

## Period

May – July 2020 (tbc)

## 0.5 Million

People in need of humanitarian aid

## 0.16 Million

People targeted for humanitarian aid in this plan

## 160,000

Farmig Households require support

## 6 Agricultural Regions

affected and in need of assistance

 **21.2 US\$**  
million  
requested

### SUMMARY

Summary of the contextual issues, the problem statement (situation analysis and humanitarian consequences), overall response strategy, coordination and partnership framework, M&E framework, resource requirements.

### Rationale

The Department of Water Resources produced a forecast for the 2019 rainy season in favour of normal to slightly above rainfall category with a probability of getting 45% Normal and 35% above normal. However, delayed rains were experienced in the 2019 rainy season which was further exacerbated by intermittent dry spells ranging from 18 to 24 days in some instances. The consequences of the bad season were and not limited to a general decrease in area put to cultivation with the highest being groundnuts 32%, maize 31%, upland rice 20%, cowpea 19% and early millet and lowland rice with a reduction of 16% and 15% respectively but also crop yield and productivity. Consequently, there was reduced rangeland productivity, disease outbreaks and low quality forage resources, loss of weight, and mortality of livestock in the country.

Implicitly the Pre-harvest November 2019 and Harmonised Frame of March 2020, shows that 136 586 people will face food and nutrition crisis situation, while under pressure will be 555 988 persons if no interventions are taken. This situation is further exacerbated by an unprecedented humanitarian crisis (COVID-19) which started in December 2019 and declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020 by World Health Organisation, with over 118,000 confirmed cases in over 110 countries and territories around the world and potential risk of further global spread.

The Gambia registered its first confirmed case on March 17, 2020 and the number has been gradually increasing. As per the situation report of Ministry of Health on April 20, confirmed cases have risen to 10, one death and two recoveries. Consequently, The Government of The Gambia restricted movement of citizens through closure of air space, land borders, schools, universities, of rural weekly markets, cut short the tourist season, etc..

These measures have direct and indirect impact on food and nutritional situation of the population; worsen poor rainy season of 2019 on food and nutrition security. Therefore, Ministry of Agriculture constituted a task force to look at the effects of COVID-19 on agriculture sector and suggest ways to mitigate the effect on vulnerable households.

### Strategic objectives (for both agriculture and food security):

1. To provide immediate resilience building of farming households and reduce effect of covid-19 on crop and livestock production, and
2. To enhance agricultural production and productivity of farming households through agricultural support activities.

### Priority activities:

1. Immediate food assistance of the most vulnerable households
2. Provision of Agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, livestock production inputs and farm tools and machinery for resilience building of the affected households.

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## 1. CONTEXT AND HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES

### 1.1. Situation overview

As per situation report of April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, there are 10 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the Gambia, with one death, two recovered, seven pending case, 261 completed quarantine and 90 in quarantine. Currently the country has six (6) active cases two (2) of which are local transmissions. Nine of the ten cases confirmed were in Kanifing Municipality (KMC) while one confirmed in Upper River Region (URR), specifically Numuyel. Therefore, the virus has not yet spread into agricultural production regions of the country. The Government has declared a state of health emergency as a measure to contain the spread of the virus. These measures include travel restrictions, a ban on public events and agricultural markets (weekly lumos), the closure of schools and non-essential businesses and limits on opening hours of market. Thus, these moves has affected both rural and urban livelihoods and left famers unable to sell their produce, especially vegetables and buy seeds or other inputs as they prepare for 2020 cropping season.

### 1.2 Country Profile

The Gambia is located in West Africa, bordering Senegal and the Atlantic Ocean and with a population of 2.2 million. The country geographically is divided into two urban municipalities (Banjul and Kanifing) and six Local Government Areas (LGAs) namely Brikama, Kerewan, Mansa Konko, Kuntaur, Janjangbureh and Basse. Each LGA is further into districts and each district (except for Banjul) is divided into settlements.

