed households at 14.8 percent compared to male-headed households at 13 percent. In terms of population, the highest number of food insecure are 180,175 in Brikama, followed by 46,295 in Janjanbureh and 33,359 in Kuntaur.

Major reasons for the increase in food insecurity are the price hike of essential commodities, devaluation of the Gambian Dalasi (GMD), closure of markets, restrictions on accessing jobs and businesses and decline in tourism, which deprived many people of earning in various sectors. According to the CFSVA 2021, the livelihoods of around 72.8 Percent of households have been significantly affected by COVID-19. Among them, 22 percent lost their jobs and 72 percent got a reduction in salaries due to restriction of socio-economic activities[12]. Access to markets by farmers was hampered due to preventive measures. In addition, crop production during 2019-20 was below normal while during 2021 is forecast to decline due to late arrival of rains during sowing. As a result, the food security of majority of households was badly affected across the country. Please note that the increase in food insecurity is not only because of COVID-19 but the increase in market prices since the last CFSVA (since 2016, the meat prices increased by 64.1 percent, maize by 96.3 percent, millet 113.6 percent, and rice by 21.6 percent) and depreciation of GMD coupled with continuous subsistence and uncertain farming moved many people down from borderline to food insecure group. According to World Bank, nine out of 10 households experienced a decline in income during March-August 2020. This supports the CFSVA 2021 findings of increase in food insecurity.

Figure-8: Food insecurity by LGA, gender and area type



The majority of the LGAs have a great segment of the population at the borderline of food security and are vulnerable to any shock like price hikes, health disasters, windstorms, floods or drought etc. It was noticed that LGAs comparatively with more urban population have less percentage of households at the borderline, while rural LGAs have a much higher population in this bracket.

Nine out of ten households experienced a decline in total income during mid-March and August 2020, mostly from agriculture, non-farm business and private transfers. World Bank

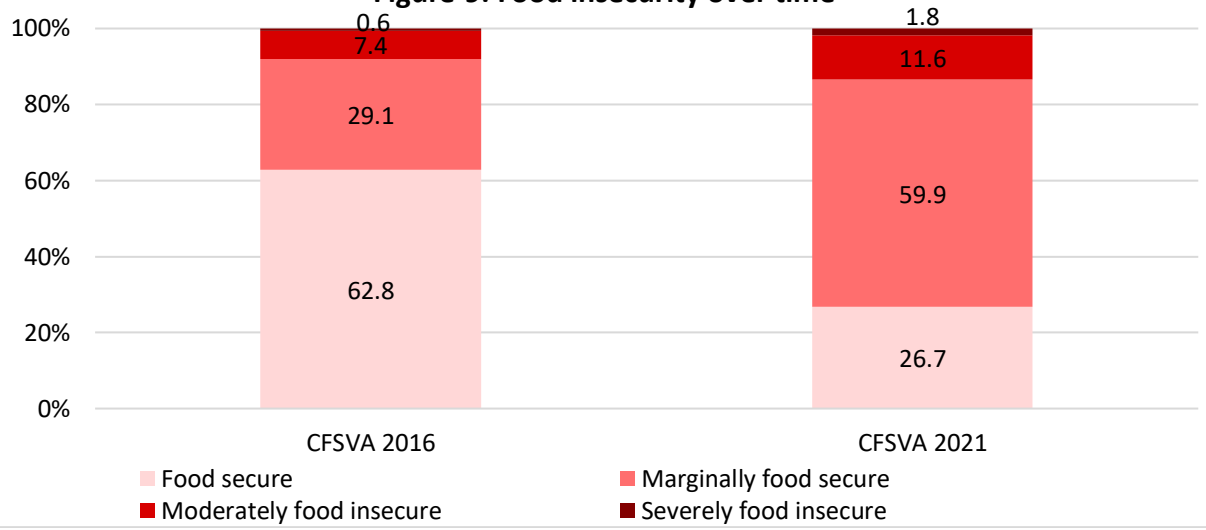
Food security transition

Food insecurity has worsened over time in the country. In 2011 the food insecurity was 5.6 percent which increased to 8.0 percent in 2016 and 13.4 percent in 2021 at the national level. On the other hand, the percentage of the food

[12] CFSVA 2021 results

secure population shrank from over 62 percent in 2016 to around 27 percent in 2021, while the population at borderline increased from 29 to 60 percent.

Figure-9: Food insecurity over time



An indication of the worsening situation can be observed from the proportion of households in the severe food insecurity level increasing from 0.6 percent in 2016 to 1.8 percent in 2021. That is an increase from 11,644 severely food insecure population in 2016 to 44,965 severely food insecure population in 2021. Similarly, food insecurity increased from 8 percent in 2016 to 13.4 percent in 2021. It means that the food insecure population increased from 148,458 in 2016 to 329,189 in 2021, more than doubled.

> There were price increases in global container market index leading to the problem of limited empty containers in these regions. As of the third week of January 2021, the cost of empty containers has increased substantially from an average of USD 2000 per 40ft container in October 2020 to more than USD 9,000 per 40 ft container from Asia to Europe according to Financial Times (see: https://on.ft.com/3isU0xq). As a result, the shipping lines operating in The Gambia have increased the freight cost to Banjul since November 2020 from USD5000 to USD 11000 per 40ft container,"
>
> *Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE)*

Nevertheless, the CFSVA 2016 was conducted during pre-lean season, while CFSVA 2021 was at the peak of lean season. Hence, besides other factors, seasonality also impacted the food security of people in 2021. In addition, climate change, i.e., increase in temperature, delay in rainfall, inadequate rainfall and non-availability of resistant varieties, have reduce crops production which increased the food insecurity in the country.

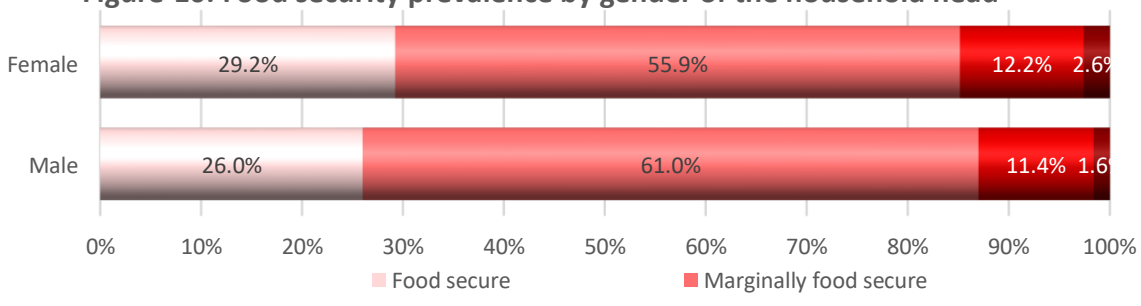
Vulnerability and food insecurity

(Who, where and why)

Food security prevalence by gender of the household head

The percentage of food-insecure is higher in female-headed households (14.8 percent) than male-headed (13.0 percent). The severely food insecure percentage is significantly (at 95 percent confidence interval)

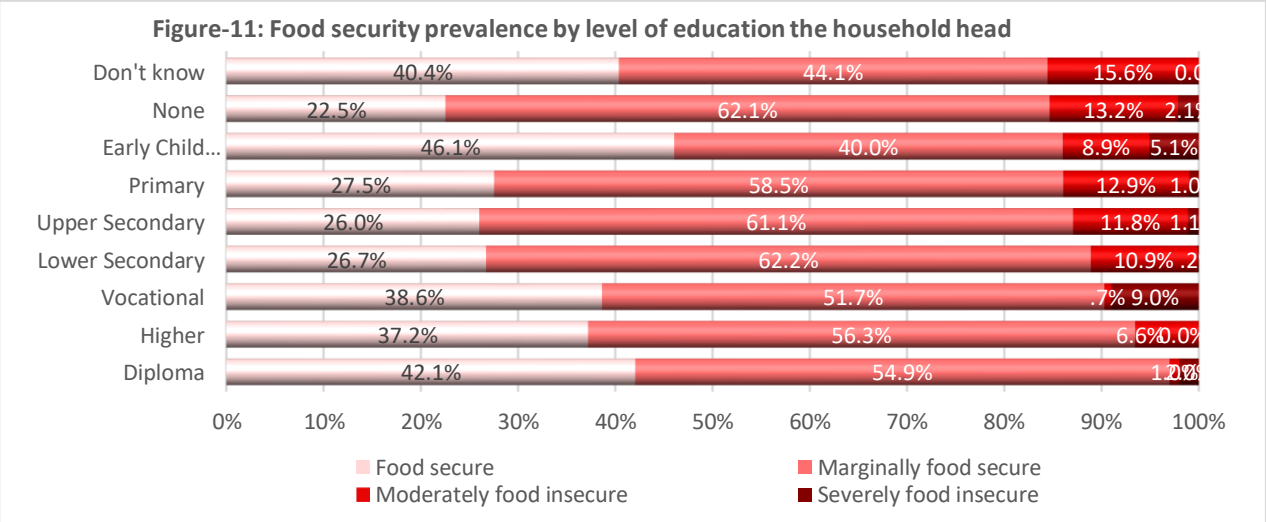
Figure-10: Food security prevalence by gender of the household head



higher in female-headed compared to male-headed households. The male-headed households are more at the borderline.

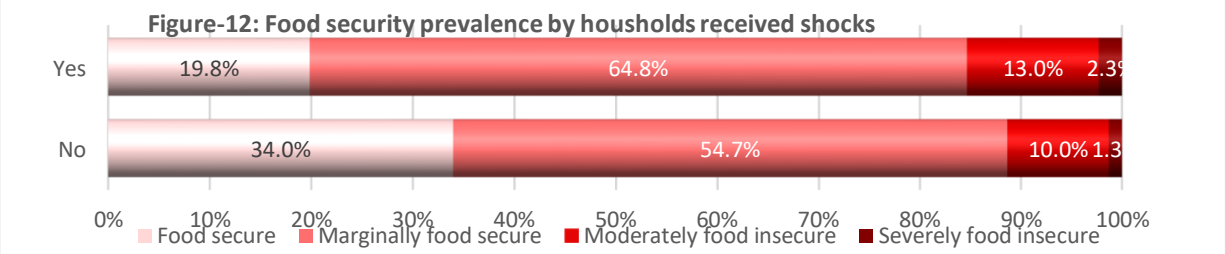
Food security prevalence by the level of education of the household head

Education plays a significant role in the food security of the households, especially when the head of the household is educated. The CFSVA 2021 shows that the percentage of food insecure population is much higher among the illiterate households' heads compared to educated ones. When the education level of the household's head got increased the food insecurity declined. Educated heads of households have better opportunities for working with higher returns. Moreover, they can run the businesses with better planning and have the capacity to manage, record and execute things. Among the households with illiterate heads 15.3 percent are food insecure, among the primary level educated 13.9 percent, vocational education heads 9.7 percent and with higher education level 6.6 percent.



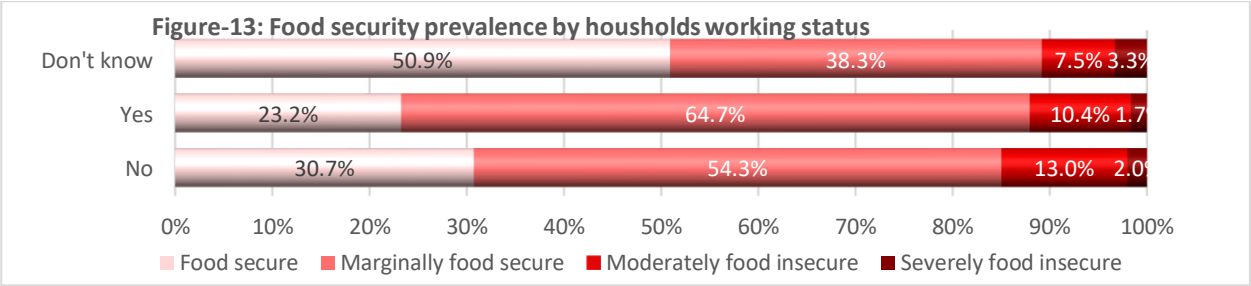
Food Security and shocks

Shocks usually deteriorate the food security of the households to the degree the shock impacts them. In Gambia the households who reported any shock in the past 12 months, a higher percentage of them described food insecurity. On average,15.3 percent of households that are affected by shocks are food insecure compared to 11.3 percent of those who did not receive any shock. COVID-19 and price hikes were the major shocks reported.



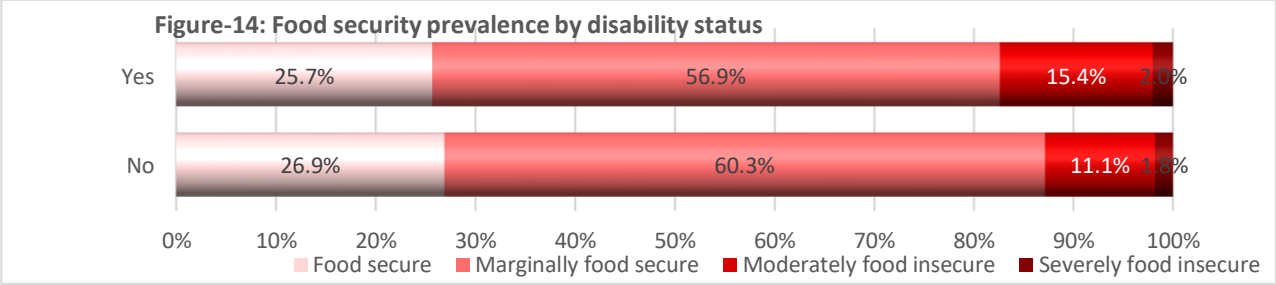
Food security and households' heads working status

Households whose heads are not working presently have a higher percentage of food insecure people at 15 percent compared to households whose heads have jobs or working for earning. It is obvious that earning and working enable the household's heads to buy food to meet the needs of the family. Those who are not working might have other sources, but in most of cases, not sufficient to meet the basic needs.



Food security and households' heads disability

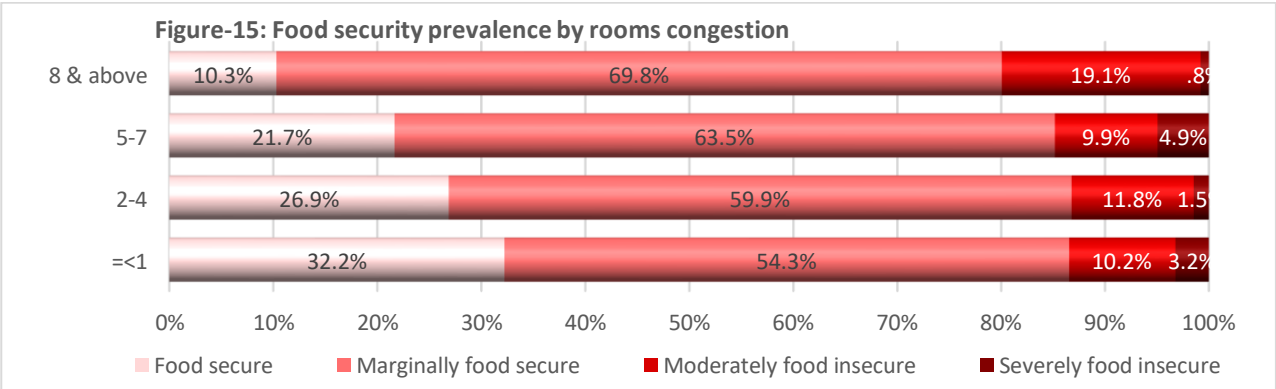
Disability is any condition of the body or mind (impairment) that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities (activity limitation) and interact with the people around them (participation restrictions). Hence, it deprives the person(s) to perform with full capacity in earning the livelihoods. Therefore, it impacts the food security of the respective households.



The percentage of food-insecure was found higher at 17.4 percent among the households whose head has any kind of disability compared to 12.9 percent of those with no disability.

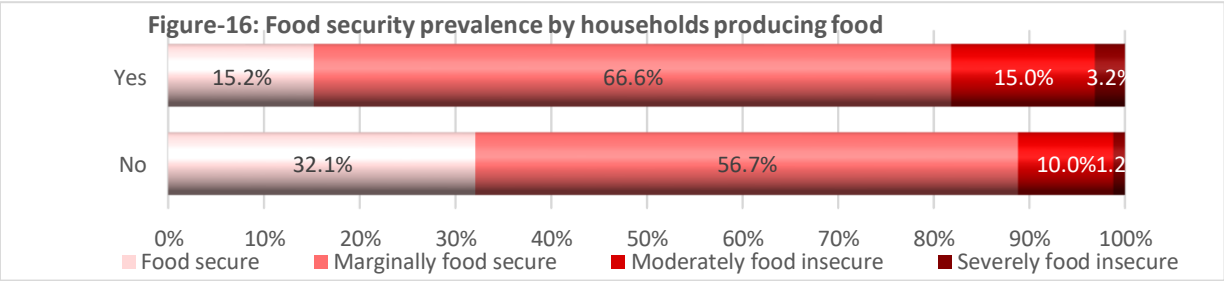
Food security by rooms congestion

The CFSVA 2021 investigated the number of people living in a room per household. Normally, the rich people have many rooms in their home and each person has one room to sleep in, while the poor people have limited rooms with many people, thus, many people sleep in a single room. This hypothesis was proved right by the CFSVA 2021 as the households where 8 or more people sleeping in one room have the highest percentage of food insecure at 19.9 percent, followed by those where 5-7 persons living in one room at 14.8 percent and 2-4 persons in one room at 13.3 percent. The highest percentage of food secure households are those where 1 person per room is living.



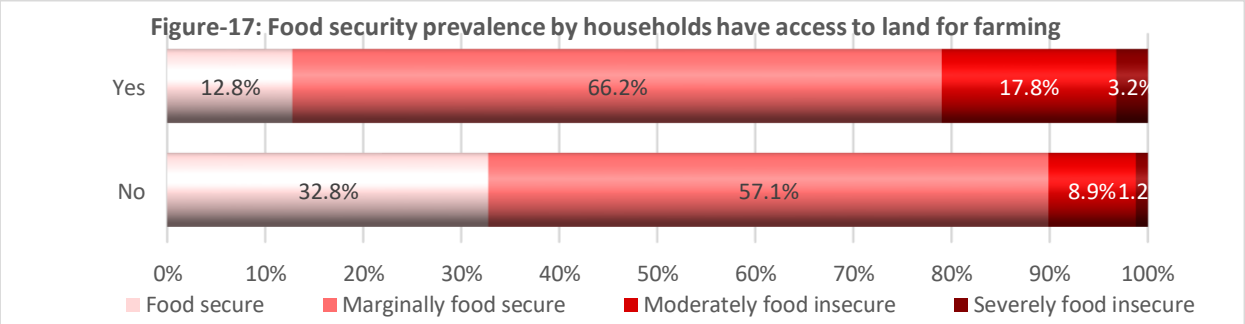
Food security of food-producing households

This is quite surprising to note that households producing food are more food insecure than those not producing food. Per CFSVA 2021, the percentage of the food insecure population is higher among the households producing food (18.2 percent) compared to those not producing food. The majority of the food-producing households are subsistence farmers with uncertain and low levels of production. These farmers



heavily depend on the mercy of rains for crop production. These farmers also have to buy other food items like meat, milk, oil, sugar, spicy and non-food items from the sale of food they produce. The majority of farmers are small farmers with less than 5 hectares of land, who buy things on credit from the shopkeepers and return after harvest. However, due to poor harvest, they are normally unable to return the loan or to keep sufficient food for their own consumption till next harvest. They are continuously in the trap of a vicious circle of food insecurity which expands every year.

The 2020 national cereal production is estimated at 123,000 tonnes, about 9 percent below the average, despite inputs provided to farmers by the Government[13]. Moreover, windstorms, flash floods and infestation by Fall Armyworms affected crops in some areas. Although the production in 2020 has improved compared to the last two years, the cropping season was characterized by unfavourable rains, with a late start in late July and a prolonged break in rains in late August. This resulted in delayed planting and germination failure of crops burdened farmers with extra expenditure in both the 2018 and 2019 cropping seasons. The late arrival of rains also affected the 2021 cropping season with forecast of low production.



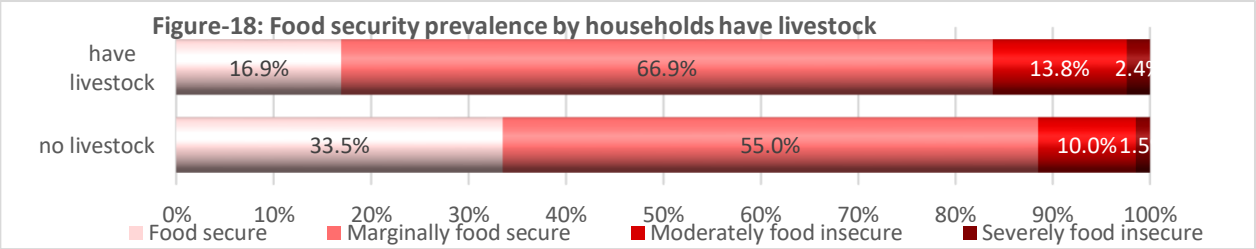
The CFSVA 2021 looked into the level of food insecurity of farmers versus non-farmers in Gambia. It was found that those have access to land (farmers) have higher percentage of food insecurity at 21 percent compared to 10.1 percent of non-farmers. It means that people involved in farming are more food insecure that those in off-farm activities.

The majority of farmers (75.5 percent)[14] have 5 hectares or less cultivated land and are mostly rainfed. Thus, farmers with such subsistence farming, much low productivity, and high cost of living increasingly become food insecure over time compared to those involved in other livelihoods. Moreover, the CFSVA 2021 was implemented at a time when the harvest of maize was started while other crops were about to start. Thus, farmers were not able to consume or sell the product adequately. Farmers also reported (FGDs) the inadequate supply of inputs (fertilizer and seeds) and of low-quality including shortage of mechanization.

[13] FAO Country Briefs May 2021
[14] CFSVA 2021

Food security of households rearing livestock

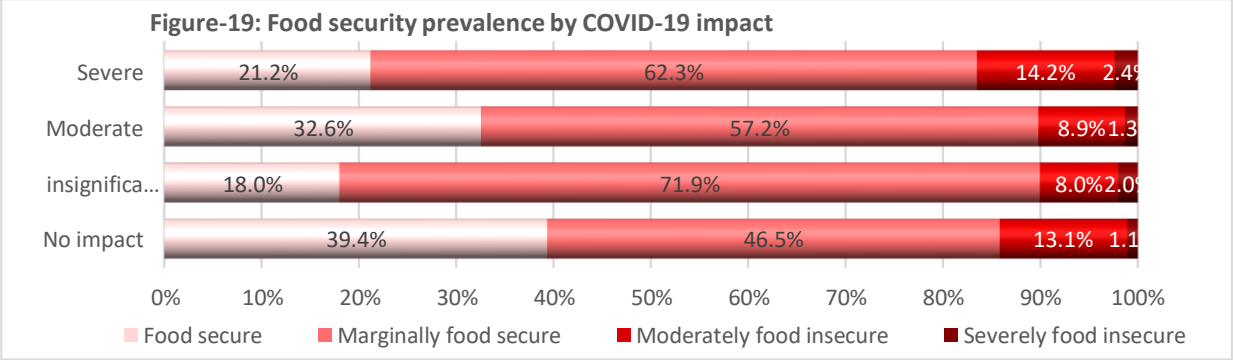
The households rearing livestock were found more food insecure compared to those with no livestock. It is important to mention that livestock keeping is not commercial and limited numbers are kept. The average holding of goats is 2.4 per household, sheep 1.5 and cattle 1.2. Such holding of livestock cannot generate adequate income for the households to feed themselves. However, livestock keeping is part of the farming, mostly used as part of coping strategy in addition to the incremental support from time to time.



COVID-19 and food security

Like other countries, COVID-19 impacted a wide majority of people in Gambia, both directly as well as indirectly. Due to closure of businesses, decline in tourism and restrictions on movement, many people lost their jobs or at least declined their income. According to CFSVA 2021, the income of 86.3 percent of households was affected across the country, where 42.2 percent severely, 30.6 percent moderately and 13.5 percent slightly affected. In terms of income, rural areas population was more affected (52.5 percent) that of urban (39.6 percent). (See chapter-7 for details).

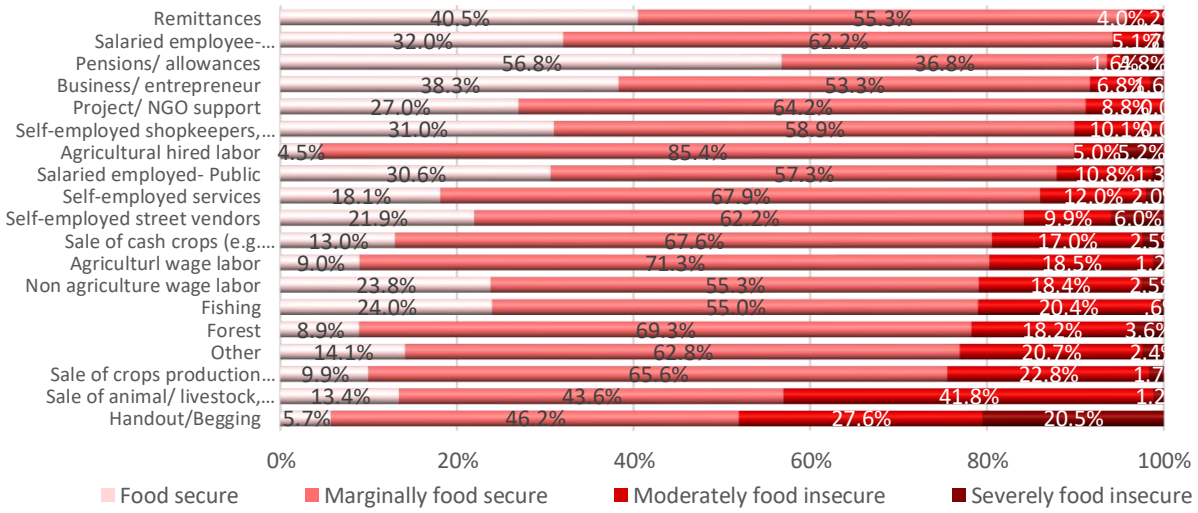
Because of the severely negative impact, food security of many people were also affected. The households severely affected by COVID-19 have a higher percentage of food-insecure people than others. On the other hand, those who are not affected by COVID-19 have the highest percentage of food-secure households. Thus, COVID-19 has impacted the livelihoods of the households to a greater extent and made them vulnerable to access adequate food.