The major drivers of the economy include agriculture, tourism and remittances. The GDP per capita of income was reported to be USD 743 in 2018 (GBOS). Poverty levels remain high with 48 percent of the population living below the poverty income line of 1.25 USD, and this is attributed to the lack of economic diversity. The country experiences erratic rainfall to intermittent dry spell, declining agricultural productivity and food price fluctuations. The country was ranked 174<sup>th</sup> of the 189 countries and territories in the 2018 UNDP Human Development Report. The Human Development Index has stabilized at 0.46 since 2014, but it is below the regional average of 0.50% for Sub-Saharan Africa during the same period.

### 1.3 Current Situation

The coronavirus also known as the COVID-19, declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), has affected the world at an unprecedented level spreading rapidly at an uncontrollable pace. The socioeconomic impact of a pandemic like the coronavirus will have major implications for all countries, but especially a small, least developed country like The Gambia with an equally small economy, reliant mainly on tourism, agriculture and remittance inflows. The Gambia's small, undiversified economy was already susceptible to external shocks as seen with the Ebola crisis of 2014, which had a significant negative effect on the tourism sector, despite The Gambia not registering any cases in the country.

The spread of the coronavirus which can only be contained through social distancing and maintaining good hygiene has already heavily affected the health, tourism and trade sectors due to the country's border and airspace closure. Further to this was the banning of public gatherings, trading activities (with shops for non-essential commodities and rural mobile markets suspended) and travel restricted Schools and many institutions have been closed in an effort to curb the spread of the virus.

It is therefore important to understand the impact of the coronavirus across the sectors in order to determine the necessary policy measures needed to provide timely assistance to protect livelihoods and ensure recovery. However, there are currently no reliable predictions of the full economic impact of the outbreak as the situation evolving rapidly. Too much depends on what is unknown—how long the outbreak lasts, how many countries it afflicts, and the extent to which a coordinated, concerted, fast-track policy response mobilized and sustained. What is know currently is that the outbreak arrived at a weak point for the world economy, just when global growth was beginning to pick up from its lowest rate since the 2009 financial crisis. Moreover, many countries have limited capacity to manage the outbreak.

The global pandemic of Coronavirus (Covid-19) is already posing marketing problems and increased post-harvest loss on vegetables and might further exacerbate the decline of agricultural production and productivity, value addition, food security, in The Gambia; one of the smallest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (11,295 square kilometres) with 2.35 million<sup>1</sup> inhabitants, if the crisis extends into 2020/21 cropping season, May - September.

Agriculture sector contributes 25 percent of GDP and 30–40 percent of all foreign exchange earnings from exports, though share of services in GDP is increasing. Agriculture and related industries contribute to economic growth, employment, poverty reduction, food and nutrition security. The sector employs nearly half (46 percent) of the labour force and is the source of livelihood for 80 percent of the rural population<sup>2</sup>. For about 72 percent of poor households and 91 percent of extremely poor rural households, agriculture is the main source of income.

<sup>1</sup> GBOS 2013 Population and Housing Census

<sup>2</sup> 2015/16 Integrated Household Survey (IHS)

### 1.4 Response to date

Largely there are interventions by Government and its development partners to prepare farmers for the 2020 cropping season. However, the effects of Covid-19 has changed the situation of most farmers, to prevent farmers from eating or selling their seeds for rainy season production, and prevent other adverse coping mechanisms such as further sale of productive assets, begging and high-risk jobs, and possibly illegal migration eventually, the Ministry of Agriculture is coordinating all responses to farmers in the country.

#### 1.4.1 Seed and Fertilizers

Crops	Seeds		Fertilizers		
	Proportion of Households	Total Seeds (in MT)	NPK 6-20-10	NPK 15-15-15	Urea
Groundnut	64348	5,903	4722	-	-
Rice	32174	1,180.60	-	4722	2361
Maize	32174	708.36	-	4722	2361
Cowpea	24131	1,239.63	1,771	-	-
Findi	8044	70.836	-	590	-

*Table 1: Seeds and Fertilizers*

Based on information above and figures of 2018 National Agricultural Sample Survey (NASS), 73 percent of the households (118,060) are farming households and involved in crop and livestock production. The average household in the country is approximately 8 people per household, i.e. 944,480 people are considered as farmers. However, not all these farmers require input support, thus 136, 586 people in crisis (Phase 2) based on the Cadre Harmonise report March 2020. In addition, the figures reported earlier did not factor the COVID-19 but there is high expectation that the number

reported will increase to emergency (Phase 3) base on the current COVID-19 situation if all things being equal. Furthermore, 14 percent of the people targeted are considered as purely livestock farmers, not-crop farmers, thus will not require seed, fertilizer and farm implement, but rather livestock production input support.

Therefore, in response of the aforementioned, the MOA will target farming households in country, based on conservative estimation of 40, 20, 20, 15 and 5 percent of farming households producing groundnut, rice, maize, cowpea and findi respectively. Each household will be supported with required quantity of seeds and fertilizers to cultivate one half hectare of land, based on seed and fertilizer rates. For example, 125, 50, 30, 70 and 12kg for groundnut (undecorticated), rice, maize, cowpea and findi respectively. While fertilizers rate is estimated at a rate of 2 bags (100 kg) of NPK 6-20-10 for groundnuts and cowpea, 4 bags (200 kg) of NPK 15-15-15 and 2 bags (100 kg) of urea for rice and maize, while for findi only 2 bags of NPK 15-15.15.

#### 1.4.2 Livestock Production inputs

Livestock sub-sector will not be spared by Covid-19 pandemic. Currently, the poultry industry is solely dependent on importation of production inputs (fertile eggs, Day Old Chicks-DOCs, feed, vaccines and drugs) and thus access to these productive resources might also be disrupted if there is any further border closure, as there are no local suppliers of these basic inputs and raw materials.

Therefore, to ensure continuous supply of DOCs and feeds there might be a need to strengthen private sector dominated hatcheries with fertile eggs (broiler and layers) and vaccines against Marek's disease and Newcastle Disease, improve capacity in poultry feed production through procurement of maize and concentrates. Provide support to 2 hatcheries, 4 feed mills and 75 broiler farmers and 15 Layer farmers. To support cattle, sheep, goats and pig producers with vaccinations, deworming and feed concentrates to increase ruminant (70 percent currently being imported) and swine production capacities of the country.

**Table 2: Livestock production inputs**

Livestock Production	
<b>Poultry hatchery</b> i. 300,000 Cobb500 broiler fertile eggs ii. 120,000 Cobb500 layer fertile eggs	<b>Vaccines for livestock health</b> i. 120,000 doses of Marek's disease vaccines ii. 4,255,000 doses of NCD vaccines iii. 105,000 doses of Fowl Pox vaccines iv. 210,000 doses of anti-coccidiosis v. 6,000 doses Infectious Laryngotrachitis(ILT) Vaccines vi. 6,000 doses of Infectious Bronchitis (IB) Vaccines vii. 6,000 doses of Egg Drop Syndromes (ED) vaccines viii. 5,000 doses of Salmonella Vaccine ix. 300,000 doses of CBPP vaccine x. 30,000 doses of FMD vaccines xi. 800,000 of PPR vaccine
<b>Poultry breeding stock</b> i. 5,000 breeding stock (4000 Cobb500 broiler and 1000 Bovan Brown layers)	
<b>Poultry feeds</b> i. 5,094 Mt of yellow maize for feed mills ii. 4, 246 Mt of concentrates for feed mills iii. 5832 Mt finish fed for breeding stock(parent) iv. 5,542 Mt finish feed for commercial poultry v. 2,500 Mineral blocks of 5 kg for cattle vi. 200Mt of groundnut cake for	<b>Drugs and Sanitary production</b> i. 5,140 Sachets of 100g Anti-stress ii. 1,894 Sachets of 100g of De-wormers iii. 2,282 bottles of 1litre of disinfectants iv. 50,000 albendazole boli of 2500mg for cattle v. 30,000 albendazole boli of 300mg for sheep and goats vi. 30,000 boli of 300mg of albendazole dewormers

vii. 100 bottles of Ivermectin (1%)