Food security prevalence by livelihood type

In The Gambia, the highest percentage of food insecure people was found in households involved in the sale of animals/livestock after begging. The second highly vulnerable livelihood group, in terms of food security, is the sale of crop production, followed by forest and fishing. The better food-secure livelihoods are the remittances, salaries/employees in private/NGO sector, pension, business/entrepreneurship, households supported by NGOs and shopkeepers. The households with remittances continued to receive money during COVID-19 with less interruption and thus less food insecure. The salaries people, especially in private sector also got affected by COVID-19 but were economically better to face the situation. Similarly, other livelihood groups mentioned above remained better off. However, a portion of them was also classified as food insecure.

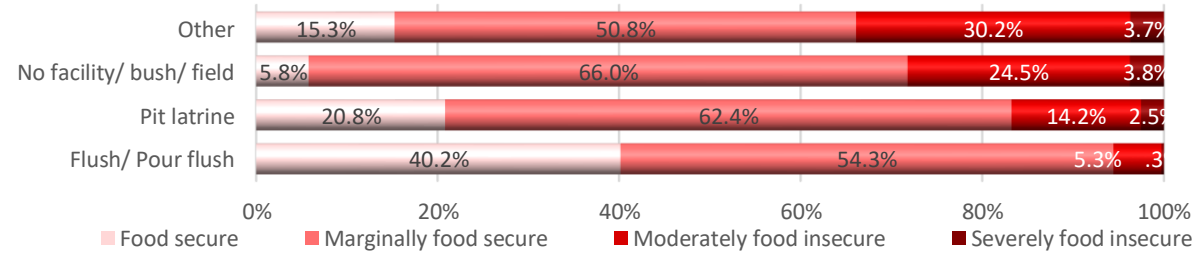
Figure-20: Food security prevalence by livelihoods



Food security prevalence by toilet facility

Toilet facilities are part of sanitation and translate into the health condition of the households. However, it also reflects the economic status of the households. Poor households cannot afford better toilet facilities and opt for open defecation or pit latrine. The CFSVA 2021 showed that households with flush latrines have a low percentage of food insecure people, while those go for open defecation have higher percentage of food insecure. Hence, food insecurity is directly correlated with the type of toilet facilities. The better the toilet facility, the better the food security.

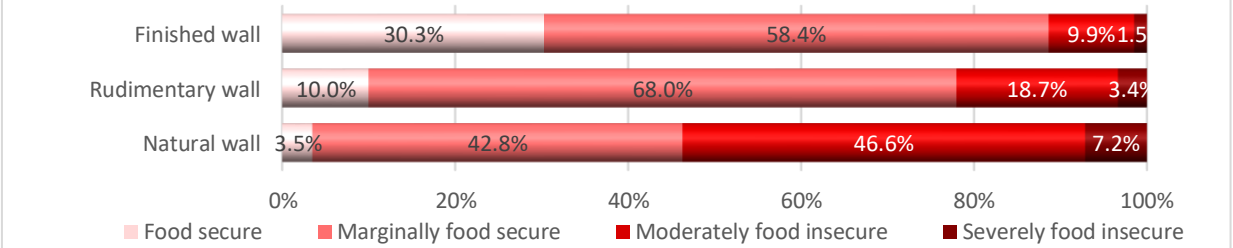
Figure-21: Food security prevalence by toilet facility



Food security prevalence by house structure-walls

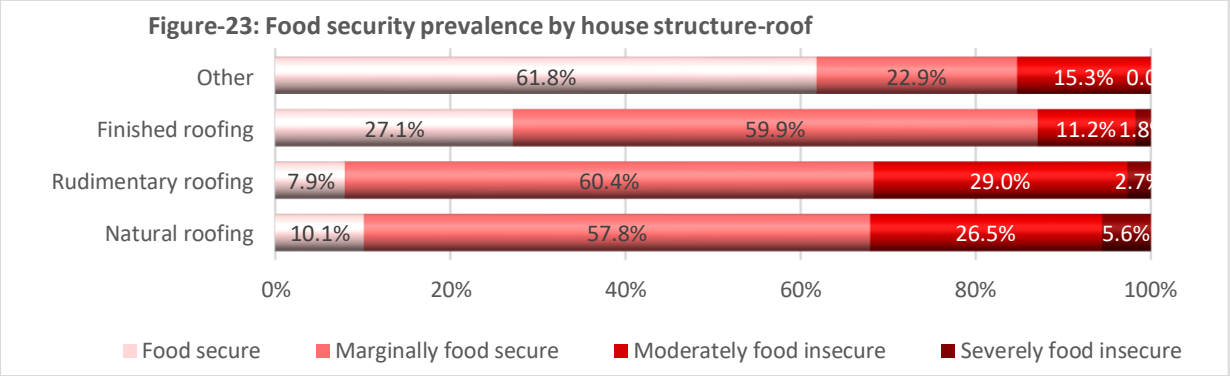
House condition reflects the economic status of a household. The household with a better economic status lives in a better-constructed house, while the poor live in a temporary, bush or mud house. Thus, food insecurity directly correlated to the house structure. According to the CFSVA 2021, the percentage of food-insecure households is much higher among those living in natural wall houses as 53.8 percent, followed by those living in rudimentary wall structure houses as 22.1 percent. Those living in finished wall houses have low percentage of food-insecure households.

Figure-22: Food security prevalence by house structure-walls



Food security prevalence by house structure-roof

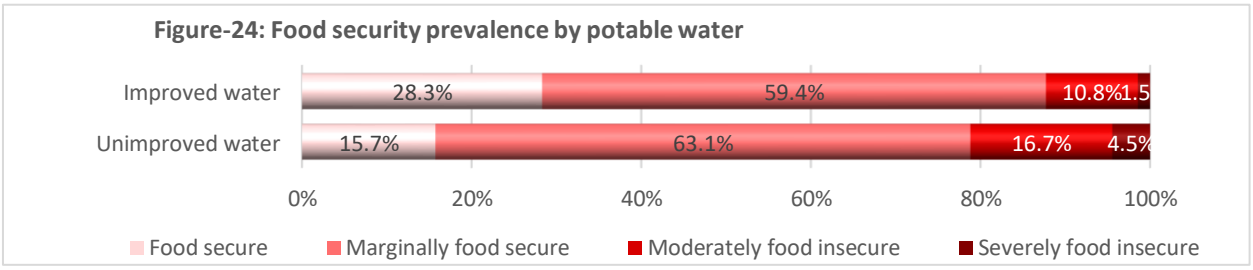
As stated earlier about the correlation between the house structure and food insecurity, the roof of the house



is an important determinant of the structure. The CFSVA 2021 shows that those living in houses with natural roofing have a higher percentage of food-insecure people at 32.1 percent, followed by those living in rudimentary roofing houses at 31.7 percent, while 13 percent for households with finished roofing houses.

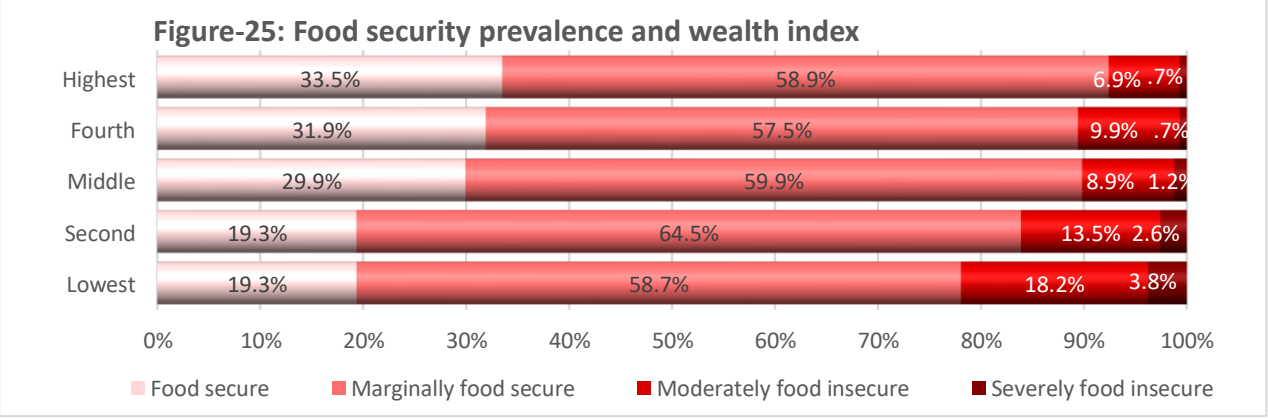
Food security prevalence by type of potable water

Potable water is part of the food utilization-third pillar of food security. The food can be digested properly by using cleaned and hygienic water for drinking. According to the CFSVA 2021 results, the households using unimproved water for drinking have a higher percentage of food insecure at 21.2 percent, while those using improved water have only 12.3 percent. This indicator also supports the nutrition security in urban areas where a great majority has access to improved water compared to rural areas.



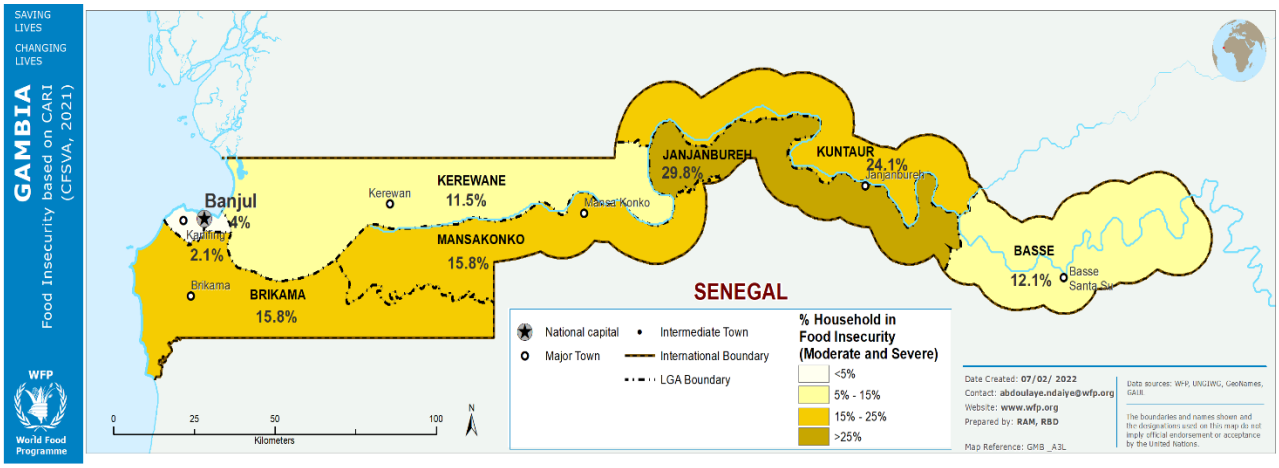
Food security prevalence and wealth index

The wealth index, which is an assets-based poverty indicator, has a direct positive correlation with the household's food security. The poorest group of households have the highest percentage of food insecure people at 22 percent, followed by the poor group at 16.1 percent, borderline at 10.1 percent, while the rich group has only 7.6 percent.



Poverty has a direct impact on food security as poor people mostly rely on cheaper foods, no food diversification, low health, and hygiene and spend maximum resources on buying food in the market. Unfortunately, with frequent disasters more and more people drop down to the poverty in countries predominantly agriculture with subsistence farming like Gambia. More serious and innovative programmes are required to uplift these people with better productivity.

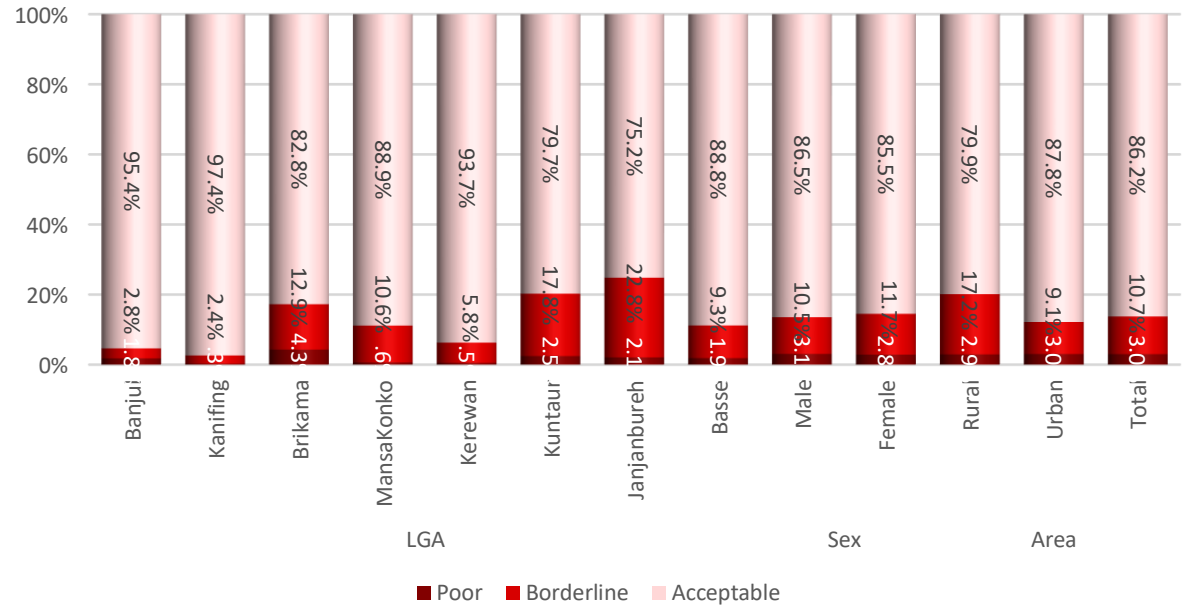
MAP of food insecurity of The Gambia



Households' food consumption

Food consumption score (FCS) is one of the three indicators included in the calculation of food insecurity. The FCS considers dietary diversity, frequency of food consumption and the nutritional importance of the foods consumed by a household. The FCS is calculated on the frequency of food consumption from different food groups over the past 7 days reference period.

Figure-26: Food Consumption Groups



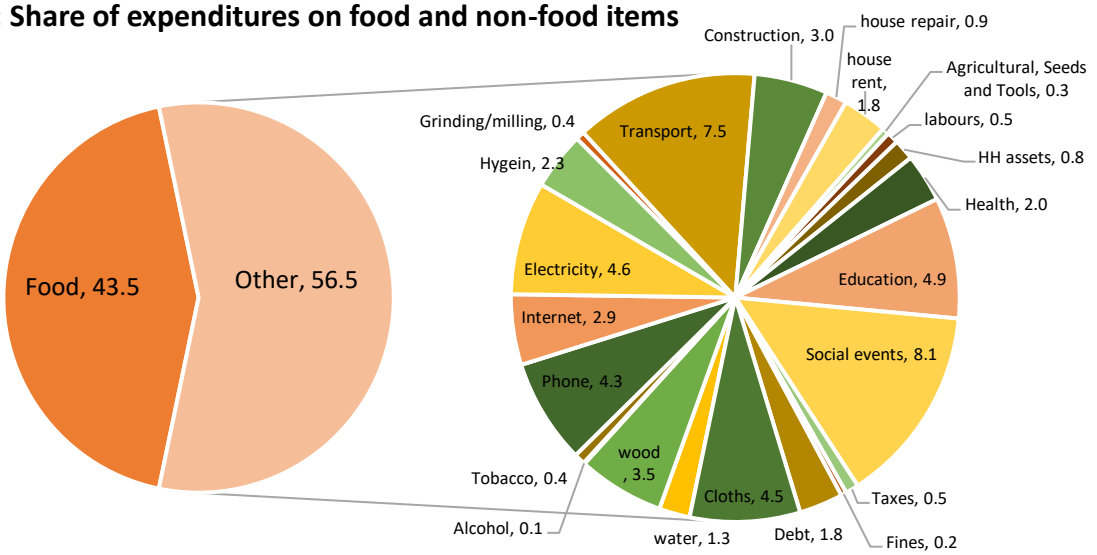
CFSVA 2021 shows that 3 percent of the households have poor food consumption scores, while 10.7 percent are at the borderline. The poor food consumption was noticed almost the same both in urban as well as rural areas, however, the percentage at borderline was almost doubled in rural areas compared to urban. The economic deterioration compelled the households to go for minimum food groups across the country. Regarding LGAs, the highest percentage of people with poor and borderline food consumption are in Janjanbureh as 24.8 percent, followed by Kuntaur as 20.4 percent and Brikama as 17.2 percent. The percentage of people in poor and borderline food consumption groups was reported higher in female-headed households compared to male-headed households.

Food expenditure share

Household's expenditure is one of the important indicators of food security, especially the level of spending on food. Each household's head spends a ratio of his/her income on food. When the level of income reduces or when prices increase, the share of food expenditure as a proportion of total expenditure also increases. In such a situation the households with limited/low income or poor are forced to reduce spending on essential non-food items and services, such as education and health to meet the basic food needs.

In the Gambia, per CFSVA 2021, households spend an average of 43.5 percent of their total expenditure on food, which decreased from 52 percent in CFSVA 2016. The offset in expenditure resulted from the increase in income of the rich class, especially in urban LGAs. Nevertheless, the ratio of spending on food remained quite high in rural dominant LGAs as well as among the vulnerable livelihoods both in urban as well as rural.

Figure-27: Share of expenditures on food and non-food items



Among the non-food expenditures, the highest percentage of spending was reported on social events (8.1 percent) like weddings, birthdays, funerals, festivals, religious or cultural occasions (Tabaski), family's gathering and political processions etc. The share of social events in the household's expenditure is quite high compared to other essential non-food expenditures. The second item with highest expenditure is transportation, where 7.5 percent of budget is spent. The third item is education (4.9 percent), followed by electricity (4.6 percent) and clothes (4.5 percent). The most astonishing spending is on phones (4.3 percent), which reportedly significantly high. Peoples in Gambia spend a considerable amount of money on phone services. It means that the services, especially mobile phone services are relatively expensive in the country compared to many Asian countries. There is a need for more competition in this sector.

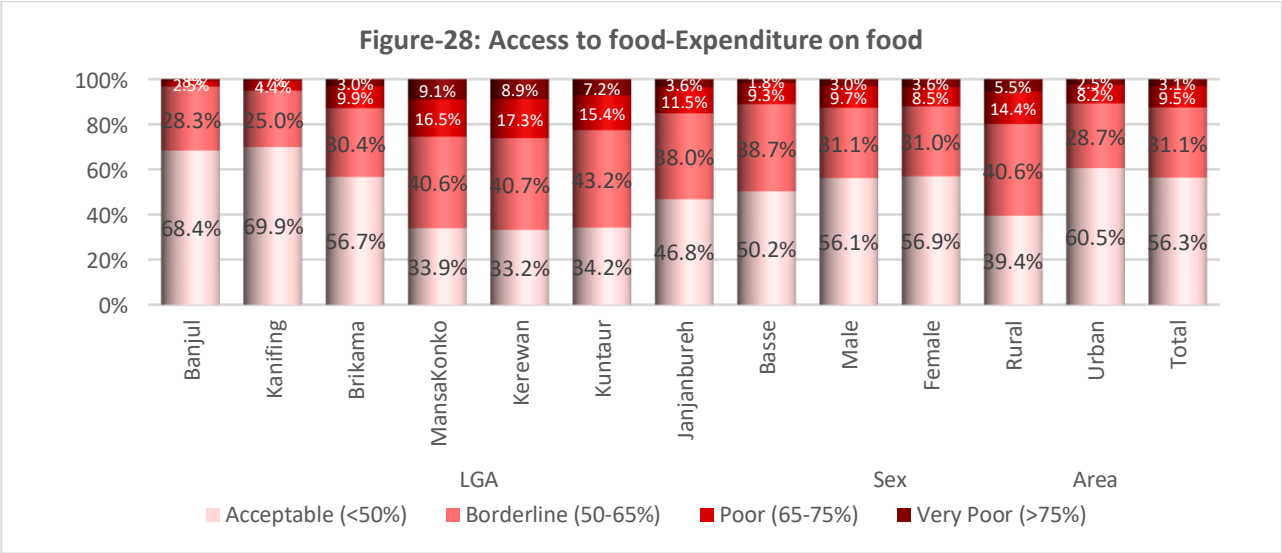
To measure the household's vulnerability, the share of expenditures devoted to food is segregated into four groups of households:

1. Very poor (those who spend more than 75.0 percent of their budget on food).
2. Poor (those who spend between 65.0 and 75.0 percent of their budget on food).
3. Borderline (those who spend between 50.0 and 65.0 percent of their budget on food). And
4. Acceptable (those who spend less than 50.0 percent of their budget on food).

According to CFSVA 2021, overall, 3.1percent of households has very poor access to food, 9.5 percent poor and 31.1 percent at borderline. The percentage of such categories are higher in rural areas compared to urban as 5.5 percent, 14.4 percent and 40.6 percent very poor, poor and borderline compared to 2.5, 8.5 and 28.7 percent in urban area respectively. In terms of spending no significant difference was found between males and females headed households.

Regarding LGAs, the highest percentage of very poor households was reported in MansaKonko (9.1 percent), followed by Kerewan (8.9 percent) and Kuntaur (7.2 percent). The poor households were also higher in percentage in the same three LGAs.

On the other hand, the highest percentage of households in the "acceptable" group is in Kanifing (69.9 percent), followed by Banjul (68.4 percent) and Brikama (56.7 percent).



Coping strategies

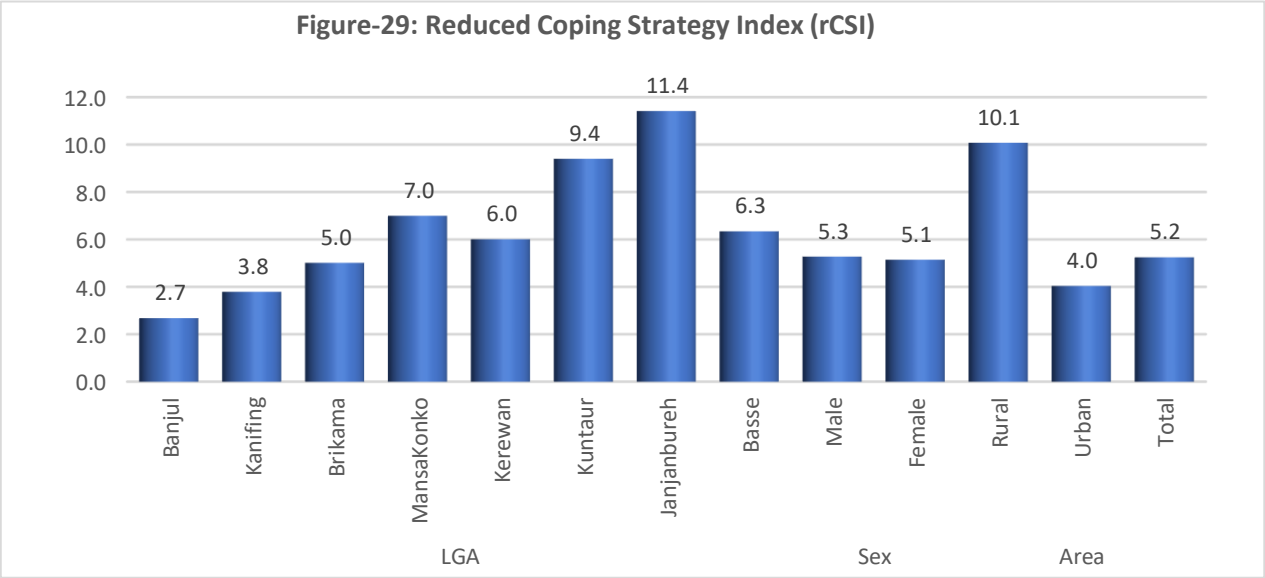
During unusual situations or shocks, households use certain strategies to mitigate the effect of natural, economic or political disasters. Such strategies are unavoidable when the households face food shortages. These strategies are composed of a variable called the coping strategies index (CSI). The Coping Strategies Index studies the activities undertaken by households to manage food shortages. The CFSVA 2021 took place during September and October 2021 when the harvest season was ongoing and when households were expected to use fewer coping strategies, but this was not the case. The two coping indicators were included in the analysis namely reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) and livelihood coping strategy index (LCSI).

The Reduced Coping Strategy Index

Reduced coping strategy index (rCSI), also called food-related CSI is used to assess the stress level faced by a household due to a food shortage during a disaster or otherwise. It is measured by combining the frequency and severity of the food consumption-based strategies households are engaged in. It is calculated using the five standard strategies using a 7-day recall period.

The following are the five-consumption based coping strategies:
1. Rely on less preferred and less expensive food
2. Borrow food or rely on help from relative(s) or friend(s)
3. Limit portion size at meals
4. Restrict consumption by adults for small children to eat
5. Reduce the number of meals eaten in a day

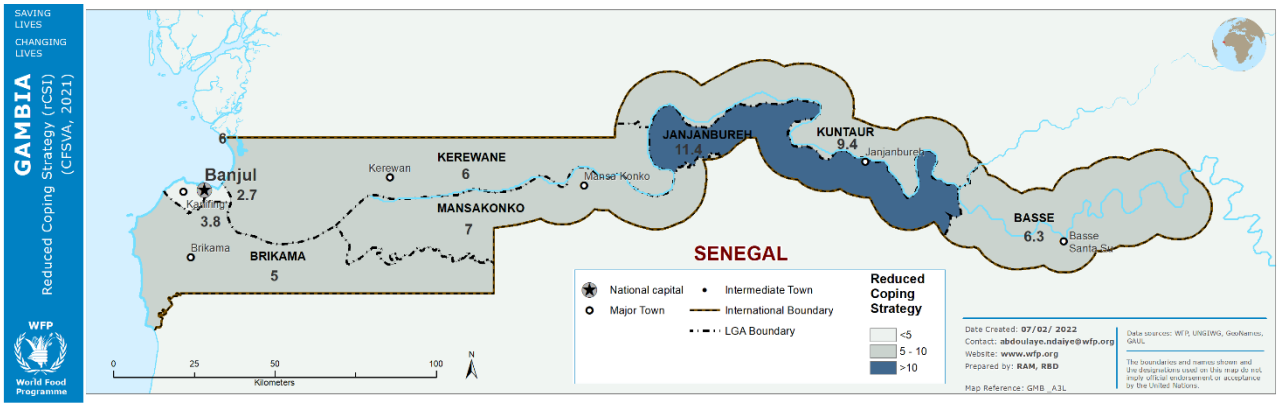
The rCSI measures the stress level a household is facing when exposed to food shortage by assessing the frequency of adoption of the above mentioned 5 food-related coping mechanisms, and their relative severity.



The higher the stress, the higher the index and consequently the behavioural responses. CFSVA 2021 reported the national rCSI average at 5.2, higher in rural as 10.1 compared to 4 in urban.

Among the LGAs, the highest rCSI average was found in Janjanbureh (11.4), followed by Kuntaur (9.4) and MansaKonko (7.0). In 5 LGAs the rCSI is higher than the national average, while the lower rCSIs were reported in 3 LGAs.

According to the results, 9 percent of the households has rCSI 19 and above, 28.9 percent 4-18 and 62.1 percent =<3. In Janjanbureh 25.3 percent of households has rCSI 19 & above while this percentage is 18.9 in Kuntaur.



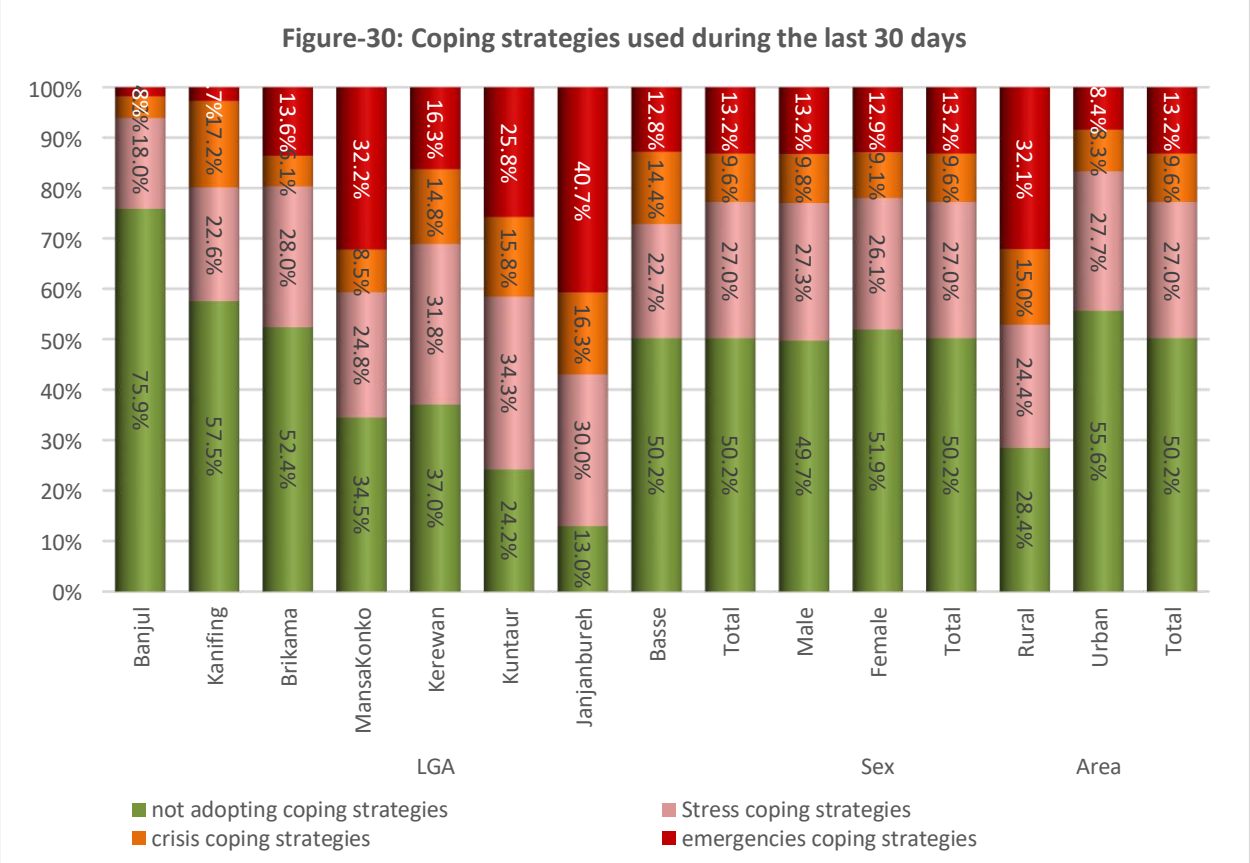
The Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)

The livelihood coping strategies are used for the longer-term mitigation of risk. Thus, the LCSI is analysed to understand longer-term coping capacity of households and is classified into three severity levels, namely stress, crisis and emergency coping strategies and are based on a 30-day recall period. Stress strategies indicate a reduced ability to deal with shocks as a result of a current reduction in resources or increase in debts. Crisis strategies are often associated with the direct reduction of future productivity. Emergency strategies also affect future productivity but are more difficult to reverse or more dramatic in nature than crisis strategies.

Stress coping strategies	Crisis coping strategies	Emergency coping strategies
Sell household assets/goods (radio, furniture, refrigerator, television, jewellery etc..) due to a lack of food or a lack of money to buy food?	Reduce non-food expenses on health (including drugs) and education	sell house or land

Sell more animals (non-productive) than usual due to a lack of food or a lack of money to buy food?	Sell productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, etc.)	begged
Spend savings	Withdraw children from school	Sell last female animals
Borrow money/food from a formal lender/bank		

In the Gambia, almost half of the population (49.8 percent) have used at least one coping strategy during the last 30 days. Among them 27 percent have used stress coping strategies, 9.6 percent crisis and 13.2 percent emergency coping strategies. The percentage of people used any coping strategy is much higher in rural areas (71.6 percent) compared to urban (44.4 percent). A sizable percentage of households have used emergency coping strategies (32.1 percent) in rural areas, which reflect the deteriorating situation and consequently the food insecurity in rural settlements. Among the LGAs, the highest percentage of households with emergency coping strategies was found in Janjanbureh (40.7 percent), followed by MansaKonko (32.2 percent) and Kuntaur (25.8 percent). Majority of the households in Janjanbureh are farmers (90.1 percent) and passing through the lean season with limited or no stock of food available. Thus, a great percentage of them relied on emergency coping strategies to cope with the shortage of food. The same is the case of Mansakonko and Kuntaur.



CHAPTER 4: Food availability

Food availability is the first pillar of food security. In each country, the availability of food is ensured through in-country production, imports, storage and aid/gift/donation. Rice is the main staple food of Gambia, but the country is deficient and relies on imports. The import of rice has increased over time. By 2021, Gambia has imported 230,000 Tonnes milled rice[15], which is 53 percent higher than in 2011. The per capita consumption of rice is 117 kg per annum[16] and by calculating the total consumption for 2021 projected population, the local production contributes only 20 percent to the total basket. However, farmers in Gambia also produce and consume other food crops, like sorghum, millet and tubers.

Agriculture

The major food crops produced in the Gambia are millet, maize, sorghum and rice and semi-intensive cash crops like groundnut, cotton, sesame and horticulture. Farmers generally practice mixed farming, although crops account for a greater portion of the production. Farming is mainly subsistence consists of rain-fed agriculture with a food self-sufficiency ratio of around 50%. The crops sub-sector generates approximately 40% of the foreign exchange earnings and provides about 75% of total household income. The crop-sub-sector employs 70 percent of the labour force and accounts for about 30% of GDP of the country.

Currently, the agriculture sector engages 80 percent of the country's population, directly as well as indirectly; accounts for 70 percent of the country's foreign exchange earnings, but only meet about 50 percent of the national food requirements. The agricultural output is generated by about 69,100 farm households over 320,000 hectares of land (out of which only 3,300 hectares are under irrigation) or about 57 percent of the total arable land, which is estimated at 558,000 hectares. Despite its significant contribution to the Gambian economy, the agricultural sector is still much behind in productivity and values chain to show its impact on the development indicators.

The crops sector, especially rice is characterized by low production which is caused by subsistence farming mostly undertaken on increasingly erratic and unevenly distributed rain in time and volume, single and short rainy season (from June to September); absence of proper water harvesting and irrigation structures that ensures sustainable production of food and cash crops; use of traditional varieties; low input/output production practices by smallholders; low soil fertility; lack of access to agricultural financing; and poor marketing access.

According to farmers the lack of fertilizer has seriously affected their agricultural produce. This has also reduced income drastically as farming is their main source of income. They are experiencing a bad harvest in the past several years. The unfavourable rain also affected the production with less germination and grain formation.

[15] United States Department of Agriculture 2021
[16] African Development Bank Group, RVCTP, 2018

The absence of mechanization is another issue as complained by farmers, which reduced their capacity of cultivation and raising crops. According to farmers government used to provide tractors to farmers but since 2016, this facility is withdrawn.

Rainfall

The average amount of annual precipitation is 38.58 inches (980.0 mm) at Kololi. However, the annual amount of rainfall varies across the country, i.e., higher in the coastal region and lower in the middle and extreme end to the east. The rainy season is comprised of July, August and September where over 80% of the seasonal rain occurs, while limited rainfall during June and October. November to May are the dry months[17].

Farming in the Gambia is mostly rainfed and heavily depends on the timely and adequate quantity of rains. Because of dependency on rains the farming is mostly mono-cropping. June being the sowing/planting month is very critical in the sense that historically, below-average rainfall is recorded in most of the years across the country (Delayed and sporadic rains).

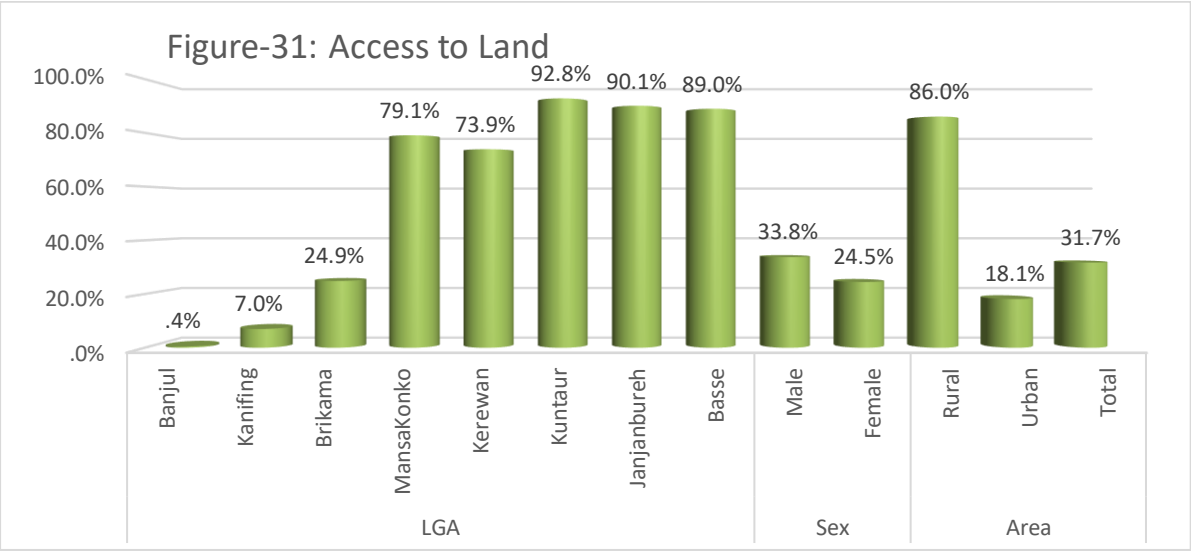
Land cultivation and ownership

On average, 31.7 percent of the households are directly engaged in farming in the Gambia, while nearly 49 percent indirectly (supply, marketing and services). The percentage of farming households is higher in rural areas (86 percent) compared to urban (18.1 percent). The highest percentage of farmers is witnessed in Kuntaur (92.8 percent), followed by Janianbureh (90.1percent) and Basse (89 percent).

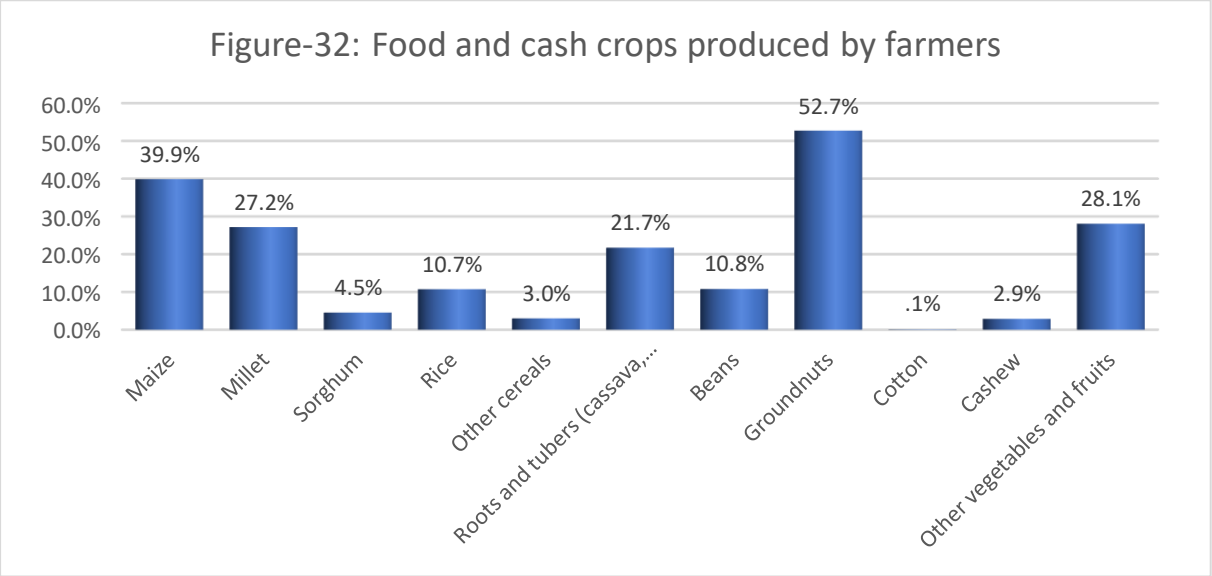
Among the farmers, 60.3 percent have their own land for cultivation, while 39.7 percent are cultivating as tenants, on lease or under other arrangements. The majority of them are subsistence farmers as 75.5 percent has land holding of 5 hectares or below. These subsistence farmers have limited capacity

[17] The Gambia annual climate report, Department of Water Resources, Government of the Gambia

to mechanize farming, introduce modern practices and make use of improved seed and adequate quantity of fertilizers.



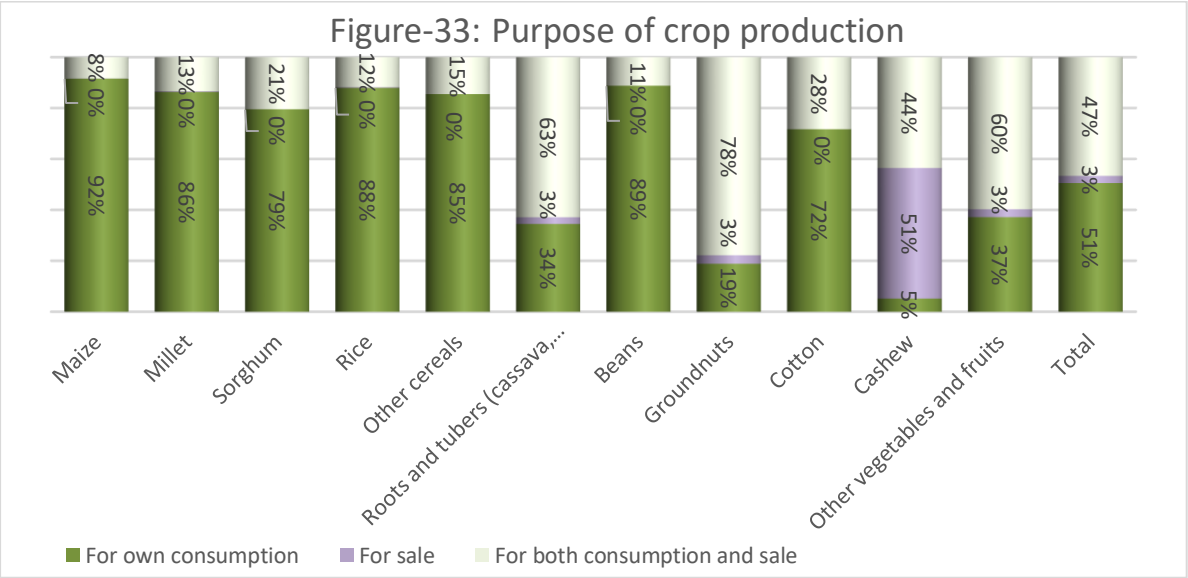
On average, 20.7 percent of the households has raised vegetables during the year. Interestingly, 16.2 percent of urban households also raised vegetables. It suggests that most of the urban areas have rural characteristics and is in transition from rural to the urban condition.



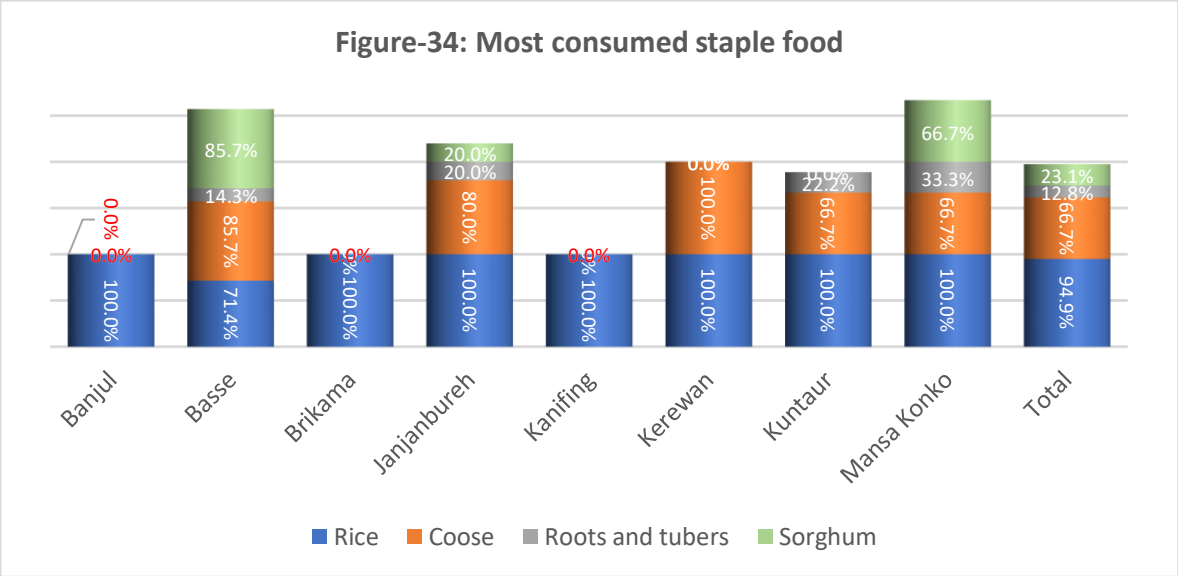
The majority of the farmers are producing groundnuts as reported by 52.7 percent, followed by maize as 39.9 percent and vegetables and other fruits by 28.1 percent. The highest percentage of groundnut producing farmers was reported in Basse as 91.2 percent, followed by Kuntaur as 90 percent. Basse is also the home of the highest percentage of maize producing farmers as 55.6 percent, followed by Kuntaur as 48.4 percent. Kerewan and Kuntaur have the highest percentage of millet producing farmers as 60.5 and 60.1 percent respectively, while sorghum is hosted by Basse with 25.3 percent farmers. Rice producing farmers are in majority in MansaKonko as 33.9 percent and Janjanbureh as 18.7 percent. Vegetables and fruits are more common in Kanifing where 64.7 percent of farmers are producing them.

Gambia's main exports are groundnuts, fish, and cotton. Groundnut is the major crop for export earning cash to meet the basic food and non-food needs of the farming families. It also employees

many people throughout the value chain and process. The Gambia Groundnut Corporation (GGC) is the main purchaser of groundnuts in the country; however, a large informal sector is also involved in the groundnuts purchase.



Farmers raise crops for their consumption and for sale to meet the expenses of non-food and food items they are not cultivating. Maize, millet, sorghum, and rice are mostly cultivated for their own consumption, while groundnut, cashew nut, cotton, fruits and vegetables are mostly for sale as well as own consumption. Groundnut, cashew nut and cotton are the cash crops in Gambia.

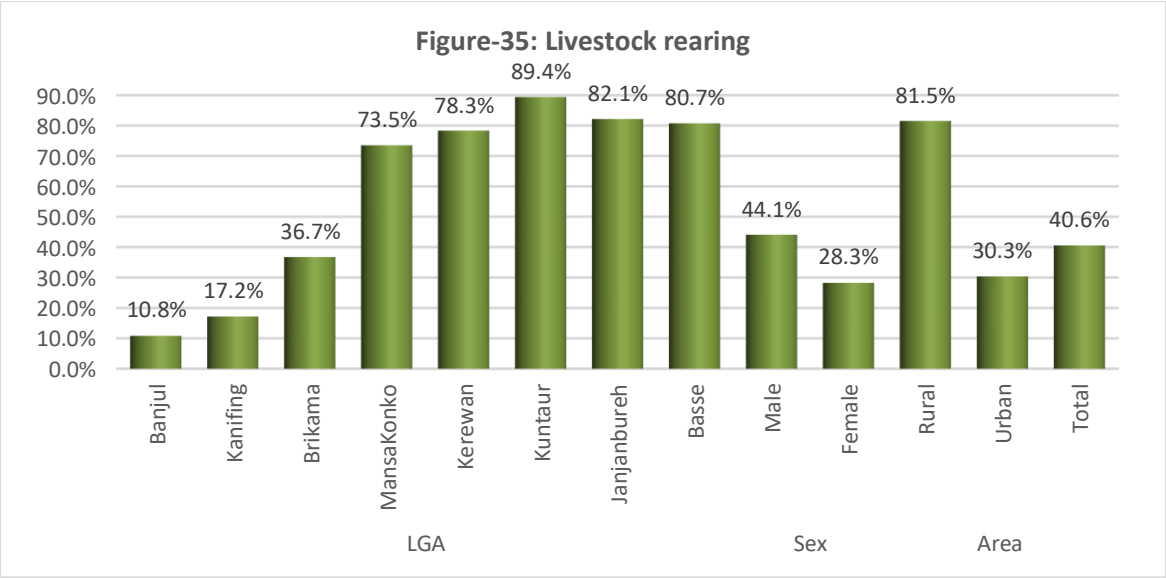


In the Gambia, the common types of food consumed are rice, coose[18] (millet), roots & tubers and sorghum. Rice is part of the regular diet of almost every household both in rural as well as urban. Except Basse, rice is consumed by 100 percent of the households. Coose is common food in rural areas of Gambia, while sorghum is mostly consumed in Basse, Mansakonko and partly in Janjanbureh. On average, around 67 percent of households consume coose as part of their diet, while 23 percent sorghum and around 13 percent tubers and roots. It was noticed that people in urban areas mostly consume rice on daily basis, like in Banjul, Brikama and Kanifing. The rice is eaten in combination of meat, fish and other sea/non-sea foods.

[18] Millet is referred to as Coose in the Gambia or ˝dougub˝ in the local language

Livestock rearing

In the Gambia 40.6 percent of the households keep livestock including chicken. The rural inhabitants are in majority in keeping livestock (81.5 percent), however, a sizable percentage of households also keep livestock in urban areas (30.3 percent). In urban areas, especially in Banjul, Kanifing and Brikama households keep mostly chicken and partly sheep/goats for Tabaski and other ceremonies including domestic consumption. The LGA with the highest percentage of livestock keepers is Kuntaur with 89.4 percent, followed by Janjanbureh 82.1 percent and Basse with 80.7 percent. Banjul being an urban LGA also reported livestock with 10.8 percent of households.