### 1.4.3 Farm Implements

**Table 3: Machines and simple farm implements**

NO	MACHINE	ESTIMATED QUANTITY
<b>1</b>	<b>Animal Drawn Implement</b>	
	Eco-seeder	425
	Sine hoe (donkey)	425
	Sine hoe (horse)	270
	Ridger	225
<b>2</b>	<b>Motorized</b>	
	Power tiller	30
	Coarse grain thresher	30
	Coose milling machine	30
	Rice combine harvester (medium)	2
	Irrigation pump	10

The importance and prevalence of animal powered implements among smallholder farmers is eminent, but its inadequacy is also common knowledge. Therefore, most smallholder farmers depend on shared implements to the farms; consequently in order to reduce potential spread of COVID-19 it will be imperative to support smallholder farmers with farm implements. The support will facilitate increase in agricultural production, employment generation and support local youth led enterprises during this critical Covid-19 pandemic period. Thus in addition to the seeds and fertilizers required to support vulnerable farmers, farm implements are inadequate at local levels to support the

vulnerable farming and reduce drudgery of associated with farming activities, especially young people, facilitate increase in area put under cultivation. Thus 1,120 units of animal drawn implements, including sine hoe and eco-seeder, 30 units of coose threshers, 30 units of coose milling machine, 30 units of power tillers, 2 units of rice-combine harvester (medium size), and 10 sets of irrigation pumps.

### 1.4.4 Food Assistance

Food needs in metric tons is presented below, while the assistance can be delivered in kind or in cash to the estimated 22,073 highly vulnerable households and the estimated 69,499 marginally food insecure households.

**Table 4: Food Requirements by commodity type and food insecurity phase**

	<b>Crisis (Phase 3)/ Highly vulnerable population food requirements (April - May)</b>	<b>Under- pressure (Phase2 &amp;3)/ Highly vulnerable and Marginally food insecure food requirements (June- August)</b>
<b>Basic food commodity</b>	22,073 Households for 2 months (MT)	91,572 Households for 3 months (MT)
Rice	2207.3	13,735.7
Beans	317.9	1978.0
Vegetable oil	159.0	989.0
Salt	26.5	164.9

## 1.5 Needs analysis

### 1.5.1 Situation Analysis and pre-existing vulnerabilities

Agricultural production in The Gambia is subsistence rain-fed crop production and livestock rearing which provides half of the country's consumption needs. In the period 2008-2017 agriculture sector grew at an average of 2.4% per year, making the Gambia the third least growing country in terms of agriculture in the region, after Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau. This performance can partly be attributed mainly to effect of climate change and other factors including, weak research and extension systems, leading to inappropriate/unsustainable<sup>3</sup> farming practices and pest control; low yields<sup>4</sup>.

Therefore, cereal crop yields, the staple food of Gambian population, have been declining steadily for the past 10 years, compared to rest of West Africa, increasing food import bills and persistent threat of food insecurity. For instance, the country imports 83 percent of its requirement for rice. Furthermore, forecast of 2020 rainfalls will be either greater or equivalent to the seasonal averages of the 1981-2010 reference period; heterogeneous start of the season; generally late end of the season; relatively long dry spells and; average flows in most coastal rivers basins and COVID- 19 can exacerbate this situation. There is imminent risk of a desert locust outbreak threatens the region. The consequences of a possible locust outbreak, added to those of the armyworm,

<sup>3</sup> Deforestation, poor soil conservation, use of chemical fertilizers etc...

<sup>4</sup> Current cereal yields are low and below 1 Mt/ha which are lower than the yield figures for rice and maize for West Africa.

which now infests the entire West African region, including all regions of the country, could have a long lasting effect on the region's agriculture and food systems.

### 1.5.2 Humanitarian needs and affected population

The Emergency Response of MoA will target 118,060 households (approximately 944,480 people) across the 6 agricultural regions. The response will cushion households to build on their resilience, prevent farmers from consumption or selling their seeds, increase their production capacity, and prevent other adverse coping mechanisms such as further sale of productive assets, begging and high-risk jobs, and possibly illegal migration eventually.

In the Gambia, the urban profiling focuses on Banjul, the capital city, Kanifing Municipal Council (KMC) and Brikama town in the West Coast Region. The pandemic will leave indelible effects on these urban areas. Before the outbreak of COVID-19 in The Gambia the prevalence of extreme poverty in urban areas stood at about 8.4%<sup>5</sup>. Extreme poverty shows the level of vulnerability faced by households that cannot meet their minimum needs of food, even if they allocated all their incomes to food.