The majority of these livestock keeper's rear only chicken, The CFSVA 2021 found that among the livestock keepers 77.4 percent raise chicken, 53.2 percent goats, 36.8 percent sheep, 10.6 percent horses/mules, 7 percent oxen, 9.9 percent cattle, 25.8 percent donkeys and 9.9 percent ducks.

Table-14: Livestock kept by households

Category	Location	Chicken	Ducks	Goats	Sheep	Pigs	Horses/ Mules	Oxen	Donkey	Cattle	other	Total livestock
		Mean										
LGA	Banjul	3.5	0.0	0.2	1.4	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		6.0
	Kanifing	4.4	0.7	1.1	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.8	5.6	9.0
	Brikama	7.7	0.8	1.7	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	2.7	12.4
	MansaKonko	5.7	0.3	3.7	1.8	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.9	1.8	11.0	14.7
	Kerewan	6.3	0.7	3.3	1.7	0.1	0.5	0.4	1.0	4.1	18.8	18.3
	Kuntaur	5.5	0.3	4.1	2.2	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.9	2.1	10.0	16.2
	Janjanbureh	5.4	0.4	3.5	2.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.9	2.1	2.9	15.2
	Basse	8.3	0.9	4.4	3.1	0.0	0.6	0.4	1.6	3.2	2.9	22.5
Sex	Male	7.4	0.7	2.6	1.6	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.5	1.3	3.9	15.0
	Female	4.5	0.9	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	1.5	8.7
Area	Rural	6.4	0.5	3.4	2.1	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.9	2.5	3.2	16.8
	Urban	7.3	0.9	1.7	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	3.4	12.2
	Total	**7.0**	**0.7**	**2.4**	**1.5**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.5**	**1.2**	**3.3**	**14.0**

Among the livestock keepers, on average the households keep 7 chickens each. The highest number of chickens are kept in Basse (8.3), followed by Brikama (7.7) and Kerewan (6.3). The lowest number

of chickens are kept in Banjul (3.5). The 2nd highest number of animals kept by households are goats which are 2.4 each. The number of goats per household is higher in rural (3.4) compared to urban (1.7). Male headed households keep more goats (2.6) as that of females (1.5). On average the highest number of goats are kept in Basse (4.4), followed by Kuntaur (4.1) and Mansakonko (3.7). The third higher number of animals kept by households is sheep (1.5). Both rural and urban households keep sheep but the number per household is higher in rural (2.1) compared to urban (1.1). The highest number of sheep per household are raised in Basse (3.1), followed by Kuntaur and Janianbureh (2.2 each). Cattle and oxen are limited in number. On average 1.2 cattle and 0.5 oxen are kept per household. Cattle are more common in rural and among male-headed households. The highest number of cattle per household is reported in Kerewan (4.1), followed by Basse (3.2). Some of the households also keep birds, cats, dogs, pigeons, rabits and other animals.

Although, the households keep chicken and small animals like sheep/goats for the festivals and guests, but keeping these animals are part of the coping strategy. When there is a shortage of food or they need money of other basic needs, the households sell some of these heads.

Disasters in The Gambia

During unstable situations, the households experienced different kinds of shocks. Some of these shocks affect the household ability to get food and non-food needs. In order to know the types of shocks received by the households, we asked them that "Was there any shock in the last 12 months that impact your household's ability to produce and purchase sufficient food to meet your needs?". On average, 51.2 percent of the households reported at least one shock affected them during the last 12 months. The percentage of households reported shocks are higher in rural at 70.7 percent compared to 46.4 in urban. The highest percentage of households reported shocks are found in Kuntaur at 80.7 percent, followed by Basse at 71.2 percent. The percentage of people reported shocks are the same for both male-headed as well as female-headed households.

Figure-36: Shocks received by households in the past 12 months

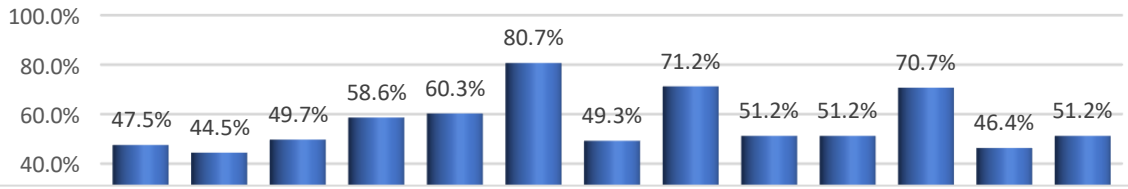
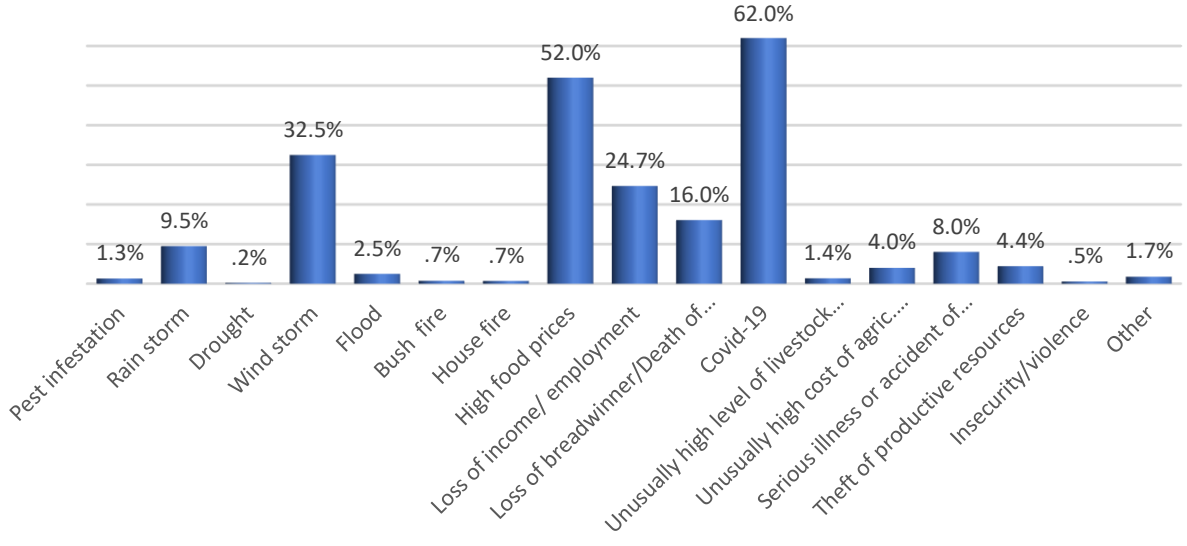
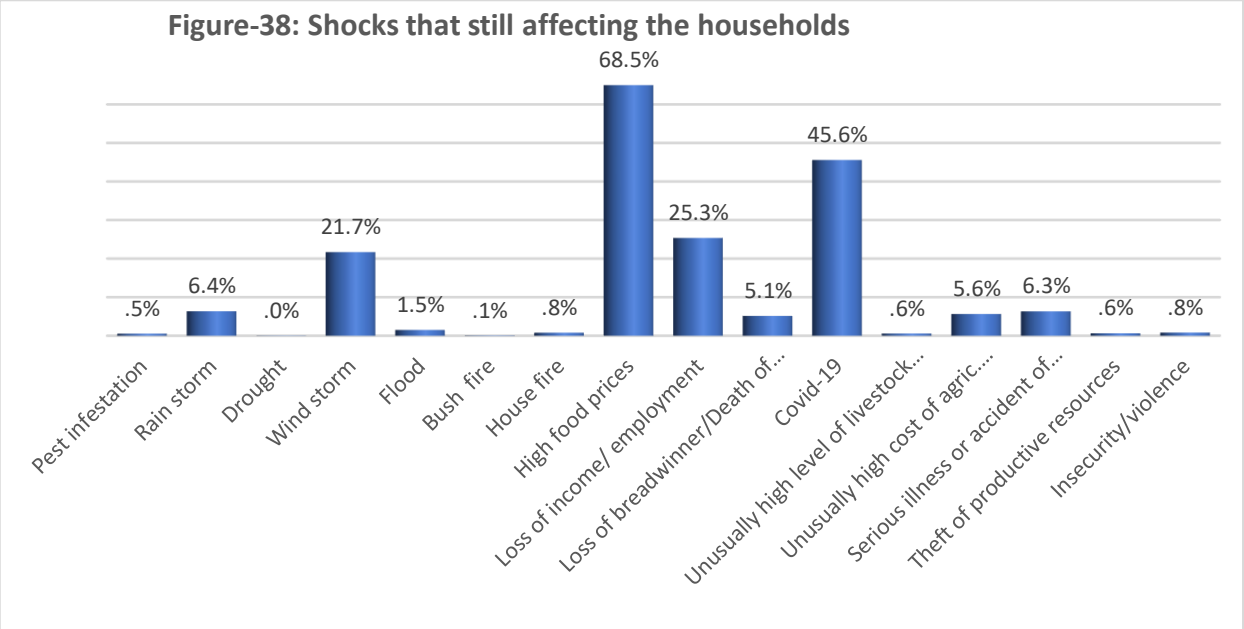


Figure-37: Type of Shocks received by households in the past 12 months



The households reported more than 16 shocks that confronted them during the year. The major shock was COVID-19 as reported by 62 percent of the households, more in rural (67 percent) compared to urban (59.1 percent) while female-headed households confronted more (64.1 percent) than male-headed (61.5 percent). High food prices were reported as the second major shock by 52 percent of households, 55.8 in rural and 49.8 percent in urban. The windstorm was also one of the significant shocks reported by 32.5 percent of the households, majority in Kerewan LGA. Overall, 26.3 percent of the households affected by shocks are recovered by now.

The shocks are still affecting the majority of households in the country both in rural as well as in urban areas. A great majority 68.5 percent reported that high food prices still prevail while 45.6 percent mentioned the impact of COVID-19 still continues.



CHAPTER 5: Food accessibility

Food access refers to a household's ability to get an adequate quantity of nutritious food to lead a healthy life through different means, such as own production or purchases at the market.

It is important to mention that the CFSVA 2021 household data collection was carried out in September, when farmers had just started harvesting maize and were waiting for rice. Thus, the purchases from markets were high as majority of the farmers were still unable to make their production-ready for consumption.

Sources of food

The Gambian diet consists mainly of cereals (rice, millet, sorghum, and corn), fish, and vegetables i.e., okra, cabbage, cassava, onions, peanuts, and black-eyed peas.

During the survey period, on average, 97.4 percent of the households were purchasing cereals from the markets mostly on cash. Even in rural areas, 93.4 percent of households were buying cereals from markets. This suggests that during the survey time, the harvest of new crop was not ready for consumption as it was just started and would need time for drying, grinding/cleaning and processing.

Table-15: Sources of cereals

Category	Location	Own production	Hunting/ fishing	Gathering	Loan	Market (purchase with cash)	Market (purchase on credit)	Hand out/Begging	Exchange for labour or items	Gifts from family friends	food aid (civil society, NGOs, government, WFP
Sex	Male	1.2%	.0%	.2%	.0%	96.3%	.9%	.1%	.1%	1.0%	.2%
	Female	1.2%	0%	.0%	0%	97.5%	.3%	.3%	0%	.6%	.1%
Area	Rural	5.0%	.0%	.1%	.1%	91.9%	1.5%	.2%	.1%	.9%	.2%
	Urban	.2%	0%	.1%	.0%	97.8%	.6%	.2%	.1%	.9%	.1%
	Total	1.2%	0%	.1%	0%	96.6%	.8%	.2%	.1%	.9%	.1%

Major foods production at household level

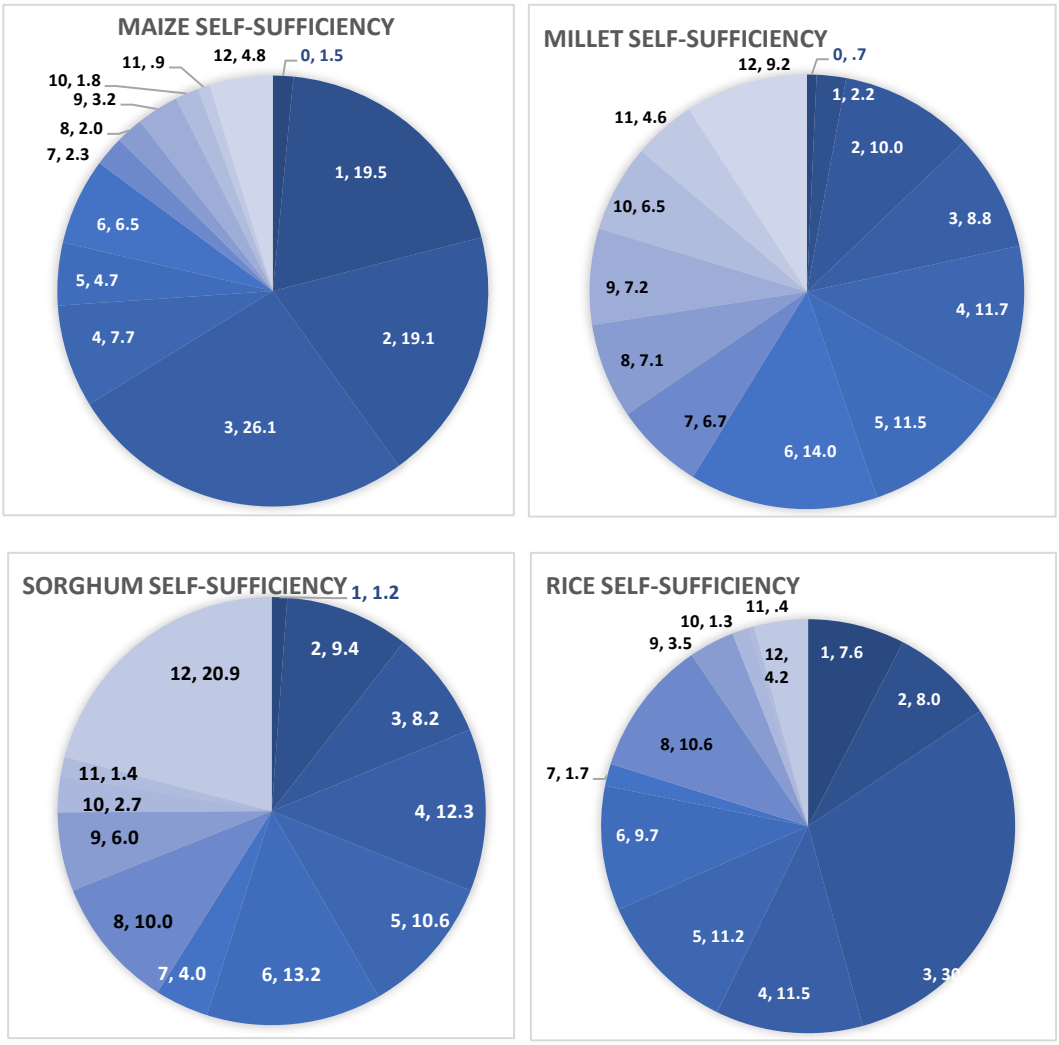
Among farmers, Maize is produced by 39.9 percent of households. The majority of these households (92 percent) produce for their own consumption, while 8 percent of them also sell in the market. The level of production varies from farmer to farmer. Among them only 4.8 percent of farmers produce sufficient to meet the requirement for whole year and may produce surplus. The majority of the farmers (66.2 percent) can produce maize only for 3 or fewer months of their consumption.

Millet is produced by 27.2 percent of farmers. Among them, 86 percent produce for their own consumption while13 percent both for consumption as well as sale. Only 9.2 percent produce sufficient millet for 12 months of consumption and can sell in the market. Nearly 59 percent of millet growing farmers produce for 6 or fewer months consumption.

Sorghum is produced by 4.5 percent of farmers. Nearly, 79 percent of them produce for their own consumption where 21 percent both for their own consumption as well as sale in the markets. Around

55 percent of sorghum producing farmers produce for 6 or fewer months consumption. Among them 20.9 percent produce sufficient for their 12 months consumption and sale in the market.

Figure-39: Food self-sufficiency



Rice is not produced on a large scale as only 10.7 percent of farmers are engaged in it. Among the rice-producing farmers, 88 percent produce only for their own consumption while 12 percent both for their own consumption as well as sale. According to consumption pattern only 4.2 percent of farmers produce sufficient to meet the consumption demand for whole year and able to sell part of it. Over 78 percent of rice-growing farmers produce for 6 or fewer months of their own consumption.

We can easily conclude that farmers sell their products to get cash for meeting other requirements irrespective of their consumption need for the year. In most cases, the farmers receive cash in advance of getting things on credit and then soon after harvest sell the products to return the loan. The majority of them start buying the same food from the market even at a higher price. That's why we witnessed a higher percentage of households buying cereals from the market.

Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)

A Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) is defined as what a household requires in order to meet basic needs, on a regular or seasonal basis, and its average cost per prevailing market rates[19].

Essential (or basic) needs are defined as the essential goods, utilities, services or resources required by households to ensure survival and minimum living standards without resorting to negative coping mechanisms or compromising their health, dignity and essential livelihoods assets[20].

The MEB is a monetary threshold based on the cost of these goods, utilities, services and resource and is conceptually equivalent to a poverty line[21]. It typically describes the cost for one month. Since the MEB sets a monetary threshold for what is needed to cover essential needs, the households whose expenditures fall below the MEB are defined as not able to meet their essential needs. As the cost of living is constantly changing, the MEB is considered a dynamic tool that will need to be updated according to financial developments.

WFP in Gambia provides multi-purpose cash to an increasing number of people each month. During 2021, WFP provided multipurpose cash to around 64027 number of people across the country.

Table-16: Minimum Expenditure Basket (per person per month)

LGA	Total MEB (GMD)	Total Food (GMD)	Total Non-food (GMD)
Banjul	2385	1245	1140
Kanifing	2209	1279	930
Brikama	1829	1097	732
Mansakonko	1367	891	476
Kerewan	1480	1019	461
Kuntaur	1293	915	378
Janjanbureh	1475	983	492
Basse	1461	975	486
National	1764	1081	683

According to the CFSVA 2021, the minimum expenditure basket in Gambia is GMD 1764, where GMD 1081 is for food and GMD 683 for non-food items. On average the minimum expenditure on food contributes to 61 percent of the MEB per person. The highest MEB is GMD 2385 in Banjul, while the highest MEB on food is GMD 1279 per person per month in Kanifing.

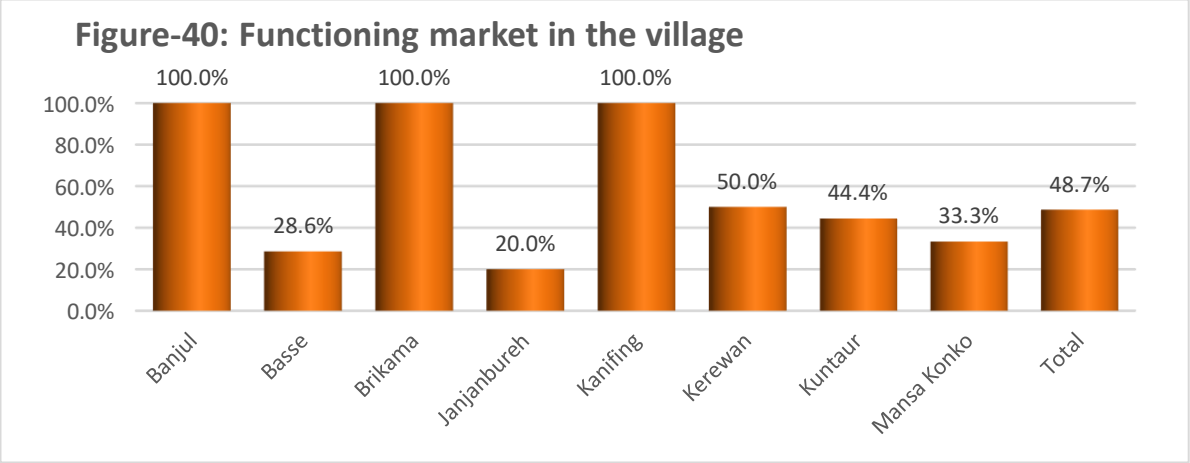
[19] UNHCR, CaLP, DRC, OCHA, Oxfam, Save the Children, WFP (December 2015). *Operational Guidance and Toolkit for Multipurpose Cash*. Part 1.2.

[20] CaLP (2018/19). Glossary of terminology for cash and voucher assistance.

[21] It is important to note that conceptually, a MEB is equivalent to a poverty line, as it describes a monetary threshold for being able to cover essential needs. It does not mean that the MEB is equivalent to the national poverty line – it just means that in terms of specifying a monetary threshold, it is conceptually the same.

Access to markets

Access to a functional market plays a significant role in the food security of households. It is important both for the sale of products by farmers as well as for consumers to buy items of daily need. In the absence of markets, farmers heavily rely on the middlemen to buy the products at a much lower price. Many farmers pay a huge amount of money on the transportation of produce to the markets far away from them.



The CFSVA 2021 found that on average, 48.7 percent of communities have a functional market within their villages. The lowest percentage of communities that have a functional market are in Janjanbureh as 20 percent, followed by Basse as 28.6 percent, MansaKonko 33.3 percent and Kerewan 50 percent.

The 51.3 percent of communities don't have functional market and travel for 6.4 km, on average, to buy or sell products including food. The travel ranges between 2 to 22 km varies from community to community. The maximum travel distance to the market was observed in Kuntaur at 12.4 km.

Table-17: Distance to the Functional Market

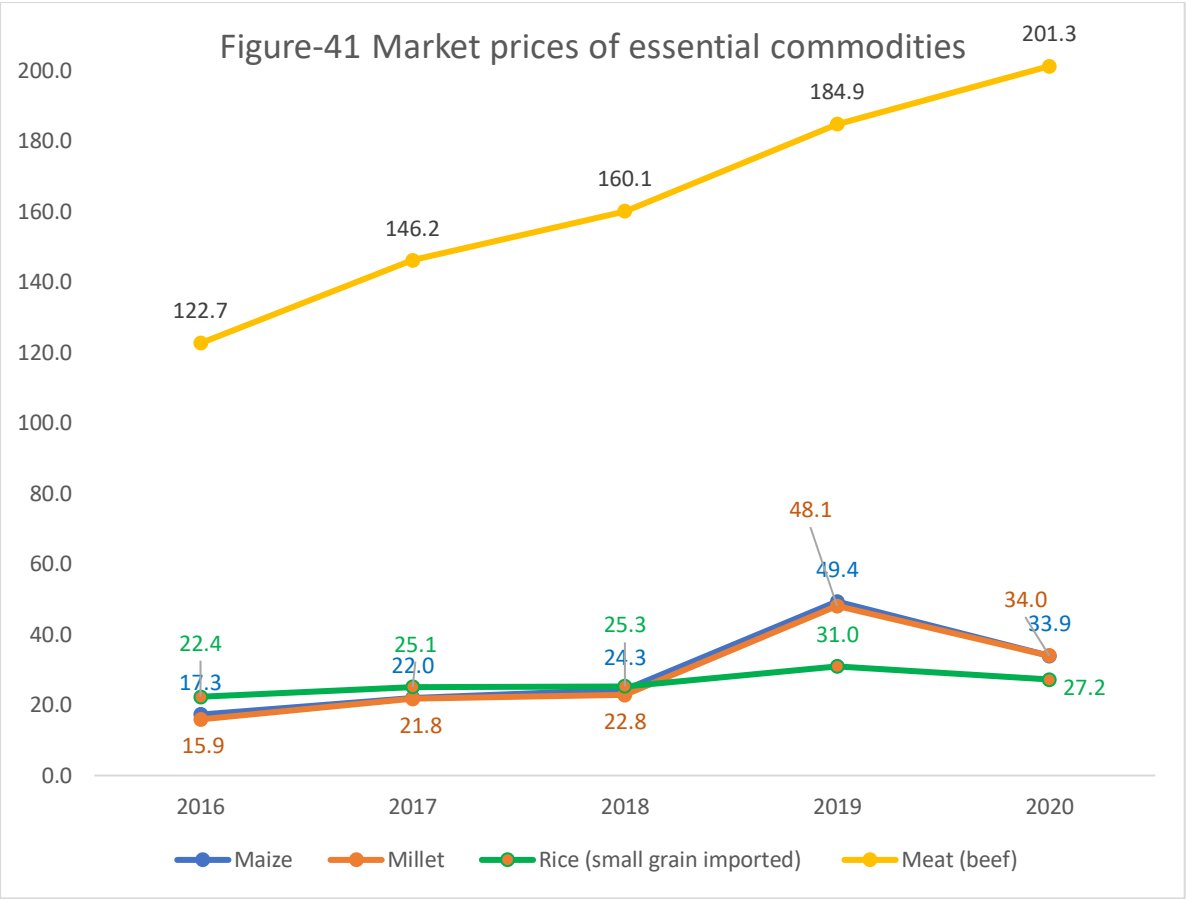
LGA	How far (in km) is the village from the nearest market?		
	Mean	Minimum	Maximum
Banjul			
Basse	6.4	3.0	12.0
Brikama			
Janjanbureh	3.3	3.0	4.0
Kanifing			
Kerewan	4.0	3.0	5.0
Kuntaur	12.4	5.0	22.0
MansaKonko	2.0	2.0	2.0
Total	**6.4**	**2.0**	**22.0**

The people have to pay for the transportation to buy food or non-food items from the market. It led to reduce the purchasing capacity of the community members, especially of poor people and compel them to buy cheaper and/or less food. Similarly, the transport cost reduces the income level of the farmers while selling the products.