Consequently, the situational analysis/overview on agriculture, food and nutrition security is based on pre-harvest and Cadre Harmonize reports of 2019 and 2020 with further analysis on urban vulnerability. With the COVID-19 situation, underpinning vulnerability beyond the measured negative impact of the agricultural sector in the CH, further analysis is done to account for the increased urban vulnerability resulting from job/livelihood losses in the various sectors. Job and livelihood losses in the urban areas are estimated to affect about 40,000 people as a result of the COVID-19 situation, thus increasing the pockets of urban vulnerability and the CH crisis estimates by an additional 40,000, bringing the total number of people requiring urgent assistance to 176,586. It is also estimated that a further 556,000 persons across all regions require resilience building support to prevent them from falling back. Livestock sub-sector, the pastoral situation registered significant fodder shortages due to last year's long dry spells.

## 2. RESPONSE STRATEGY

### 2.1 Scope of response

The scope of the ERP is based on the analyses and assessment for the components. The Emergency Response of MoA will target 118060 households (approximately 944,480 people) across the 6 agricultural regions, to provide cushion for households to build on their resilience, prevent consumption or selling their seeds, increase their production capacity, and prevent other adverse coping mechanisms such as further sale of productive assets, begging and high-risk jobs, and possibly illegal migration eventually. The ERP focuses on immediate humanitarian needs as well as interventions that aim to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups including children, pregnant women, child-headed households, and the elderly and households dependant on rain-fed agriculture who were in stress as a consequence of the bad harvest. It also aims to strengthen the overall coordination and monitoring of the National Response led by National Disaster Management Agency and Ministry of Agriculture to ensure early action on gap areas.

### 2.2 Implementing strategy and monitoring

The current plan will be implemented as a joint effort between the Government of the Gambia, the UN agencies and other government development partners. The response plan seeks to complement the on-going and planned government interventions, build on the collective efforts of the stakeholders and is in line with the government priorities.

In order to be able to measure agriculture component of the National Response plan, the component pillar will be led by MoA within the coordination framework of National Disaster Management Agency of the Vice President Office. The NDMA will monitor the implementation as the lead emergency in the country, it will be within the overall M&E framework of the national response.

The implementation strategy would be dependent on the following scenarios below:

**Scenario 1:** In this first scenario, the pandemic lasts 6 months (March to August) in The Gambia. This will have a negative impact on agricultural production and productivity, as well as production shortfalls due to limitations on input access and reduction in labour availability, triggering high spikes in commodity prices, further exacerbating food and nutritional insecurity, unemployment, poverty and household and national incomes.

**Scenario 2:** In this scenario, we consider 9 Months (March-December) will have a bigger negative impact on shift in priorities, depletion of the food and seed stocks, productive assets, reduction in labour force.

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<sup>5</sup> HIS 2015/16

Thus the covid 19 implementation strategy for agriculture response would address both immediate assistance and intermediate recovery. The ministry will coordinate with FAO and WFP to support the immediate food and input needs while providing resilience building to safeguard the vulnerable population.

### 3.0 Strategic objectives and indicators

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE

To provide immediate resilience building of farming households and reduce effect of Covid-19 on crop and livestock production

Indicator	In need	Baseline	Target
# of households with increased cultivated area	118,060	TBD	118,060
# of livestock vaccinated (Cattle, Small ruminants & Chickens)	1,667,778	209,022	1,667,778
% increase national food self-sufficiency	50	20 (est.)	30

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: INTERMEDIATE-MEDIUM TERM RECOVERY

To enhance agricultural production and productiivity of farming households through agricultural support activities

Indicator	In need	Baseline	Target
% increase in yield/ha for major crops: Upland Rice	0.85	0.85	2.5
Rain-fed Lowland Rice	0.933	0.933	2
Tidal Irrigated Rice	6	6	8
Pump Irrigated Rice	4	4	10
Millet	0.876	0.876	1.4
Maize	0.995	0.995	1.6
Sorghum	0.827	0.827	1
Groundnut	0.897	0.897	1.2
% of livestock produce imported (Cartons)	4250	NA	0
% increase of agriculture sector's contribution to GDP	25	25	30

### 4.0 Agriculture Response Plan and Budget

This emergency response plan elaborates proposed interventions for agriculture, livelihoods and food security based on vulnerability and needs assessments but in line with the Government's priorities in terms of needs to be addressed during the period from May – July 2020. The main sectors in this plan are agriculture and food security protection, gender and other cross cutting issues will be mainstreamed in the response.