The community members reported that travel to markets, price hike, no storage facilities at the market as well as at home and non-availability of certain food items in the markets are serious problems for them. Women get lower prices for the sale of their garden products. Some of them cannot find a place to sell their products in the market.

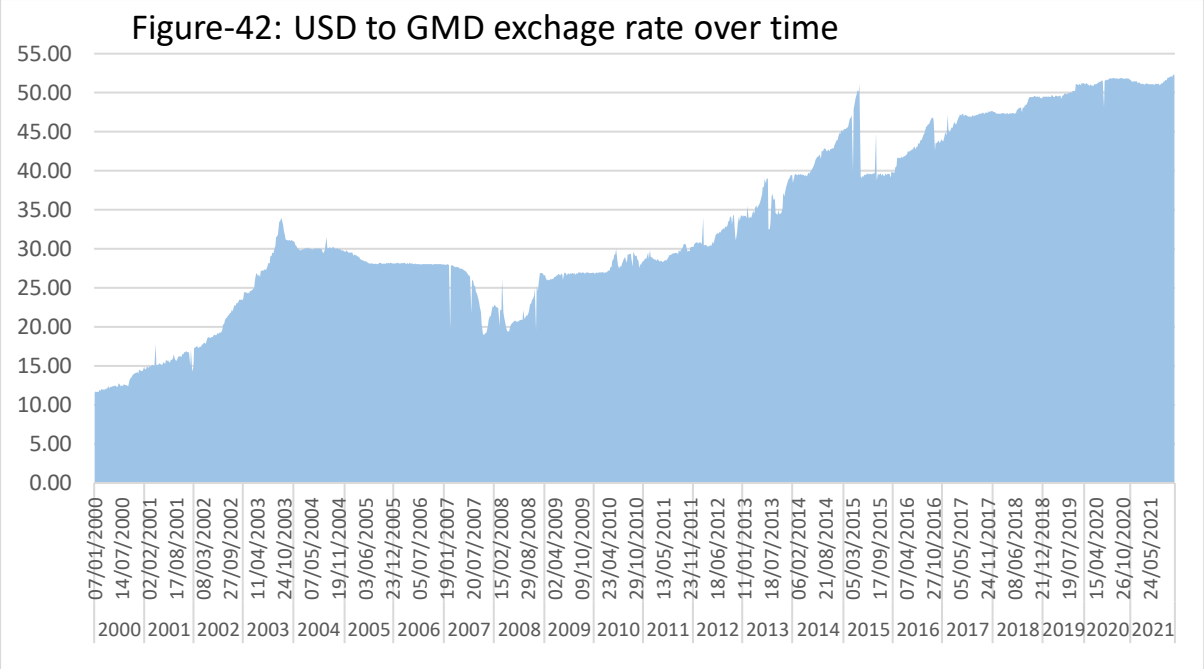
Market price trend

The prices of essential food items increased over time. Since last CFSVA (2016) the price of meat increased by 64.1 percent (from 122.7 to 201.3 GMD per kg). However, compared to 5 years average the price of meat (beef) increased by 23.5 percent. The prices of cereals jumped too high during 2019 but slightly bounced back. The price of maize increased by 96.3 percent during 2020 compared to 2016, while it increased 185.5 percent in 2019. Similarly, the price of millet increased by 113.6 percent during 2020 compared to 2016 while 202.1 percent in 2019 against the same period. The price of rice increased by 21.6 percent in 2020 against 2016. The significant increase in the market prices has impacted the purchasing power of the common people especially the urban population and vulnerable groups in the rural areas including off-farm families and others.



Source: WFP, Gambia

The exchange rate plays a significant role in the market prices of imported goods and consequently affect local production and also impact the prices in local markets. In the Gambia the USD to GMD exchange rate fluctuated over time since year 2000 and went upward. The GMD was depreciated by 352.4 percent against USD from January 2000 to November 2021, while it devalued by 33.4 percent since January 2016. The GMD depreciation affected the prices of imported items including food items like rice, oil, processed food and non-food items. Without increasing income, the people have to buy less or go for cheaper items and food in the case of price hike.



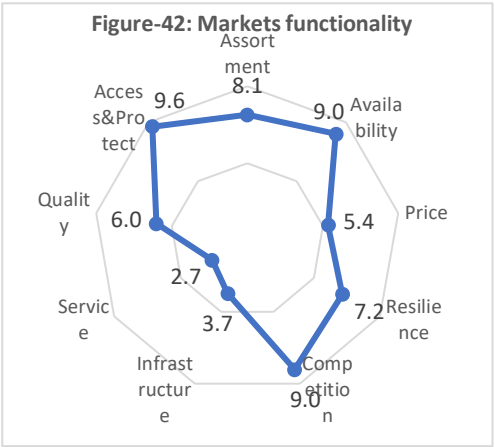
Source: Central Bank of the Gambia

Market Functionality Index (MFI)

The main purpose of the market functionality Index is to determine the functionality of market systems (cereals, non-cereal foods, and non-food items) in the country, with a focus on main food commodities, to inform the design and implementation of assistance programmes in the next 4 years. It provides recommendations on the most appropriate assistance modality regarding food assistance (cash vs. In-kind) for selected areas (i.e., identify markets with higher functionality that are generally better prepared for cash-based interventions than less functional ones).

A market function well if:

- the features influencing the behaviour of buyers and sellers are stable and predictable,
- the interactions between sellers, and between sellers and buyers are transparent, and
- supplies are sufficient, regular and predictable at affordable, stable and predictable prices



During the CFSVA 2021 market survey, the MFI showed that at the national level markets in both rural and urban setups were generally functional across the districts covered with 6 out of the 9 dimensions scoring above 6 points. The dimensions on access and protection (9.6), availability (9.0) and competition (9) scored the highest while services (2.7) and infrastructure (3.7) scored the lowest. This showed that assessed markets lacked adequate availability of services and infrastructure even in more developed markets.

The average national score for assortment was 8.1 and ranged from 6.8 in Kanifing LGA to 8.8 in Kuntaur and Kerewan. The national average score for availability was 9.0 which showed that generally commodities were available across most of the markets. The result showed that sampled markets in Basse reported the lowest score on availability at 7.5 on average. The country is likely to receive a

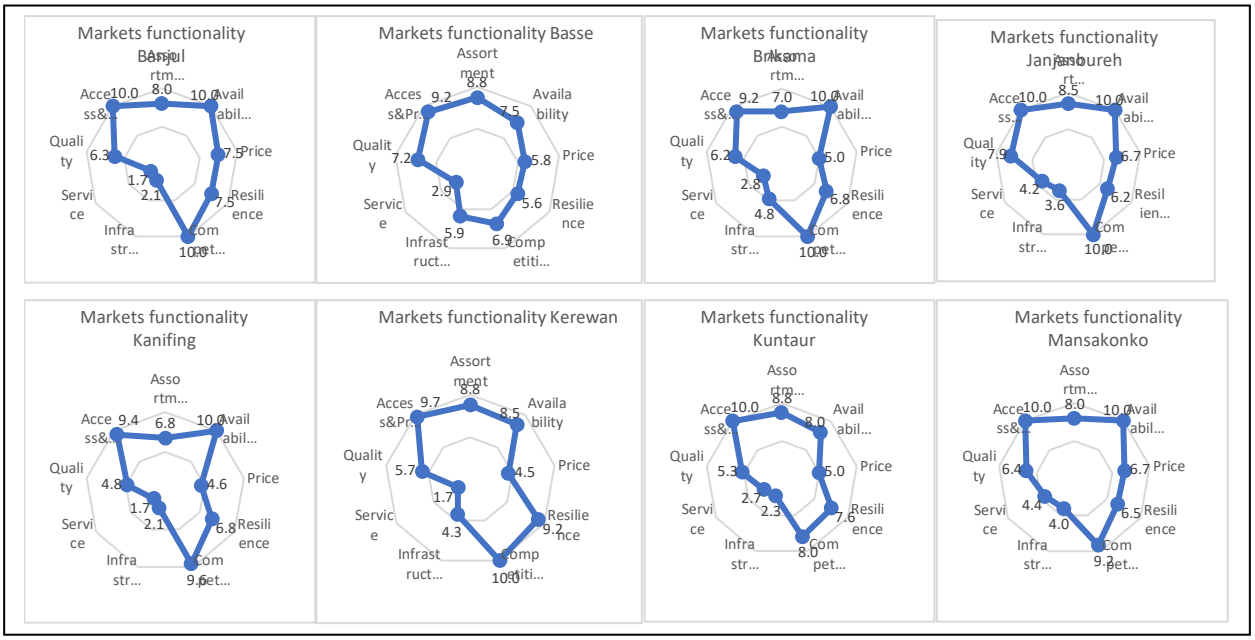
lower than typical harvest, a situation which is likely to lead to a scarcity of availability of the grains in the market.

The national score for price was 5.4, which shows that prices are not uniform in various local markets and fluctuate. The highest score was reported in Banjul at 7.5 followed by Janjanbureh and Mansakonko at 6.7 each. The lowest score was 4.5 in Kerewan. The resilience score was 7.2 on average, while the highest recorded 9.2 in Kerewan, followed by Kuntaur at 7.6 and Banjul at 7.5. The lowest resilience score was 5.6 in Basse.

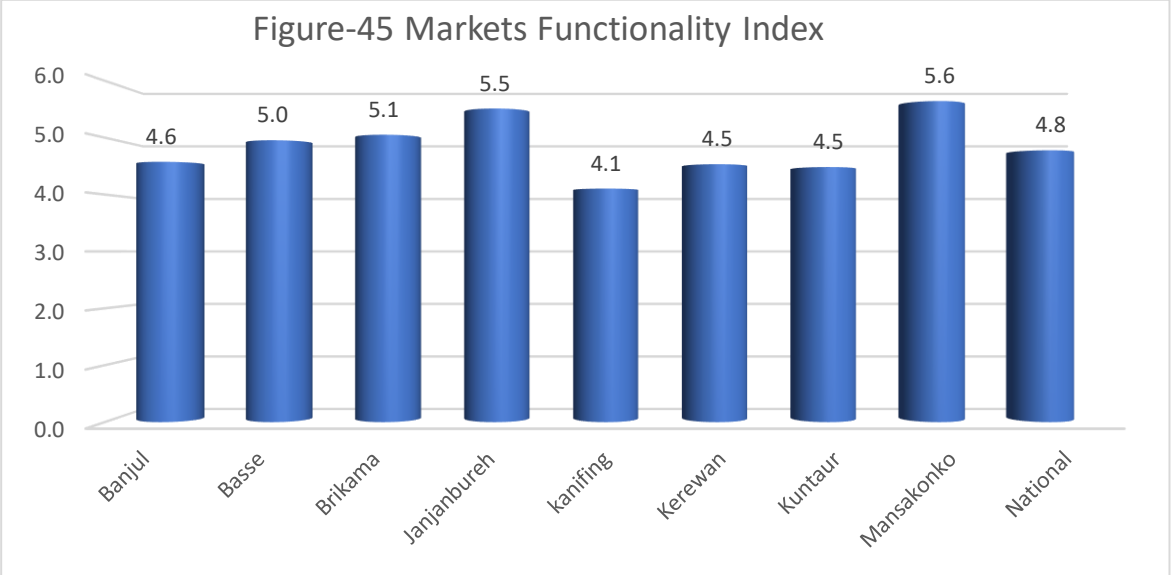
Most of the markets are competitive in the country as the competition score ranges between 6.9 and 10. All the LGAs except Basse have score 8 and above. Most of the traders in rural areas operate from temporary or weak structures with the majority in poor to medium state while some required minor maintenance issues, therefore for infrastructure features all LGAs scored between 2.1 and 5.9. The highest score was 5.9 in Basse, while lowest in Banjul and Kinifing at 2.1 each. Surprisingly, the urban LGAs markets have poor market structure compared to other LGAs. Service is another sector reported poor score of 2.7 at the national level. Mansakonko and Janjanbureh showed a reasonably better score of 4.4 and 4.2 respectively. All other LGAs had score below 3. Many shopkeepers didn't display prices for each commodity, receipts were not given and other issues.

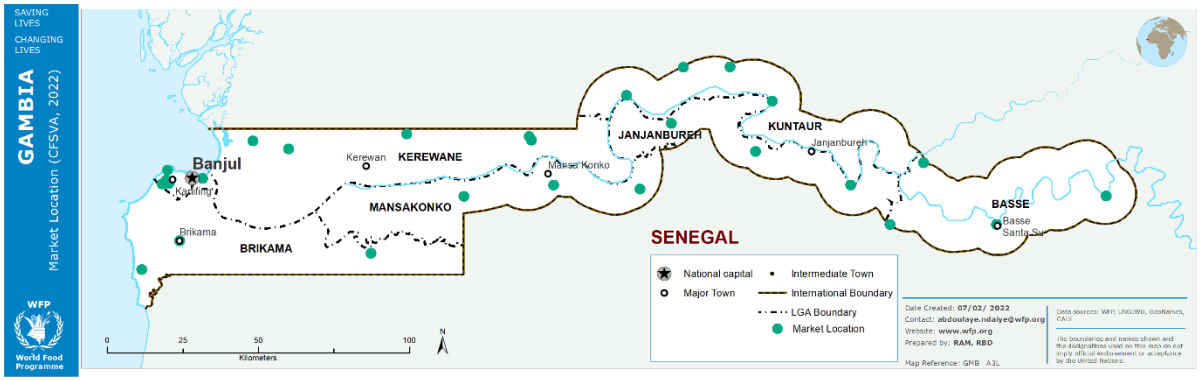
Quality of items was scored 6 on average, reasonably good. It was highest at 7.9 in Janjanbureh, followed by 7.2 in Basse. The lowest score was shown in Kanifing at 4.8. Access and protection score on average, was shown quite high at 9.6. All the LGAs score ranged between 9.2 and 10. It means that majority of markets were accessible to buyers and sellers and there were no serious protection issues in accessing markets.

Figure-44 Markets functionality at LGA level



The MFI at the national level scored 4.8. The highest score was recorded at Mansakonko, followed by Janjanbureh and Brikama. According to the MFI the LGAs of Mansakonko, Janjanbureh, Brikama and Basse are feasible for the cash programme. However, in other LGAs it should be looked market by market for the feasibility of cash programme.





Assistance

Because of various disasters and especially of COVID-19, several support programmes are operational in the Gambia in order to mitigate the impact of these disasters and help in improving access to food and consequently the food security of the people. Among these are: the school feeding programme benefited 20 percent of the households, food assistance for pregnant and lactating women (PLW) received by around 1 percent, food assistance for children under-5 served nearly 2 percent of households, general food distribution (in case of emergency) reached to around 43 percent and non-food assistance to 7 percent. A number of assistance programmes took place in the country, like assistance for windstorm affectees, nationwide food distribution, school feeding programme, World Bank/NaNA assistance and many more. The Government of the Gambia and WFP COVID-19 Food Assistance reached 42,750 households benefiting about 342,000 people across all regions of The Gambia. The windstorm response provided food and cash assistance to 31,000 disaster-affected individuals. Similarly, The Government of The Gambia and the World Bank Nafa Quick program provided emergency cash transfers to over 78,000 households.

The majority of the beneficiaries of the school feeding programme (SFP) were found in Kuntaur (59.4 percent), followed by Janjanbureh (50.5 percent) and Mansakonko (48.2 percent). The food assistance for PLW was reported by a higher percentage in Kuntaur (5.6 percent) and followed by Janjanbureh (5.2 percent). Food assistance for children under-5 was received by a higher percentage in Kuntaur

(12.0 percent) and followed by Janjanbureh (6.1 percent). The general food distribution benefited a higher percentage of households in Kerewan (67.6 percent), followed by Mansakonko (59.9 percent) and Kuntaur (54.3 percent).

The non-food items were received by a higher percentage of households in Janjanbureh (52.4 percent), followed by Kuntaur (47.6 percent) and Basse (30.2 percent).

Table-18: External assistance

Location	Category	School feeding (on-site or take-home ration)	Food assistance for pregnant and lactating women	Food Assistance for children under 5 years old (TSF/BSF)	General food distribution	Non-food assistance
LGA	Banjul	0.0%	0.0%	.3%	40.6%	2.4%
	Kanifing	3.5%	.2%	.1%	33.2%	1.6%
	Brikama	20.3%	.4%	1.3%	41.8%	1.5%
	MansaKonko	48.2%	2.9%	4.8%	59.9%	25.4%
	Kerewan	16.6%	2.8%	4.9%	67.6%	16.3%
	Kuntaur	59.4%	5.6%	12.0%	54.3%	47.6%
	Janjanbureh	50.5%	5.2%	6.1%	51.5%	52.4%
	Basse	33.8%	2.8%	4.2%	43.1%	30.2%
Sex	Male	21.6%	1.1%	2.3%	44.1%	8.2%
	Female	14.4%	.2%	.5%	37.4%	2.9%
Area	Rural	36.5%	3.3%	5.1%	54.5%	27.4%
	Urban	15.9%	.4%	1.1%	39.7%	1.9%
	Total	20.0%	.9%	1.9%	42.6%	7.0%

Assistance to vulnerable households is provided by several institutions and groups. Major assistance providers include government, UN agencies, NGOs, Faith-based organizations, community, family and friends and charity/Zakat. Government is the major assistance provider in the country. Regarding general food distribution, the Government of Gambia has supported 97 percent of the households who received the food, followed by UN agencies as 2.5 percent and NGOs 0.5 percent. UN agencies, especially WFP has assisted 25.9 percent of households who received school feeding programme, 32.7 percent of food assistance for children under-5 and 35.7 percent of food assistance for PLWs.

Table-19: Assistance provider

Type	Government	UN Agency	NGO	Faith-based organization	Community	Family/ friends	Charity/ Zakat
Food assistance for children under-5	58.8%	32.7%	14.9%	0.0%	.3%	0.0%	9.8%
Food assistance for PLWs	79.6%	35.7%	10.9%	.6%	0.0%	0.0%	.3%
General food distribution	97.0%	2.5%	.5%	.5%	.2%	.3%	1.0%
Non-food assistance	72.3%	19.9%	7.2%	2.1%	1.0%	8.7%	5.9%
School feeding for children	66.3%	25.9%	7.0%	8.1%	.5%	2.8%	1.3%

Livelihoods

Households' members undertake certain activities to earn a living. Such activities are called livelihoods. In rural areas, the predominant livelihood activity is related to agricultural sector, where most rural households directly or indirectly rely on agricultural related activities to meet their food and non-food needs. In urban areas, the major livelihood activities are salary and business based.

In order to know the status of the work/job of the household heads, the CFSVA 2021 enquired about the work they have done during the last 7 days at least for 1 hour for earning living. The result shows that 46 percent of household's heads did not work at all during the last week. The highest percentage was among the female-headed households compared to males. A worrisome figure is the higher percentage of such people in urban areas compared to rural contrary to the common understanding that people in rural areas have more tendency of being unemployed.

However, less than one-third of the reportedly jobless (31 percent) have some job or business from which he/she was absent for leave, illness, vacation, or any other such reasons for some time.

Table-20: Worked in the last 7 days for at least 1 hr

Category		No	Yes	Don't know
LGA	Banjul	29.5%	70.3%	.2%
	Kanifing	44.2%	55.7%	.1%
	Brikama	47.5%	52.3%	.2%
	MansaKonko	57.2%	42.6%	.2%
	Kerewan	51.2%	48.8%	0.0%
	Kuntaur	28.1%	71.6%	.3%
	Janjanbureh	39.0%	60.6%	.4%
	Basse	40.7%	59.0%	.2%
Sex	Male	41.8%	58.1%	.2%
	Female	60.7%	39.2%	.1%
Area	Rural	39.7%	60.1%	.2%
	Urban	47.5%	52.3%	.2%
	Total	46.0%	53.9%	.2%

Types of Livelihoods are mostly area-specific and based on the raw materials, opportunity, resources, human capacity and demand. Thus, the livelihood types vary between rural and urban areas. In The Gambia, the livelihoods related to farming are mostly adopted in rural areas, like sale of crops production (2.4 percent) and sale of cash crops (7.3 percent) . On other hand, business and service sectors jobs are more common in urban areas like self-employed- taxi, carpenter, craft (13.3 percent), self-employed- shopkeepers, traders (11.5 percent), self-employed- street vendors (4.3 percent), non-agriculture wage labour (7.2 percent), salaried employee- NGO/private (5.4 percent), salaried employed- public (11.2 percent) and Business/ entrepreneur (9.9 percent).

Table-21 Type of Livelihoods by area and gender

	Area		Sex		Total
	Rural	Urban	Male	Female	
Sale of crops production	2.4%	1.2%	2.8%	.9%	3.7%
Sale of cash crops (e.g. Groundnuts)	7.3%	.8%	7.5%	.6%	8.1%
Sale of animal/ livestock, animal produce	.2%	.2%	.5%	.0%	.5%

Fishing	.2%	.9%	1.0%	.1%	1.1%
Forest	.3%	.0%	.3%	.0%	.3%
Sand and gravel mining	.0%	1.0%	1.0%	.0%	1.0%
Agricultural wage labor (paid in kind)	.5%	.7%	.9%	.2%	1.1%
Agricultural hired labor	.2%	.6%	.7%	.1%	.8%
Non agriculture wage labor (e.g. construction workers)	1.4%	7.2%	7.8%	.8%	8.6%
Self-employed services (e.g. taxi, carpenter, crafts)	1.9%	13.3%	13.2%	2.0%	15.1%
Self-employed shopkeepers, traders	.9%	11.5%	9.1%	3.3%	12.4%
Self-employed street vendors	.7%	4.3%	2.8%	2.2%	5.0%
Salaried employee- NGO/private	.3%	5.4%	4.6%	1.1%	5.7%
Salaried employed- Public	.8%	11.2%	10.1%	1.9%	12.0%
Business/ entrepreneur	.5%	9.9%	8.1%	2.3%	10.4%
Pensions/ allowances	.1%	1.4%	1.1%	.4%	1.5%
Remittances	1.5%	7.4%	4.3%	4.6%	8.9%
Project/ NGO support	.0%	.1%	.1%	.0%	.1%
Handout/Begging	.3%	.5%	.3%	.5%	.7%
Other	.4%	2.5%	1.7%	1.2%	2.9%

Females who are heading households are more involved in income-generating activities through self-employed (traders, shopkeepers) (3.3 percent), self-employed (street vendors) (2.2 percent), remittances (4.6 percent) and business (2.3 percent).

Wealth Index-poverty[22]

The wealth index is the composite indicator of assets both productive and non-productive. Assets determine the economic status of a household as poor households have limited and cheaper assets while it grows with the increase in income. Several surveys have attempted to estimate the percentage of poor in The Gambia through various methods. The CFSVA 2021 estimated the percentage of poor (aggregate of poorest and poor) as 41.3 percent, while it was 40 percent in CFSVA 2016. The assets poverty rate in rural areas is 50.6 percent. Among LGAs, Janjanbureh has the highest percentage of assets poor (63.5 percent), followed by Kuntaur (57.2 percent) and Mansakonko (47.2 percent). The lowest percentage is in Kanifing (29 percent), followed by Kerewan (31.7 percent) and Banjul (38.5 percent).

Table-22: Wealth Index by LGA and area type

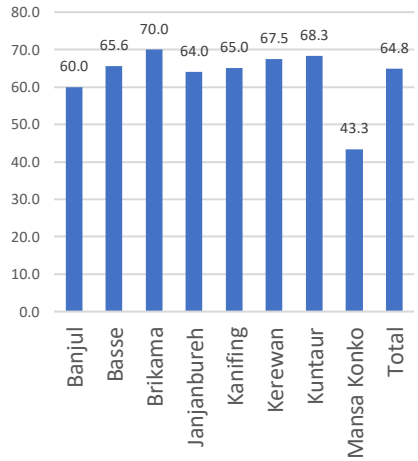
		Percentile Group of Wealth Index					
	Location	Poorest	Poor	**Total poor**	Middle	Wealthy	Wealthiest
LGA	Banjul	15.5%	23.0%	38.5%	33.0%	16.3%	12.2%
	Kanifing	12.8%	16.1%	29.0%	19.8%	23.6%	27.7%
	Brikama	23.2%	20.6%	43.7%	16.3%	20.2%	19.7%
	MansaKonko	27.5%	19.7%	47.2%	16.5%	15.5%	20.8%
	Kerewan	13.7%	18.0%	31.7%	19.3%	20.1%	29.0%

[22] The index is constructed through principal component analysis. Firstly, indicators common to urban and rural areas are used to create respective common factor scores (36 values) for each set of assets/services/facilities. Secondly, the area specific factor scores are combined to generate a national level wealth index. Finally, the index is divided into five different quintiles (lowest to highest) to determine the level of wealth of each household. Households falling into the lowest wealth quintile is the poorest in terms of their assets, services, and facilities, while those in the highest quintile are better off.

	Kuntaur	31.4%	25.8%	57.2%	13.5%	16.0%	13.3%
	Janjanbureh	38.9%	24.6%	63.5%	13.1%	13.5%	9.8%
	Basse	22.9%	19.7%	42.6%	10.2%	14.5%	32.7%
Sex	Male	21.8%	19.7%	41.5%	16.9%	20.2%	21.5%
	Female	20.5%	20.4%	40.9%	16.7%	20.1%	22.3%
Area	Rural	26.6%	24.0%	50.6%	14.6%	15.4%	19.4%
	Urban	20.2%	18.8%	39.0%	17.4%	21.3%	22.3%
	Total	21.5%	19.9%	41.3%	16.8%	20.1%	21.7%

According to community (FGDs) analysis, on average, the poor account for 64.8 percent of the total population. According to them the rate of poverty has increased over the past few years due to low production, price hike and inadequate access to markets by farmers. Due to late arrival of rains, farmers paid a great cost of sowing with poor germination and losing the crop production to a great extent. The cost of living also gone up with price increase of essential items. It also affected the labours working in agriculture and off-farm with decline in job opportunities and increase in prices.

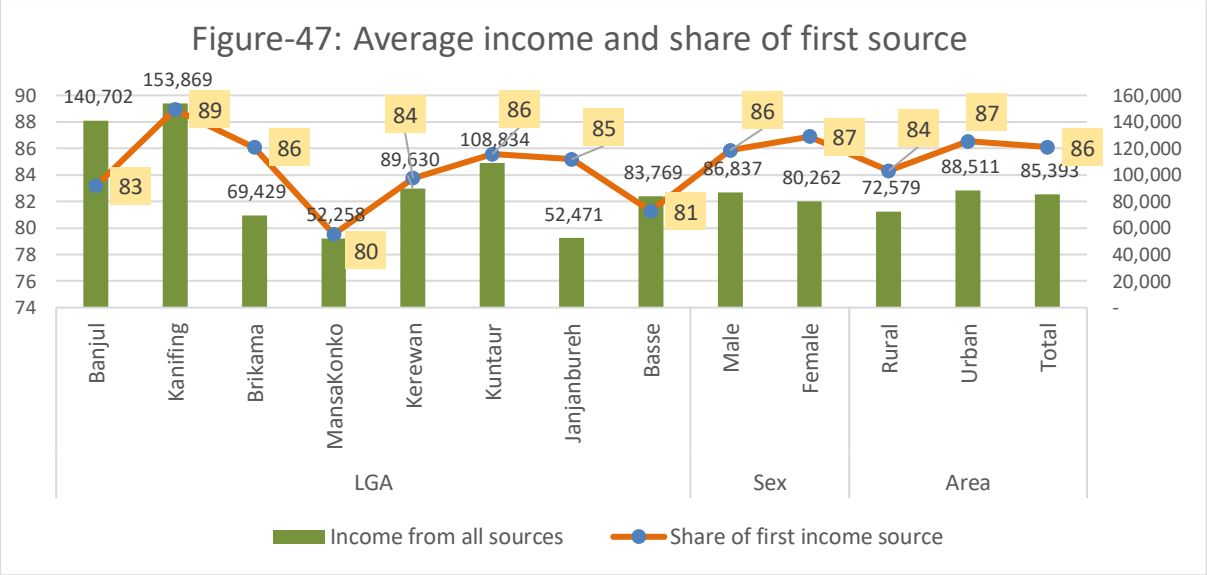
Figure-46: proportion of poor by community



Income of the households

The average annual income per household from all sources was estimated as GMD 85,393, GMD 88,511 in urban and GMD 72,579 in rural areas. The income of female-headed households was reported lower than male-headed as GMD 80,262 against GMD 86,837 per household. The lowest per household income was found in Mansakonko LGA as GMD 52,258, followed by Janjanbureh as GMD52,471. The highest income was estimated in Kanifing LGA as GMD 153,869 per household, followed by Banjul as GMD 140,702.

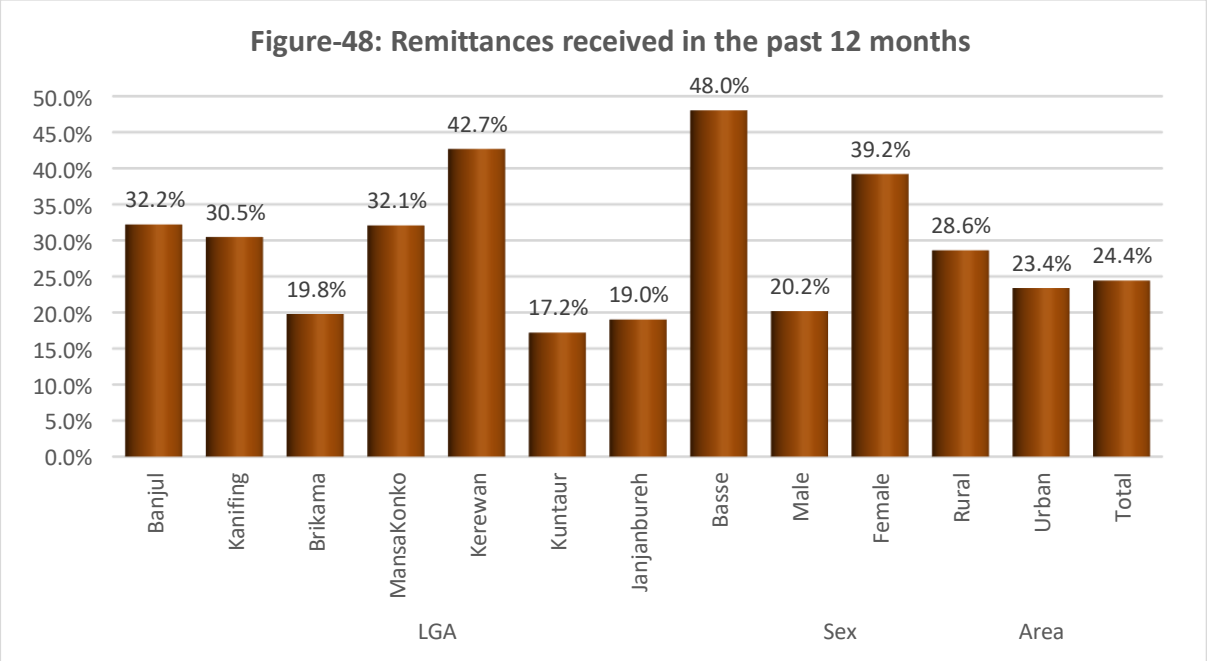
The households derive a major part of the income from the main source of income as mentioned 86 percent. In urban areas the contribution of first main source is higher at 87 percent compared to rural at 84 percent. In all the cases, the contribution of first main source of income stands for 80 percent and above. This means that the first main source is quite important for the households to keep them alive. In case of any shock or risk to the main income source, the households will have no option or coping mechanism to avoid food insecurity.



Source: CFSVA 2021 estimates

Remittances

On average, 24.4 percent of the households in the country has received remittances in the past 12 months. The highest percentage of households received remittances was in Basse (48 percent) and followed by Kerewan (42.7 percent). Female-headed households were the major beneficiaries of remittances (39.2 percent) compared to male-headed. Remittances are received by a higher percentage of households in rural compared to urban areas.



A great majority of the households reported a decline in remittances during the past 12 months. Although, 18.3 percent of the households started receiving remittances during COVID-19 and not before. Among them 11.7 percent of households reported no change in remittances while 3.7 percent reported increase. Among the households whose remittances declined the highest percentage is found in Kuntaur (81.8 percent), followed by Basse (78.2 percent) and Kanifing (76.3 percent).

Although the decline in remittances is reported by a great majority both in rural as well as urban, the percentage of such households is higher in rural compared to urban. Moreover, the female-headed households are in higher percentage whose remittances declined compared to males.

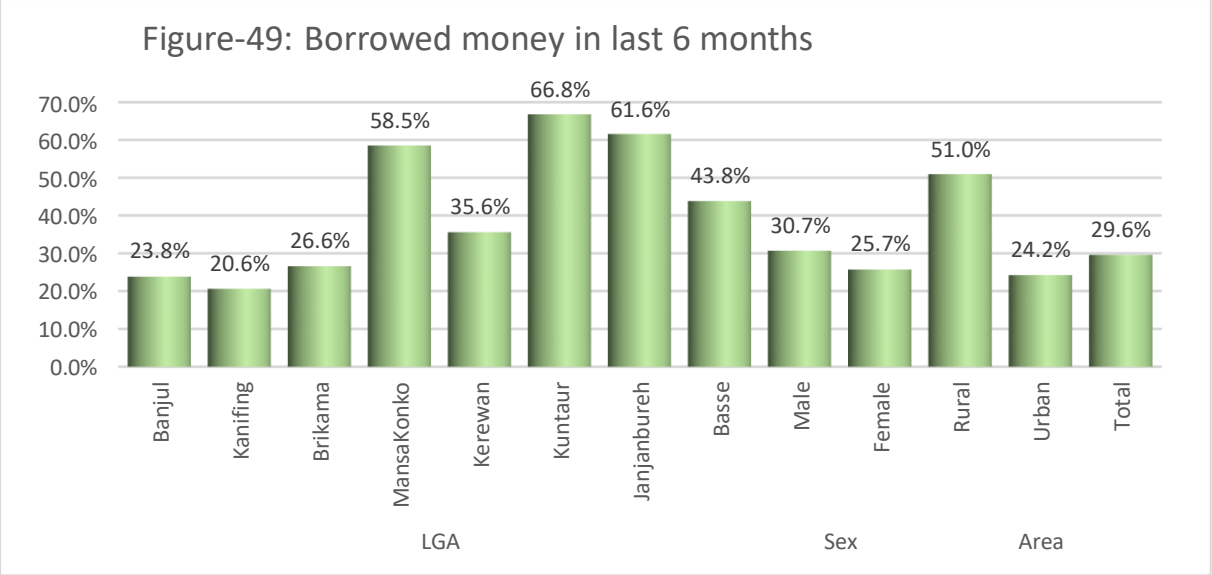
Table-23: Change in Remittances received in the past 12 months

Category	Location	Was there an increase/ decrease in the remittances received compared to the period before COVID-19?			
		Increased	Decreased	No change	No remittances before Covid
LGA/Region	Banjul	1.3%	55.6%	32.4%	10.7%
	Kanifing	3.2%	76.3%	14.9%	5.6%
	Brikama	4.3%	59.8%	8.9%	27.0%
	MansaKonko	2.0%	71.9%	21.2%	4.9%
	Kerewan	5.5%	62.0%	9.0%	23.5%
	Kuntaur	1.2%	81.8%	11.0%	6.1%
	Janjanbureh	3.1%	68.7%	25.7%	2.6%
	Basse	1.3%	78.2%	12.7%	7.8%
Sex	Male	3.1%	65.3%	11.5%	20.1%
	Female	4.8%	68.1%	12.2%	15.0%
9. Area category	Rural	3.4%	69.4%	15.3%	12.0%
	Urban	3.8%	65.4%	10.6%	20.2%
	Total	**3.7%**	**66.3%**	**11.7%**	**18.3%**

Borrowing money

Community members normally borrow money to meet their daily needs during stress. Farmers mostly borrow money till the harvest of crops to return. Borrowing money is one of the common coping strategies during economic stress. According to the CFSVA, 29.6 percent of households has borrowed money during the last 6 months. In rural areas the percentage of households borrowed money is much higher at 51 percent compared to urban at 24.2 percent. Among LGAs, Kuntaur (66.8 percent) has the highest percentage of households who borrowed money during the last 6 months, followed by Janjanbureh (61.6 percent) and Mansakonko (58.5 percent).

The analysis shows that people who belong to various livelihood groups have borrowed money, however, in rural areas and especially areas with great majority of farmers reported a higher percentage of households borrowed money.



Household borrowed money from different sources, however, family and friends were the major sources as reported by 51.7 percent, followed by Shopkeeper /Businessman /Baana bana where 21.4 percent of households borrowed money from, and credit union used by 7.1 percent. People have also used other sources to borrow money like Village Savings and Credit Association (VISACA) lend money to 17.2 percent of households in Kuntaur, money lenders to 12.3 percent in Janjanbureh and other micro-finance institutions to 5.8 percent in MansaKonko and 5.4 percent in Basse.

Table-24: Source of borrowing money

Category		What is your household's main source of borrowing in the last 6 months?									
		Family / friends in The Gambia	Family / friends outside The Gambia	Money lender	Bank	Deposit of property document for loan	Shopkeeper /Businessman /Baana bana	Credit Union	VISACA (Village Savings and Credit Association)	Other Micro-finance Institutions	Other
LGA	Banjul	59.2%	3.0%	.6%	3.3%	0.0%	28.5%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%
	Kanifing	66.9%	2.9%	1.2%	3.9%	0.0%	17.4%	4.3%	1.3%	1.1%	1.0%
	Brikama	49.2%	8.4%	1.4%	5.6%	.8%	18.3%	10.4%	1.8%	2.2%	1.8%
	MansaKonko	30.0%	2.9%	3.9%	2.7%	0.0%	42.0%	3.1%	9.2%	5.8%	.4%
	Kerewan	69.1%	0.0%	1.9%	.4%	0.0%	23.0%	4.3%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%
	Kuntaur	54.6%	2.1%	.0%	4.4%	0.0%	17.0%	.3%	17.2%	3.8%	.6%
	Janjanbureh	47.7%	1.3%	12.3%	3.0%	.4%	28.0%	1.2%	2.5%	3.0%	.5%
	Basse	38.9%	2.2%	5.8%	.9%	.2%	40.1%	2.5%	2.2%	5.4%	1.9%
Sex	Male	49.6%	5.7%	2.9%	4.2%	.4%	22.7%	7.2%	3.5%	2.5%	1.3%
	Female	60.3%	5.5%	.4%	4.9%	1.0%	15.8%	6.7%	1.5%	2.1%	1.8%
Area	Rural	52.7%	1.3%	3.8%	1.8%	.1%	29.8%	2.2%	4.9%	2.9%	.6%
	Urban	51.2%	7.9%	1.7%	5.7%	.7%	17.0%	9.7%	2.2%	2.1%	1.8%
	Total	51.7%	5.6%	2.4%	4.4%	.5%	21.4%	7.1%	3.1%	2.4%	1.4%

Several reasons have been mentioned by the households for borrowing money. The first and pressing need reported by 63.1 percent of the households was to buy food. Food is always the first priority of the households during stress and shortage of resources. Around 6 percent reported payment of school fees and 7.3 percent to buy clothes. The percentage of households borrowing money for food was

higher in rural as 77.7 percent compared to urban as 55.4 percent. The highest percentage of households borrowed money for food was reported in Kerewan (79.6 percent), followed by Kuntaur (79.5 percent) and Basse (78.5 percent). The percentage of borrowers for food was higher in female-headed households than male-headed.

Table-25: Reasons for borrowing money

Category		9.40- What was the main reason for borrowing?							
		To buy food	To cover health expenses	To pay school or education fees	To buy agricultural inputs (tools, seeds, fertilizers)	To buy or rent land	To buy clothes, shoes	To pay for ceremonies	Other
LGA	Banjul	52.2%	4.8%	6.3%	0.0%	1.9%	6.5%	3.5%	24.8 %
	Kanifing	42.5%	8.4%	4.8%	0.0%	7.1%	14.2%	4.2%	18.8 %
	Brikama	61.0%	3.2%	8.9%	1.0%	1.7%	8.1%	1.3%	14.9 %
	MansaKonko	70.0%	5.8%	.7%	6.6%	0.0%	4.2%	3.1%	9.6%
	Kerewan	79.6%	3.1%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%	1.7%	1.6%	5.3%
	Kuntaur	79.5%	4.1%	.7%	3.6%	.0%	4.3%	2.1%	5.7%
	Janjanbureh	72.5%	7.7%	.7%	7.3%	0.0%	2.2%	.7%	8.8%
	Basse	78.5%	4.5%	1.1%	2.9%	.8%	1.9%	3.1%	7.3%
Sex	Male	62.3%	4.8%	5.8%	2.6%	2.1%	7.1%	1.5%	13.9 %
	Female	66.4%	2.7%	6.4%	1.0%	1.3%	8.1%	3.8%	10.4 %
Area	Rural	77.7%	4.5%	1.8%	4.5%	.1%	3.7%	1.6%	6.1%
	Urban	55.4%	4.4%	8.0%	1.1%	2.9%	9.2%	2.1%	16.9 %
	Total	63.1%	4.4%	5.9%	2.3%	2.0%	7.3%	1.9%	13.2 %

CHAPTER 6: Food Utilization

(Health and nutrition)

Food utilization is the third pillar in Food Security Framework. Food utilization is the proper biological use of food where a portion of food provides sufficient energy, essential nutrients, hydration and includes adequate sanitation. Effective food utilization depends mainly on the knowledge and practice within the household of food storage and processing techniques, basic principles of nutrition and proper childcare.

Nutritional status of children

Malnutrition is a major public health problem and the most persisting cause of morbidity and mortality among children and adolescents throughout the world. The absence of proper and timely food is the major cause of malnutrition among children. In Gambia malnutrition is measured by various institutions through country-wide surveys like SMART-2015, MICS 2018, DHS-2019-20 and CFSVA 2021.

1. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)

Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) is the presence of both moderate and severe acute malnutrition in a population. Three main factors directly contribute to GAM: inadequate food intake (i.e., a household's food security situation), inadequate healthcare services and environmental conditions (poor sanitation), and inadequate care practices for women and children.

Two instruments have been used in CFSVA 2021 to measure the acute malnutrition of children below 5 years of age, e.g., weight for height (WHZ) and Mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC).

Wasting and overweight:

1) Severely wasted: Number of children whose weight-for-height z-score is below minus 3 (-3.0) standard deviations (SD) below the mean on the WHO Child Growth Standards (hc72 < 300)
2) Moderately wasted : Number of children whose weight-for-height z-score is between minus 2 (-2.0) and minus 3 (-3.0) standard deviations (SD) below the mean on the WHO Child Growth Standards (hc72 < -200)
3) Overweight: Number of children whose weight-for-height z-score is above plus 2 (+2.0) standard deviations (SD) above the mean on the WHO Child Growth Standards (hc72 > 200 & hc72 < 9990)
4) Mean z-score for weight for height: Sum of the z-scores of children with a non-flagged weight for height score (∑ hc72/100, if hc72 < 9990)

Per CFSVA 2021, the national prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) is 9.2 percent [95% CI: 8.5 –10.0] according to WHO 2006 standards. These results were slightly lower than those reported by the 2015 SMART survey which had a GAM prevalence of 10.3 percent [95% CI: 9.1 – 11.5].

The prevalence of global acute malnutrition of 9.2 percent GAM (-2 Z-score) with an average of (-0.67±1.07) is slightly below the 10 percent threshold of the WHO classification.

The rate of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) seems to have remained more or lower at 1.3% (2.3% in 2015); however, this rate is below the emergency threshold of 2%.

The results by region showed that the nutritional situation varied from "precarious" (GAM between 5 and 9%) to "critical/serious" (GAM between 10 and 14%). The Kuntaur (11.7%), Mansakonko (11.3%) and Basse (10.2%) regions are the three regions in a "critical" situation.

The lowest prevalence of global acute malnutrition is observed in the regions of Banjul and Kanifing, where both have a rate of respectively 5.0% and 7.0%. It implies that children in urban LGAs have lower malnutrition than in rural LGAs.

Table-26: Prevalence of acute malnutrition (global, moderate and severe) based on weight-for-height index expressed as a z-score (after exclusion of SMART flags at the strata level and WHO flags at the level of all 8 strata of the study), according to WHO 2006 standards, in children aged 6 to 59 months by region and for all 8 LGAs

		Prevalence of global acute malnutrition (<, 2 z, score and/or oedema)			Prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (<, 3 z, score and/or oedema)		
LGA	**N**	**All**	**Boys**	**Girls**	**All**	**Boys**	**Girls**
Banjul	240	**5.00%** (2.9 - 8.5)	0.90% (0.2 - 4.8)	8.70% (4.9 - 14.8)	**0.00%** (0.0 - 1.6)	0.00% (0.0 - 3.3)	0.00% (0.0 - 2.9)
Basse	913	**10.20%** (8.4 - 12.3)	11.50% (8.8 - 14.7)	8.90% (6.7 - 11.9)	**1.00%** (0.5 - 1.9)	1.50% (0.7 - 3.1)	0.40% (0.1 - 1.6)
Brikama	978	**8.20%** (6.6 - 10.1	9.50% (7.2 - 12.4)	6.80% (4.9 - 9.4)	**0.80%** (0.4 - 1.6)	0.80% (0.3 - 2.1)	(4) 0.8 % (0.3 - 2.1)
Janjanbureh	613	**9.60%** (7.5 - 12.2)	9.40% (6.6 - 13.3)	9.80% (7.0 - 13.6)	**1.00%** (0.4 - 2.1)	0.30% (0.1 - 1.9)	1.60% (0.7 - 3.6)
Kanifing	631	**7.00%** (5.2 - 9.2)	8.20% (5.7 - 11.7)	5.60% (3.5 - 8.8)	**0.30%** (0.1 - 1.1)	0.00% (0.0 - 1.2)	0.70% (0.2 - 2.4)
Kerewan	809	**8.70%** (6.9 - 10.8)	10.40% (7.8 - 13.7)	6.80% (4.7 - 9.7)	**1.20%** (0.7 - 2.3)	1.00% (0.4 - 2.5)	1.50% (0.7 - 3.3)
Kuntaur	656	**11.70%** (9.5 - 14.4)	10.00% (7.2 - 13.7)	13.50% (10.2 - 17.7)	**1.40%** (0.7 - 2.6)	1.50% (0.6 - 3.5)	1.20% (0.5 - 3.1)
Mansakonko	**480**	**11.30%** (8.7 - 14.4)	13.20% (9.5 - 18.1)	9.40% (6.3 - 13.7)	**1.50%** (0.7 - 3.0)	2.10% (0.9 - 4.9)	0.80% (0.2 - 2.9)
National	5320	**9.20%** (8.5 - 10.0)	10.30% (9.3 - 11.4)	8.20% (7.2 - 9.2)	**1.30%** (1.1 - 1.6)	1.40% (1.1 - 1.9)	1.20% (0.9 - 1.7)

The target group for MUAC measurement were children from 6-59 months (table below). MUAC is a good indicator of current nutritional status and a good predictor of mortality.

The highest prevalence of global acute malnutrition based on MUAC is observed in the regions of Banjul**,** Kuntaur, Kerewan, Janjanbureh and Mansakonko with a rate of respectively 3.3%, 6.7%,4.6%, 3.2% and 3.4%.

The LGA with the lowest prevalence of global acute malnutrition based on MUAC is Kanifing where it reported at 1.2%.

Table-27: Prevalence of acute malnutrition (global, moderate and severe) based on MUAC cut off's and/or oedema (after exclusion of SMART flags at the strata level and WHO flags at the level of all 8 strata of the study), according to WHO 2006 standards, in children aged 6 to 59 months

LGA	N	Prevalence of global malnutrition (< 125 mm and/or oedema)	Prevalence of moderate malnutrition (< 125 mm and >= 115 mm, no oedema)	Prevalence of severe malnutrition (< 115 mm and/or oedema)

		% [95% CI]	% [95% CI]	% [95% CI]
Banjul	244	**3.30%** (1.7 - 6.3)	2.90% (1.4 - 5.8)	0.40% (0.1 - 2.3)
Basse	930	**2.80%** (1.9 - 4.1)	2.00% (1.3 - 3.2)	0.80% (0.4 - 1.5)
Brikama	1028	**2.40%** (1.7 - 3.6)	1.20% (0.7 - 2.0)	1.30% (0.7 - 2.2)
Janjanbureh	619	**3.20%** (2.1 - 4.9)	2.60% (1.6 - 4.2)	0.60% (0.3 - 1.)
Kanifing	646	**1.20%** (0.6 - 2.4)	0.80% (0.3 - 1.8)	0.50% (0.2 - 1.4)
Kerewan	847	**4.60%** (3.4 - 6.2)	3.00% (2.0 - 4.3)	1.70% (1.0 - 2.8)
Kuntaur	690	**6.70%** (5.0 - 8.8)	5.40% (3.9 - 7.3)	1.30% (0.7 - 2.5)
Mansakonko	493	**3.40%** (2.2 - 5.5)	3.20% (2.0 - 5.2)	0.20% (0.0 - 1.1)
National	**5497**	**3.30%** (2.8- 3.8)	2.50% (2.1- 2.9)	0.80% (0.6- 1.1)

2. Stunting

The rate of chronic malnutrition observed in all 8 strata is 18.6%. At the LGA (state) level, prevalence varies from 10.3% in Banjul to 25.0% in the Kuntaur. According to the WHO classification, the LGA of Janjanbureh, Kerewan and Kuntaur, with respectively 20.7%, 23.1% and 25.0% are in a "precarious" situation with a prevalence above the 20% threshold. The rate of chronic malnutrition is slightly lower than MICS 2018 (**19.0%) and higher than DHS 2019-20 (17.5%).**

The Banjul, Brikama, Kanifing, and Mansakonko with respectively 10.3%, 17.0%, 11.7%, 17.8%, i.e., below the 20% threshold, are in an "acceptable" situation.