The interventions for the agriculture/livestock will target 118,060 farming households are approximately US\$ 21,157,116.06 million (Seeds US\$ 11,136,989.04, Fertilizers US\$ 563571.22, implements US\$ 1,275,651.40 and livestock inputs US\$8,180,904.40).

For this component, US\$2,468,604.25 (US\$1.5 million from Government and US\$969,404.25 from FAO) is secured i.e. comprising 12 percent of total resource requirement and balance of US\$ 18.7 million still has to be mobilized.

#### 4.1.1 Agriculture Response Strategy

#### 4.1.2 Objectives and Proposed Activities

The main objective of agricultural response is to enhance agricultural production and productivity, to increase the sector's contribution to national food self-sufficiency policy priority and GDP. The proposed activities are shown on table 5 below.

**Table 5: Immediate Resilience of farming households**

Provide immediate resilience building of farming households				
Outcome: Increase in total area cultivation and livestock population				
Activities	Locations	Indicator	Baseline	Target
Inputs distribution (Seeds and fertilizers) MT	All Regions	30,356.226	TBD	30,356.226
Farm implements	All Regions	1,232	TBD	1,232
Poultry Hachery (Cobb 500)	All Regions	420,000	TBD	420,000
Poultry breeding stock	All Regions	5,000	TBD	5,000
Poultry feeds (MT)	All Regions	23,414	TBD	23,414
Vaccines for livestock health (Doses)	All Regions	5,843,000	TBD	5,843,000
Drugs and Sanitary for livestock production (Sachets, bottles, albendazole boli of 300mg & 2500mg)	All Regions	119,416	TBD	119,416

#### 4.1.3 Key risks and assumptions

Agricultural production is subjected to risks of various types: political instability, economic and price-related risks, climatic, environmental, pests and diseases, at different scales. The inadequacy of farming inputs or the late provision of inputs may affect yield of main crops of smallholder farmers who tend to consume a large part of their own production. Farmers are also exposed to economic risks including inadequate capital to hire labour or use machinery, variations in access to inputs (fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, and feed) in quantity and quality, and variations in access to markets.

Current pandemic coupled with poor harvest registered in 2019, seeds could be limited for 2020 growing season thus affecting farm areas to be cultivated. Similarly, livestock production could be weakened due to by a lack of feed and livestock disease outbreak. The risk of COVID-19 during the lean season (July-September 2020) could hamper production capacity as farmers may not have enough manpower to maintain crop fields and further exacerbate food insecurity in year 2021 and beyond, thereby posing prolong humanitarian crisis.

The response is based on an assumption that food stuffs and agricultural inputs would be available and procurement of food, seeds, fertilizer, animal drugs/vaccines would be feasible, amidst the crisis. The response is also confidence on the stable market where beneficiaries would access commodities without shortage or disruption. Finally, the response is anticipated to obtain the planned resources required for implementation, assuming that donor contribution will be high and time will be adequate. In terms of operational response, in adequate funding is a major risk on all components and activities and this is anticipated due to the timing of the pandemic. A realignment of resources in a coordinated approach and reprogramming of funds can be a best reisk management mechanism towards mobilizing funds for the response.

**Lead agency: Ministry of Agriculture**

**Contact information: Permanent secretary**

**E:MAIL: [modoumbycjabang@gmail.com](mailto:modoumbycjabang@gmail.com)**

**Phone: 9966007.**



**Co- Lead agency: Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO)**

**Contact information:**



PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE TARGETED



Funding Gap (US\$)  
29.7 million



# OF PARTNERS