Table-28: Prevalence of chronic malnutrition (global and severe) based on height-for-age index expressed as a z-score (after exclusion of SMART flags at the strata level and WHO flags at the national level), according to WHO 2006 standards, among children aged 0-59 months by region and for all 8 LGAs

LGA	N	Prevalence of stunting (<-2 z-score)	Prevalence of severe stunting (<-3 z-score)
		% [95% CI]	% [95% CI]
Banjul	232	10.3% (7.1-14.9)	0.9% (0.2- 3.1)
Basse	892	21.5% (19.0-24.3)	3.8% (2.7- 5.3 95%)
Brikama	973	17% (14.7-19.4)	2.2% (1.4- 3.3)
Janjanbureh	603	20.7% (17.7-24.1)	2.7% (1.6- 4.3)
Kanifing	615	11.7% (9.4-14.5)	1.8% (1.0- 3.2)

Kerewan	791	23.1% (20.3-26.2)	4.7% (3.4- 6.4 9)
Kuntaur	659	25% (21.9-28.5)	4.9% (3.5- 6.8)
Mansakonko	498	17.8% (14.6-21.5)	2.9% (1.8- 4.9)
National	5428	18.6% (17.7 - 19.6)	4% (3.5 - 4.5)

3. Underweight

The prevalence of underweight observed nationally is 16.8%. At the LGA level, prevalence varies from 10.3% in Banjul to 23.3% in Kuntaur. According to the WHO classification, only the LGAs of Kerewan (21.6%) and Kuntaur (23.3%) exceed the "critical" threshold with prevalence above 20%.

All the other LGAs have a prevalence of underweight between 10 and 20% and are therefore in a "precarious" situation, except for the Banjul City Council, which, as for chronic malnutrition, is in a precarious situation (10.3%). The national level prevalence is higher than both MICS 2018 (13.9 percent) and DHS 2019-20 (12 percent).

Table-29: Prevalence of underweight (overall and severe) based on weight-for-age index expressed as a z-score (after exclusion of SMART flags at the strata level and WHO flags at the national level), according to WHO 2006 standards, in children aged 0-59 months by region and for all 8 LGAs

LGA	N	Prevalence of underweight (<-2 z-score)	Prevalence of severe underweight (<-3 z-score)
		% [95% CI]	% [95% CI]
Banjul	242	**10.3% (7.1-14.8)**	**1.2% (0.4- 3.6)**
Basse	914	**18.8% (16.4-21.5)**	**4.3% (3.1- 5.8)**
Brikama	1002	**15.6% (13.5-17.9)**	**1.8% (1.1- 2.8)**
Janjanbureh	614	**19.5% (16.6-22.9)**	**4.2% (2.9- 6.1)**
Kanifing	638	**10.5% (8.4-13.1)**	**1.6% (0.9- 2.9)**
Kerewan	842	**21.6% (19.0-24.5)**	**4.8% (3.5- 6.4)**
Kuntaur	679	**23.3% (20.2-26.6)**	**4.7% (3.4- 6.6)**
Mansakonko	489	**19.0% (15.8-22.7)**	**3.3% (2.0- 5.2)**
National	5420	**16.8% (15.8 - 17.7)**	**3.4% (2.9 - 3.8)**

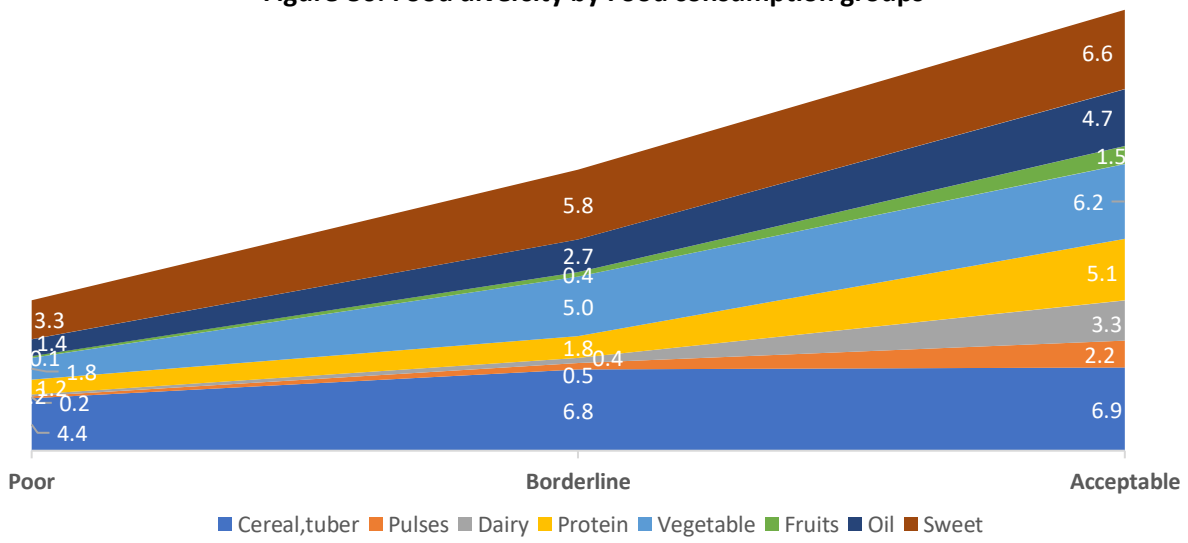
Food diversity

The food diversity of the people is analysed with respect to their food consumption. Rice is the main staple food among cereals and is consumed alike by rich and poor households almost every day.

The poor food consumption group consumed only cereals and tubers for 4-5 days a week and sugar/sweets for 3-4 days, while vegetables for around 2 days. They were not able to consume dairy, fruits, and pulses. The borderline group have better food diversity but is still not able to consume the important food groups like fruits, pulses and inadequate protein.

For better health, consuming all 8 food groups for an adequate number of days every week is important. Unfortunately, the consumption of important food groups is uncommon in the Gambia and mostly depends on the purchasing power of the household. Keeping in view the low-income levels and increasing market prices, many households cannot afford a diverse diet on regular basis. This has consequences for nutritional wellbeing of people classified as food insecure, and especially among vulnerable groups, such as pregnant and lactating women and children under five years of age.

Figure-50: Food diversity by Food consumption groups



Consumption of food rich in vitamin A, protein and iron

Micronutrient deficiency diseases (MNDs) which include iron deficiency and vitamin A deficiency are reported in all the LGAs in the country. Micronutrient deficiencies are caused by a number of factors, like, eating habits, food preferences, Poverty, lack of access to a variety of micronutrient-rich foods, cooking methods that do not conserve micronutrient, lack of knowledge of optimal dietary practices, and high incidence of infectious diseases.

In the country, on average, 6.5 percent of households did not consume foods rich in vitamin A, while 26.2 percent consumed sometime in the seven days before the survey, and 16.8 percent did not consume foods rich in iron, where 40.2 percent consumed some time.

The households in rural areas were less likely to consume food with vitamin A as 57.7 percent consumed daily while 69.7% in urban areas. Among the provinces, the low level of vitamin A consumed on daily basis was in Janjanbureh by 47.7 percent of households followed by Kuntaur as 54.4 percent.

Iron enrich food consumed by a low percentage of households on daily basis was found in Janjanbureh as 9.8 percent, followed by Kuntaur as 16.6 percent and Mansakonko as 24.9 percent.

Table-30: Micronutrients and proteins intake

Category	Location	FG_VitA Category			FG_Protein Category			FG_Iron Category		
		never consumed	consumed sometimes	consumed at least daily	never consumed	consumed sometimes	consumed at least daily	never consumed	consumed sometimes	consumed at least daily
LGA	Banjul	2.7%	15.9%	81.3%	1.2%	11.1%	87.7%	7.0%	35.9%	57.0%
	Kanifing	2.1%	23.1%	74.7%	1.0%	8.5%	90.5%	3.1%	43.7%	53.2%
	Brikama	8.0%	26.1%	65.9%	8.9%	25.8%	65.3%	24.5%	32.7%	42.8%
	MansaKonko	4.1%	21.3%	74.5%	2.3%	27.6%	70.1%	4.0%	71.1%	24.9%
	Kerewan	2.3%	23.4%	74.3%	1.2%	22.3%	76.5%	3.8%	58.2%	38.0%
	Kuntaur	8.9%	36.7%	54.4%	5.8%	38.0%	56.2%	10.1%	73.3%	16.6%
	Janjanbureh	7.8%	44.5%	47.7%	4.2%	49.4%	46.5%	6.0%	84.3%	9.8%
	Basse	7.3%	28.5%	64.2%	2.4%	22.5%	75.1%	4.2%	51.2%	44.5%
Sex	Male	6.3%	26.9%	66.8%	5.9%	23.3%	70.8%	16.9%	40.3%	42.8%
	Female	7.2%	23.7%	69.2%	7.5%	23.1%	69.3%	16.6%	39.9%	43.5%
Area	Rural	9.2%	33.2%	57.7%	6.8%	33.1%	60.1%	21.5%	54.5%	24.0%
	Urban	5.8%	24.5%	69.7%	6.2%	20.8%	73.1%	15.7%	36.8%	47.4%
	Total	6.5%	26.2%	67.3%	6.3%	23.2%	70.5%	16.8%	40.2%	42.9%

A high proportion of households never consuming iron-rich foods were found in Brikama (24.5 percent), followed by Kuntaur (10.1 percent). The non-consumption of iron-rich food is a cause of great concern across the country. Iron deficiency (anaemia) is very likely, contribute to health implications, especially for pregnant women and children. The 2019-20 Gambia Demography and Health Survey (DHS) showed that 45% of children aged 6-59 months and 44% of women aged 15-49 are anaemic.

Around 71 percent of the households consume protein enriched food on daily basis. In rural areas, fewer people consume more protein on daily basis than in urban areas. The same is for some LGAs like Janjanbureh where only 46.5 percent of households consume protein enriched food on daily basis.

Protein deficiency is another serious issue in The Gambia. Protein deficiency cause swelling (also called oedema), especially in abdomen, legs, feet, and hands; brittle or thinning hair; dry and flaky skin; deep ridges on fingernails; loss of muscle mass and stress and tiredness.

Household dietary diversity score

The household dietary diversity score measures the number of food groups consumed by households during the 24 hours prior to the survey. During CFSVA 2021 total of 8 food groups consumed by the people in The Gambia have been assessed. Among these, food from 5 & above food groups are consumed by 44.8 percent of the population more in urban (46.2 percent) compared to rural (39 percent). There is no significant difference between male and female-headed households regarding consumption of 5 & above food groups. The highest percentage of 5 & above food groups consumption is found in Kerewan LGA (61.6 percent), followed by Kanifing (57.2 percent). Majority of the people (53.4 percent) consumed 2-4 groups of food in the last 24 hours of the interview date.

Table-31: Households Dietary Diversity Scale (HDDS)

Category	Location	HDDS group				
		0-1	2	3	4	5 & above

LGA	Banjul	1.5%	5.6%	11.4%	26.6%	54.9%
	Kanifing	.1%	3.5%	14.0%	25.2%	57.2%
	Brikama	2.5%	7.9%	21.6%	26.5%	41.6%
	MansaKonko	.5%	8.0%	22.3%	32.5%	36.7%
	Kerewan	.6%	1.6%	10.5%	25.7%	61.6%
	Kuntaur	4.9%	8.8%	24.8%	28.3%	33.2%
	Janjanbureh	.5%	7.1%	22.3%	31.0%	39.1%
	Basse	.4%	9.6%	26.3%	33.9%	29.8%
Sex	Male	2.0%	6.4%	19.8%	27.1%	44.7%
	Female	1.2%	7.9%	20.1%	25.8%	45.1%
Area	Rural	1.1%	7.8%	22.9%	29.1%	39.0%
	Urban	2.0%	6.5%	19.1%	26.2%	46.2%
Total		1.8%	6.8%	19.8%	26.8%	44.8%

Cooking facilities

The types of cooking stoves are normally used according to the type of fuel available in the area, but also determine the status of poverty. In rural areas the "three stone" stove is commonly used, which is the cheapest and feasible for majority but also suitable for burning woods for cooking. However, these types of stoves are not environment friendly and uneconomical with emitting too much smoke and unburnt particles. The households in urban areas opt for better stoves with little or no emote and with better burning capacity.

Table-32: Type of cooking stove used

		In your household, what type of cookstove is mainly used for cooking?								
Category	Location	Electric stove	Liquefied petroleum gas (lpg)/ cooking gas stove	Piped natural gas stove	Biogas stove	Liquid fuel stove	Manufactured solid fuel stove	Traditional solid fuel stove	Three stone stove / open fire	No food cooked in household
LGA	Banjul	.3%	3.9%	0.0%	1.7%	1.0%	55.4%	30.0%	3.6%	4.2%
	Kanifing	.1%	5.0%	.7%	2.0%	.4%	45.5%	31.3%	12.1%	2.8%
	Brikama	.2%	1.2%	.5%	.8%	.4%	37.7%	14.6%	38.6%	5.9%
	MansaKonko	0.0%	.3%	0.0%	.1%	0.0%	2.7%	7.2%	87.9%	1.8%
	Kerewan	0.0%	.7%	0.0%	.2%	0.0%	5.3%	13.2%	79.8%	.8%
	Kuntaur	0.0%	.8%	0.0%	.0%	0.0%	2.1%	21.9%	74.7%	.5%
	Janjanbureh	0.0%	.4%	.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	1.6%	95.2%	.7%
	Basse	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	.3%	0.0%	3.1%	4.6%	91.7%	.3%
Sex	Male	.1%	1.6%	.5%	.8%	.1%	32.2%	15.6%	44.7%	4.5%
	Female	.5%	2.5%	.5%	1.4%	1.2%	37.2%	22.0%	30.6%	4.1%
Area	Rural	0.0%	.2%	.0%	.6%	0.0%	2.5%	11.3%	84.1%	1.3%
	Urban	.2%	2.2%	.6%	1.0%	.4%	41.0%	18.5%	30.9%	5.2%
	Total	.2%	1.8%	.5%	.9%	.3%	33.3%	17.0%	41.6%	4.4%

Per CFSVA 2021, 41.6 percent of households use the "three-stone" stoves, 33 percent "manufactured solid fuel" stoves and 17 percent "traditional solid fuel" stove. The "gas (LPG)/ cooking gas" stove is used by 1.8 percent. The Use of other types of stoves is insignificant. The highest percentage of

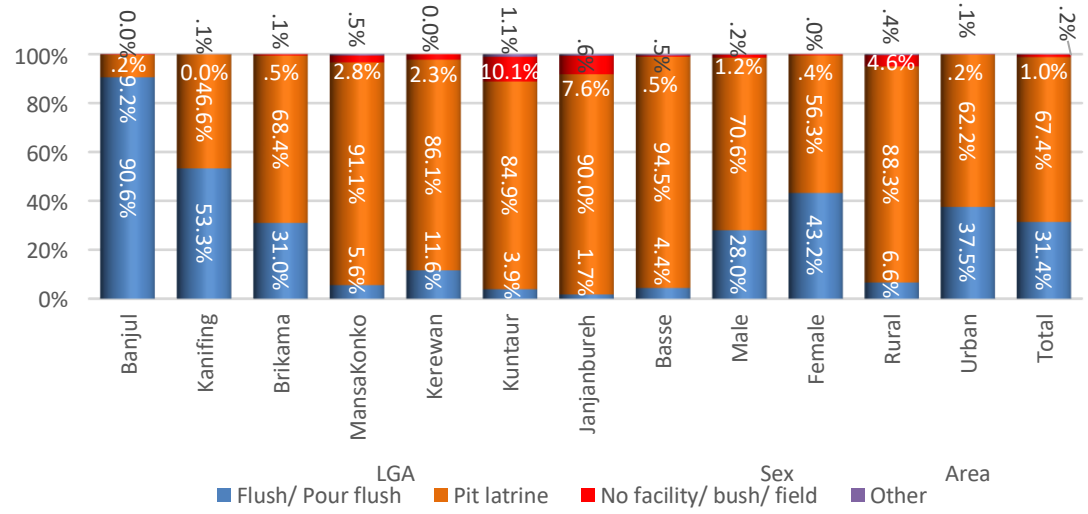
households (95.2 percent) using three-stone stoves were found in Janjanbureh, followed by Basse (91.7 percent) and Mansakonko (87.9 percent).

In urban areas the majority of the households are using "manufactured solid fuel" stoves (41 percent) and Traditional solid fuel stoves (18.5 percent). However, a great number of households (30.9 percent) also use "three-stone" stoves in urban areas.

Access to sanitation

The poor personal hygiene and unsafe management of human excreta are closely associated with diarrhoea as well as parasitic infections, such as soil-transmitted helminths (worms). Thus, proper sanitation is of utmost importance for good health and resultantly for better food security. In the Gambia, only 31.4 percent of the households are using flush latrines, while a great majority use pit latrines for defecation. In rural areas 4.6 percent of households have no latrine and go to bush/field for the purpose. The percentage of households with no latrine is more in Kuntaur LGA as 10.1 percent, followed by Janjanbureh as 7.6 percent. Overall, one percent of households have no latrine, which is the same reported by MICS 2018.

Figure-51: Types of sanitation facilities used by households



According to UNICEF, nearly 60 percent of deaths due to diarrhoea worldwide are attributable to unsafe drinking water and poor hygiene and sanitation. Handwashing with soap alone can cut the risk of diarrhoea by at least 40 percent, while significantly lowering the risk of respiratory infections. Clean home environments and good hygiene are important for preventing the spread of both pneumonia and diarrhoea, and safe drinking water and proper disposal of human waste, including child faeces, are vital to stopping the spread of diarrhoeal disease among children and adults[23].

Every 20 seconds a child dies from contaminated drinking water. Overall, more people die because of unclean drinking water than through wars and armed conflicts.

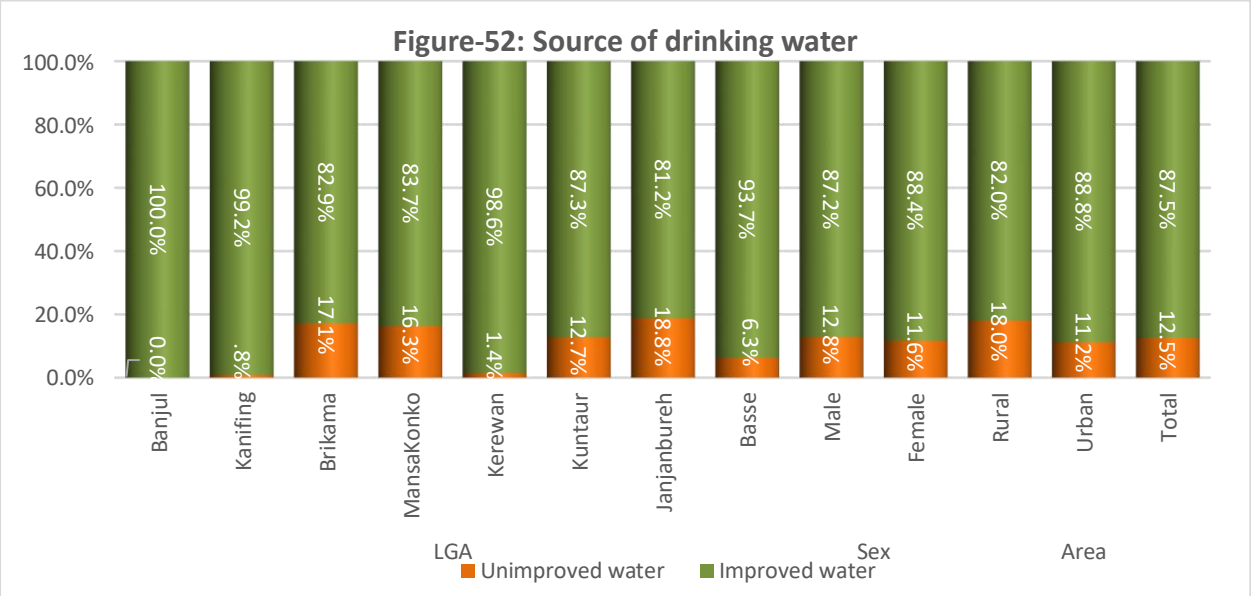
DAKIE International e.V.

[23] UNICEF. *One is Too Many: Ending Child Deaths from Pneumonia and Diarrhoea.* New York: UNICEF, 2016. https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/UNICEF-Pneumonia-Diarrhoea-report2016-web-version.pdf.

Access to safe drinking water

The poor quality of dirty water, often collected in ponds, causes transmissible diseases such as diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid and cholera. More than 400 million school days are missed each year due to diseases related to unclean drinking water[24].

In the Gambia 12.5 percent of households using unimproved water sources for drinking water. The percentage of such households is higher in rural as 18 percent compared to urban as 11.2 percent.



The Demography and Health Survey (DHS) of Gambia 2019-20 reported 5.1 percent of households used unimproved sources of water.

Among LGAs the highest percentage of households using unimproved water for drinking is in Janjanbureh (18.8 percent), followed by Brikama (17.1 percent) and Mansakonko (16.3 percent).

Table-33: Minimum acceptable diet for children

Age in months		Minimum Acceptable Diet		Total
		Does not meet MAD	Meets MAD	
6-11 months	Count	714	32	746
	% within Age	95.70%	4.30%	100%
12-17 months	Count	432	43	475
	% within Age	90.90%	9.10%	100%
18-23 months	Count	496	54	550
	% within Age	90.20%	9.80%	100%
Total	Count	1642	129	1771
	% within Age	92.70%	7.30%	100%

[24] DAKIE International e.V.

Infant and young child feeding practices

The Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) for children 6-23 months old, is one of eight core indicators for assessing infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices developed by the WHO and finalized at the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Consensus Meeting on Indicators of Infant and Young Child Feeding in 2007. These eight indicators were developed to provide simple, valid, and reliable metrics for assessing the many aspects of IYCF that are of interest at the population level (WHO, 2008). Besides MAD, the other seven indicators are early initiation of breastfeeding; exclusive breastfeeding under 6 months; continued breastfeeding at 1 year; introduction of solid, semi-solid, or soft foods; minimum dietary diversity; minimum meal frequency; and consumption of iron-rich or iron-fortified foods.

The MAD indicator is a composite indicator of the Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) and Minimum Meal Frequency. According to CFSVA 2021, among children of 6-23 months old, only 7.3 percent meet the MAD criteria. In the 6-11 months age group only 4.3 percent meet the MAD, in the 12-17 months group 9.1 percent and in 18-23 months age group 9.8 percent. It implies that children, in general, don't have proper food for their growth and healthy development. The younger age group is more critical in this regard.

Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) for Women

FAO has developed the MDD-W indicator as a food-based indicator for measuring dietary diversity and micronutrient adequacy, key dimensions of diet quality of women of reproductive age. This is a qualitative indicator that measures the proportion of women 15-49 years of age who consume food items (at least 15g) from at least five out of the ten defined food groups the previous day or night. This estimation is associated with a higher probability of nutrient adequacy for 11 micronutrients. Since the indicator's launch in 2015, 55 countries have collected MDD-W data: 11 at national level and 44 at the subnational level for research or impact evaluation.

Table-34: Minimum Meal Frequency for children

Age in months		Minimum Meal Frequency		Total
		Does not meet Min Meal Frequency	Meets Min Meal Frequency	
6-11 months	Count	581	165	746
	% Within	77.9%	22.1%	100%
12-17 months	Count	380	95	475
	% Within	80.0%	20.0%	100%
18-23 months	Count	430	120	550
	% Within	78.2%	21.8%	100%
Total	Count	1391	380	1771
	% Within	78.5%	21.5%	100%

According to CFSVA 2021, at the country level, 52.2 percent of women 15-49 years of age meets the MDD criteria. The highest percentage of women meeting the MDD is found in Kanifing (75.1 percent), followed by Banjul (67.8 percent) and Kerewan (58.9 percent). A significant percentage of women of 15-49 years of age don't have food diversity, especially in the rural LGAs, It is mostly because of financial constraints but also partly due to inadequate awareness and traditional food habits. There is a need for awareness campaigns, especially in the less educated communities about food diversity for everybody and especially for women of reproductive age.

Table-35: Minimum dietary diversity for women

			Minimum dietary diversity		Total
			Does not meet MDD	Meets MDD	
LGA	Banjul	Count	28	59	87
		% within LGA	32.20%	67.80%	100.00%
	Basse	Count	115	100	215
		% within LGA	53.50%	46.50%	100.00%
	Brikama	Count	147	184	331
		% within LGA	44.40%	55.60%	100.00%

	Janjanbureh	Count	122	61	183
		% within LGA	66.70%	33.30%	100.00%
	Kanifing	Count	51	154	205
		% within LGA	24.90%	75.10%	100.00%
	kerewan	Count	90	129	219
		% within LGA	41.10%	58.90%	100.00%
	Kuntaur	Count	117	81	198
		% within LGA	59.10%	40.90%	100.00%
	Mansa Konko	Count	84	55	139
		% within LGA	60.40%	39.60%	100.00%
Total		**Count**	**754**	**823**	**1577**
		% within LGA	**47.80%**	**52.20%**	**100.00%**

CHAPTER 7: Effects of COVID-19

Introduction

COVID-19 is a global pandemic that affected most of the countries around the globe. So far, till now more than 52.5 million people have directly been affected, while more than 885,000 died worldwide. Like other countries, Gambia was also affected by COVID-19. The first case of COVID-19 was reported on 17 March and received treatment at MRC Unit in Fajara. In the aftermath the government of The Gambia announced lockdown in the country. By October 2021, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases were 9,973 while the death toll rose to 341. By now the total cases reached to 11880 with 364 deaths (06 Feb 2022). Part of measures, the Government declared a state of emergency, ordering places of worship and non-essential businesses, prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people, and limiting passengers on public transportation. Consequently, tourism went down, many restaurants and hotels were closed, with only a few hotels remaining open for tourists stranded by travel restrictions. People involved in businesses, markets and jobs got a significant setback and economic loss.

Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 impacted a wide majority of people both directly as well as indirectly. According to CFSVA 2021, The income of 86.3 percent of households is affected across the country. Among them, 42.2 percent is severely affected, 30.6 percent moderately and 13.5 percent slightly. In terms of income, rural areas population is more affected as found 52.5 percent that of urban 39.6 percent. The highest percentage of severely affected population is in Kuntaur as 75.2 percent followed by Basse as 50.4 percent and Brikama as 48.2 percent.

Table-36: Impact of COVID-19

Category	Location	To what extent do you think the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the household income in the past 12 months			
		No impact	insignificant	Moderate	Severe
LGA	Banjul	26.5%	7.0%	28.3%	38.2%
	Kanifing	10.2%	14.4%	55.2%	20.2%
	Brikama	14.9%	14.8%	22.1%	48.2%
	MansaKonko	15.1%	4.2%	47.3%	33.4%
	Kerewan	18.2%	16.6%	35.2%	29.9%
	Kuntaur	5.5%	1.8%	17.5%	75.2%
	Janjanbureh	13.5%	5.6%	40.8%	40.1%
	Basse	8.2%	5.2%	36.2%	50.4%
Sex	Male	13.7%	14.3%	30.1%	42.0%
	Female	13.7%	10.7%	32.5%	43.0%
Area	Rural	11.8%	6.7%	29.0%	52.5%
	Urban	14.2%	15.1%	31.0%	39.6%
	Total	**13.7%**	**13.5%**	**30.6%**	**42.2%**

The moderately affected population are more in Kanifing at 55.2 percent, followed by Mansakonko at 47.3 percent and Janjanbureh at 40.8 percent. It shows that the severely affected population is more in rural areas, while moderately are almost the same both in urban and rural areas.

The households reported several ways how the income was affected due to COVID-19. The major reason reported by 72 percent of them is the reduction in salaries and earnings. Because of the closure of hotels, restaurants, markets and businesses, many people lost their income source or at least their income reduced due to reduction in business and restrictions on operations. The second reason (22 percent) is the loss of employment due to COVID-19 as many businesses closed and people lost their jobs, especially in tourism and private sector jobs, etc.

Table-37: Reasons for changes in income

Category		In what ways did COVID-19 cause a change in your household income				
		Loss of employment	Reduction in salary/earnings	Increase in employment opportunities	Increase in wages/ earnings	Other
LGA	Banjul	13.6%	75.3%	4.3%	3.2%	3.7%
	Kanifing	13.4%	83.7%	0.0%	.7%	2.3%
	Brikama	27.5%	64.5%	.1%	1.2%	6.8%
	MansaKonko	10.8%	84.6%	.5%	1.4%	2.6%
	Kerewan	8.0%	90.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%
	Kuntaur	37.3%	60.9%	.2%	.3%	1.3%
	Janjanbureh	6.5%	91.4%	.3%	.3%	1.4%
	Basse	6.2%	92.1%	0.0%	.3%	1.4%
Sex	Male	21.7%	72.5%	.1%	1.0%	4.7%
	Female	23.1%	69.9%	.3%	.7%	5.9%
Area	Rural	12.8%	85.3%	.2%	.3%	1.4%
	Urban	24.4%	68.5%	.1%	1.1%	5.9%
	Total	**22.0%**	**72.0%**	**0.1%**	**0.9%**	**5.0%**

The availability of food was badly affected by preventive measures for COVID-19 during 2020-21. The reduction in income and loss of employment on one side reduced the purchasing power of the households and on the other side the price hike and hampering access to the market impacted the food availability of the households. The COVID-19 preventive measures also increased the transportation cost and availability of food in the local markets.

According to CFSVA 2021, the food availability and stock of 30.9 percent households are severely affected, more in rural at 40.7 percent compared to urban at 28.5 percent. Female-headed households are more affected than male-headed in terms of food availability.

Table-38: Impact/effect of COVID-19 on the food supply

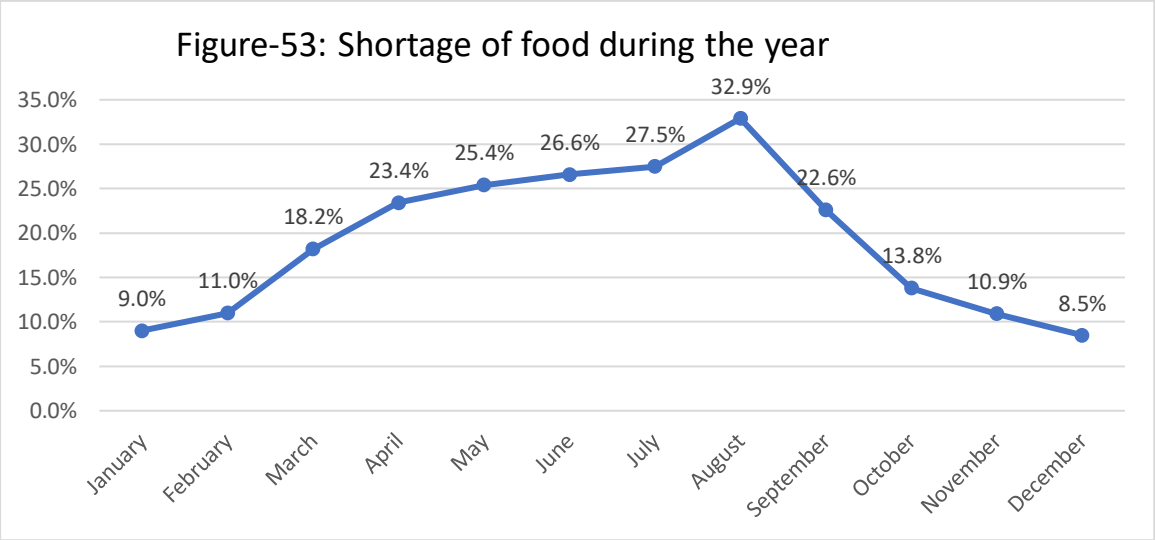
Category		To what extent do you think the COVID-19 pandemic has affected your household food availability/food stocks			
		No impact	insignificant	Moderate	Severe
LGA	Banjul	27.0%	8.5%	40.7%	23.8%
	Kanifing	20.1%	12.0%	54.4%	13.5%
	Brikama	20.9%	15.9%	26.5%	36.6%
	MansaKonko	15.1%	5.5%	61.5%	17.9%
	Kerewan	24.3%	21.0%	38.9%	15.9%
	Kuntaur	6.0%	2.1%	23.9%	68.0%
	Janjanbureh	24.3%	10.9%	40.1%	24.7%
	Basse	14.1%	7.6%	49.8%	28.6%

Sex	Male	19.7%	15.7%	34.7%	29.9%
	Female	22.3%	9.2%	34.1%	34.4%
Area	Rural	15.4%	9.3%	34.7%	40.7%
	Urban	21.5%	15.5%	34.5%	28.5%
	Total	**20.3%**	**14.2%**	**34.6%**	**30.9%**

Around 35 percent of households have a moderately shortage of food, while 14.2 percent insignificant impact and 20.3 percent reported no shortage of food due to COVID-19.

Critical months of food shortage

In terms of timing, August was the most critical month of food shortage as reported by 32.9 percent of households. August is also the last month of the crop season, where majority of the farmers rely on market for access to food. It is also important to note that significant percentage of households reported poor access to food from April to September.



In order to cope with the shortage of food, households took a number of measures. On average 35 percent of households reported cutting down on non-food expenditure to buy food. It has a clear impact on health and education by reducing spending. Poor parents may not be able to send children to school. The shortage of resources might have affected the health of children and PLWs. Similarly, 15 percent opted for cheaper foods to meet the requirement. In both the cases rural population was more affected than urban.

Table-39: Measures taken by HH to ensure food availability during the COVID-19

Category	Location	None/ No measure	Stocking up of more food	Cut down on other non-food expenditures	Adjust diet for more affordable food	Other
LGA	Banjul	43.0%	20.5%	41.2%	11.9%	.2%
	Kanifing	35.9%	28.6%	30.1%	21.1%	.4%
	Brikama	49.9%	9.1%	36.5%	13.0%	1.9%
	MansaKonko	33.9%	24.9%	35.4%	15.7%	16.5%
	Kerewan	52.9%	30.7%	18.1%	7.0%	2.1%
	Kuntaur	39.8%	25.7%	35.7%	15.5%	2.0%

	Janjanbureh	36.8%	21.0%	40.1%	17.9%	5.2%
	Basse	25.9%	27.3%	49.9%	25.8%	5.3%
Sex	Male	45.7%	15.8%	34.7%	15.2%	2.3%
	Female	44.1%	16.5%	35.9%	14.3%	1.6%
	Rural	42.1%	20.6%	31.8%	19.7%	4.4%
Area	Urban	46.1%	14.8%	35.8%	13.8%	1.6%
	Total	45.3%	15.9%	35.0%	15.0%	2.1%

Future impact of COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19, especially economic impact is still continued. During the CFSVA 2021, the households were asked to record their views about the impact of COVID-19 in the next 6 months, keeping in view the prevailing situation. A great percentage of households (35.3 percent) reported that situation would be severe, majority of them were in rural (37.9 percent) and among female-headed households (40.4 percent). Among LGAs, the prediction by the highest percentage of households was in Kuntaur (61.8 percent), followed by Brikama (44.9 percent). Overall, 29.7 percent of households predicted moderate impact in the next 6 months and 13.1 percent insignificant impact, while 21.9 percent viewed no impact.

Table-40: Perception of effect/Impact of COVID-19 in the future

Category	Location	To what extent do you think the COVID-19 pandemic will affect your household income in the next 6 months			
		No impact	insignificant	Moderate	Severe
	Banjul	24.6%	11.4%	43.9%	20.1%
	Kanifing	24.2%	20.0%	43.3%	12.5%
	Brikama	21.1%	10.6%	23.4%	44.9%
	MansaKonko	21.4%	6.1%	51.3%	21.1%
LGA	Kerewan	33.1%	23.8%	30.2%	12.9%
	Kuntaur	12.9%	3.3%	22.0%	61.8%
	Janjanbureh	22.4%	16.2%	43.8%	17.7%
	Basse	14.1%	15.3%	43.5%	27.1%
	Male	21.9%	14.4%	29.9%	33.8%
Sex	Female	21.9%	8.6%	29.1%	40.4%
	Rural	19.4%	12.1%	30.6%	37.9%
Area	Urban	22.5%	13.3%	29.5%	34.6%
	Total	**21.9%**	**13.1%**	**29.7%**	**35.3%**

CHAPTER 8: Conclusion and recommendations

Conclusion

Food security is becoming a challenge because of the price hike, unstable economy, subsistence farming and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which will continue. According to the Human Development Report 2020, Gambia stands at 172 out of 189 countries and territories of the world. Food insecurity has increased in the last 10 years and now stands at 13.4 percent. The vital indicators suggest further aggravation unless checked with a serious action by the government of Gambia with the support of stakeholders.

During the 2020-21 cropping season the rain came late that affected the land preparation/sowing, thus, farmers expect a decline in the production of cereal crops this year. Moreover, the crop production during the last 2 years was also not promising. Fluctuations in the yields over time were caused by the lack of rains in the country. Cultivated land under irrigation is quite limited in the country and mostly devoted to rice production. Farmers have no storage facilities for their products, thus, try to sell them soon after harvest. Many farmers sell their products immediately because they have to return the loan, mostly to the shopkeepers or the middlemen as some farmers borrow money in advance against their upcoming harvest.

Agriculture is the mainstay of rural communities. However, Youth and educated people don't want to continue with farming because of its nature being more laborious and a primitive farming system. Therefore, the future of farming is becoming bleak unless serious attention is given to it.

Farmers have complained about inadequate inputs like fertilizer, improved seeds, tillage implements and machinery- tractors and power tillers, inadequate machinery for tillage, ploughing and processing and lack of marketing infrastructure and information.

A significant part of urban areas, in most of the LGAs, is practically semi-urban with a significant share in farming. The food preferences are limited to few food items even in urban areas. The consumption pattern shows that people in the Gambia are heavily relying on rice, while consumption of other cereals is insignificant in urban areas. Such trend increases the demand for import and decrease the demand for other cereal crops and tubers produced within the country or has potential to produce. Rainfed farming is suitable for drought-resistant crops cultivation.

Access to training in farming is very limited in The Gambia and almost non-existent in agro-processing as reported by communities.

Recommendations

1. Necessary actions in the form of policy and action plans are suggested to be developed by the government to counter the growing food insecurity.
2. Keeping in view the increase in vulnerability of the people, humanitarian assistance should be increased and properly planned and coordinated taking into account the seasonality in the country. These will include the relief food and/or cash distribution, school feeding programme and assistance to PLWs/infants.
3. Mechanization of farming is inadequate, which needs to be accelerated and adopted to increase the cultivation capacity and productivity.
4. Quality inputs including fertilizer and the improved seed should be adequately and timely provided to farmers.
5. Awareness programme for the food diversification and use of nutritional food should be developed and implemented for general public and especially for the PLWs and children.
6. Commercialization of farming is important for increase in production.
7. Water harvesting techniques should be introduced and adapted among farmers, especially in rice cultivation areas.

8. Access roads to rice fields from the village or main roads are suggested in order to enable the production to be easily transported.
9. Credit programme should be made easy and extended to all deserving households. The petty traders and small businesspeople, especially working women should be specifically targeted.
10. Value chain and value-added of crops are quite important, which will also help in expanding the service sector and involve the young and educated people, consequently reducing the migration to urban areas.
11. A comprehensive training programme for farmers is required in improved farming, mechanization and conservation.
12. Drought resistant varieties should be introduced to cope with the unfavourable rainfall.
13. Tree farming should be introduced in the existing cultivated land with training and incentives.
14. Food security should be regularly monitored and necessary measures for the vulnerable groups of population be taken on regular basis.

List of Annexes

Annexure-1 Type of drinking water source

		2.7.1- Piped water					2.7.2- Dug well		2.7.3- Surface water		2.7.4- Packaged water
		Piped into dwelling	Piped to yard / plot	Piped to neighbour	Public tap / standpipe	Tube well / borehole	Protected well	Unprotected well	Cart with small tank	Surface water (river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal, irrigation channel)	Bottled water
		Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %
LGA/Region	Banjul	35.5%	61.1%	1.3%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
	Kanifing	14.7%	72.0%	9.0%	1.7%	1.4%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%
	Brikama	7.5%	25.4%	16.8%	10.6%	17.5%	5.1%	13.0%	3.4%	0.7%	0.1%
	MansaKonko	0.6%	19.7%	3.7%	58.5%	0.1%	1.1%	1.9%	14.5%	0.0%	0.0%
	Kerewan	17.5%	26.1%	5.1%	48.2%	1.2%	0.6%	1.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
	Kuntaur	0.3%	3.3%	1.6%	52.8%	19.2%	10.8%	11.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%
	Janjanbureh	1.0%	6.3%	1.2%	44.9%	21.6%	6.3%	18.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Basse	5.0%	14.0%	4.9%	62.6%	4.3%	3.7%	5.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sex	Male	8.3%	30.2%	12.7%	17.5%	13.9%	4.6%	9.9%	2.2%	0.5%	0.1%
	Female	11.2%	41.4%	13.6%	12.1%	8.6%	1.5%	7.9%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Area category	Rural	5.1%	12.3%	2.5%	49.4%	7.6%	5.7%	14.7%	2.0%	0.7%	0.0%
	Urban	9.9%	37.7%	15.5%	8.1%	14.0%	3.5%	8.2%	2.6%	0.4%	0.1%
	Total	9.0%	32.7%	12.9%	16.3%	12.8%	3.9%	9.5%	2.5%	0.4%	0.1%

Annexure-2 Sources of light

		2.10- What is the main source of light of your household?													
Category	**Location**	Electricity	Wood	Animal dung / waste	Oil lamp	Candle	Other	Solar lantern	Rechargeable flashlight, torch/lantern	battery powered flashlight	torch or lantern	bioGas lamp	gasoline lamp	Kerosene or paraffin lamp	Charcoal
LGA	Banjul	94.8%	.3%	0.0%	.1%	.2%	.7%	1.7%	.7%	1.2%	.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Kanifing	96.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	.5%	.3%	1.2%	.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Brikama	62.1%	0.0%	.0%	0.0%	6.9%	.3%	14.8%	2.6%	9.4%	3.5%	0.0%	.2%	.1%	0.0%
	MansaKonko	38.2%	13.4%	.4%	0.0%	3.5%	.3%	26.4%	1.5%	10.2%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%
	Kerewan	33.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	42.4%	2.0%	17.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Kuntaur	8.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15.3%	.3%	34.7%	9.2%	29.4%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	.4%
	Janjanbureh	13.9%	0.0%	.3%	.2%	14.9%	.5%	26.8%	2.9%	32.1%	8.3%	.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Basse	37.0%	.5%	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%	.5%	16.2%	.9%	32.6%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	.2%	0.0%
Sex	Male	59.5%	.3%	.0%	.0%	6.0%	.2%	16.9%	2.5%	11.6%	2.9%	.0%	0.0%	.0%	.0%
	Female	74.0%	.2%	.0%	.0%	5.9%	.4%	7.1%	1.4%	6.9%	3.2%	0.0%	.7%	.2%	.0%
Area	Rural	24.4%	.1%	.1%	.0%	8.3%	.3%	32.0%	2.8%	23.1%	8.0%	.0%	.8%	.0%	.1%
	Urban	72.3%	.3%	.0%	.0%	5.4%	.2%	10.4%	2.1%	7.4%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	.1%	.0%
	Total	62.8%	.3%	.0%	.0%	6.0%	.2%	14.7%	2.2%	10.6%	3.0%	.0%	.2%	.1%	.0%

Annexure-3: Food commodities produced

		Food commodity produced												
		Produce any food commodities	Maize	Millet	Sorghum	Rice	Other cereals	Roots and tubers (cassava, yam, potatoes….)	Beans	Groundnuts	Cotton	Cashew	Other vegetables and fruits	Not applicable= Only 1 or 2 commodities
		%	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %
LGA/Region	Banjul	.4%	0.0%	50.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	49.2%	50.8%	50.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	49.2%
	Kanifing	7.0%	31.8%	9.2%	0.0%	8.9%	3.6%	33.8%	1.9%	20.5%	0.0%	0.0%	64.7%	79.4%
	Brikama	24.9%	38.3%	6.8%	.0%	6.5%	.4%	35.2%	18.5%	27.1%	0.0%	4.6%	36.4%	80.6%
	MansaKonko	79.1%	45.4%	36.9%	2.1%	33.9%	1.1%	7.4%	9.3%	63.7%	.6%	1.0%	21.7%	58.6%
	Kerewan	73.9%	30.6%	60.5%	.4%	16.3%	1.7%	12.2%	3.6%	76.2%	.3%	4.5%	20.3%	57.6%
	Kuntaur	92.8%	48.4%	60.1%	3.1%	11.7%	1.3%	3.4%	3.5%	90.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.6%	45.2%
	Janjanbureh	90.1%	33.1%	40.5%	12.7%	18.7%	14.3%	2.9%	2.5%	82.7%	0.0%	.1%	14.8%	58.5%
	Basse	89.0%	55.6%	45.2%	25.3%	6.5%	8.3%	5.1%	1.4%	91.2%	.3%	.3%	16.8%	36.9%
Sex	Male	33.8%	43.1%	29.5%	5.0%	9.0%	3.4%	20.5%	10.9%	58.0%	.1%	2.8%	25.8%	62.8%
	Female	24.5%	24.5%	16.1%	2.6%	18.8%	1.3%	27.6%	10.5%	27.4%	0.0%	3.2%	39.0%	83.8%
Area category	Rural	86.0%	41.6%	45.9%	8.2%	12.3%	4.7%	12.2%	6.4%	72.2%	.1%	1.4%	17.4%	55.9%
	Urban	18.1%	37.8%	5.0%	.2%	8.8%	1.0%	33.0%	16.0%	29.6%	.0%	4.6%	40.7%	78.9%
	Total	31.7%	39.9%	27.2%	4.5%	10.7%	3.0%	21.7%	10.8%	52.7%	.1%	2.9%	28.1%	66.4%

Annexure-4: Did this main shock (s) impact on your households' ability to produce and purchase sufficient food to meet your needs and did you recover?

		11.3. Did this shock impact on your household's ability to produce and purchase sufficient food to meet your needs?		11.4. Were you able to recover from the impact of these shocks?	
		No	Yes	No	Yes
		Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %
LGA/Region	Banjul	26.3%	73.7%	65.7%	34.3%
	Kanifing	26.1%	73.9%	64.6%	35.4%
	Brikama	24.3%	75.7%	78.0%	22.0%
	MansaKonko	12.7%	87.3%	78.9%	21.1%
	Kerewan	11.9%	88.1%	51.5%	48.5%
	Kuntaur	13.8%	86.2%	83.1%	16.9%
	Janjanbureh	13.2%	86.8%	56.8%	43.2%
	Basse	11.0%	89.0%	77.3%	22.7%
Sex	Male	20.6%	79.4%	72.9%	27.1%
	Female	22.2%	77.8%	76.9%	23.1%
Area category	Rural	9.8%	90.2%	76.2%	23.8%
	Urban	27.5%	72.5%	71.9%	28.1%
	Total	21.0%	79.0%	73.7%	26.3%

Annexure-5: Shock still affecting the hh.

		Pest infestation	Rain storm	Drought	Wind storm	Flood	Bush fire	House fire	High food prices	Loss of income/ employment	Loss of breadwinner/ Death of other household member	Covid-19	Unusually high level of livestock diseases	Unusually high cost of agric. inputs (seed, fertilizer, etc.)	Serious illness or accident of household member	Theft of productive resources	Insecurity/violence
LGA/Region	Banjul	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	60.9%	32.1%	5.8%	76.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	4.3%	0.0%
	Kanifing	0.0%	10.6%	0.0%	0.0%	7.6%	0.0%	1.5%	37.1%	13.6%	9.1%	41.3%	0.0%	0.0%	5.8%	5.6%	1.7%
	Brikama	.4%	4.0%	0.0%	24.2%	.6%	0.0%	0.0%	77.4%	37.4%	5.1%	42.5%	.4%	.7%	6.1%	0.0%	1.1%
	MansaKonko	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	5.1%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	79.0%	6.9%	5.4%	11.1%	.9%	3.0%	8.1%	1.7%	0.0%
	Kerewan	0.0%	19.3%	0.0%	75.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15.8%	2.9%	4.8%	57.1%	0.0%	5.4%	5.4%	0.0%	0.0%
	Kuntaur	2.6%	3.3%	.5%	23.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	69.2%	7.9%	1.2%	65.8%	.7%	17.4%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%
	Janjanbureh	1.1%	15.3%	0.0%	9.1%	5.2%	.9%	3.7%	52.1%	10.9%	7.9%	37.5%	3.2%	17.2%	17.7%	0.0%	0.0%
	Basse	0.0%	11.2%	0.0%	10.6%	0.0%	.5%	1.0%	77.3%	2.9%	3.6%	62.4%	.7%	29.7%	4.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Sex	Male	.7%	7.3%	.1%	22.7%	1.2%	0.0%	1.0%	68.5%	23.2%	3.4%	46.4%	.6%	6.9%	6.2%	.3%	.8%
	Female	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	18.0%	2.6%	.4%	0.0%	68.4%	33.3%	11.6%	42.5%	.3%	1.0%	6.8%	1.7%	.7%
Area category	Rural	1.2%	7.0%	.1%	20.1%	.9%	.2%	1.5%	72.1%	19.5%	3.1%	38.5%	1.3%	12.9%	6.5%	.2%	0.0%
	Urban	0.0%	5.9%	0.0%	22.9%	2.0%	0.0%	.2%	65.7%	29.9%	6.7%	51.0%	.0%	0.0%	6.2%	1.0%	1.4%
	Total	.5%	6.4%	.0%	21.7%	1.5%	.1%	.8%	68.5%	25.3%	5.1%	45.6%	.6%	5.6%	6.3%	.6%	.8%

Annexure-6: HDDS by region

		HH Diversity Scale								
		.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00
		Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %	Row N %
LGA/Region	Banjul	0.0%	0.0%	.1%	.9%	2.2%	7.3%	25.2%	35.9%	28.3%
	Kanifing	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	.5%	.4%	5.4%	20.5%	32.7%	40.5%
	Brikama	1.5%	.1%	.5%	.5%	3.0%	16.8%	25.9%	30.0%	21.8%
	MansaKonko	0.0%	0.0%	.3%	.2%	2.8%	14.7%	29.2%	37.1%	15.9%
	Kerewan	0.0%	0.0%	.2%	0.0%	2.4%	9.1%	34.2%	37.1%	17.0%
	Kuntaur	0.0%	.2%	.6%	1.0%	4.6%	18.7%	38.5%	26.3%	10.1%
	Janjanbureh	0.0%	0.0%	.5%	1.9%	6.7%	22.4%	31.7%	26.0%	11.0%
	Basse	0.0%	0.0%	.7%	1.6%	4.5%	14.2%	30.5%	31.0%	17.5%
Sex	Male	1.0%	.1%	.2%	.7%	2.8%	14.6%	26.6%	31.5%	22.6%
	Female	.7%	0.0%	.9%	.2%	2.3%	13.1%	24.7%	28.8%	29.3%
Area category	Rural	0.0%	.0%	.4%	.8%	4.5%	18.8%	33.2%	29.8%	12.6%
	Urban	1.1%	.1%	.4%	.5%	2.2%	13.1%	24.4%	31.2%	27.0%
	Total	.9%	.1%	.4%	.6%	2.7%	14.2%	26.1%	30.9%	24.1%

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