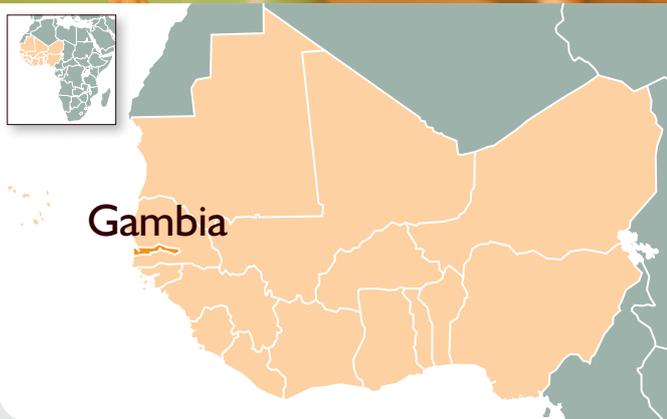




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Gambia



Research objective

To enable data users to identify the best available data source for a set of 17 key nutrition indicators (see Table 1) according to priorities for the specific data use.

The purpose of this data profile is:

- 1 To summarize all available primary data sources and secondary data aggregation platforms¹ for key nutrition indicators representative at the national level in Gambia.
- 2 To assess the identified data sources for each indicator across four dimensions (see details in key to Table 2): (i) validity and comparability, (ii) timeliness, (iii) accessibility, and (iv) representativeness.
- 3 To identify data gaps in the national data system to effectively track progress on nutrition and/or inform policy and program decisions for improving nutrition in Gambia.

¹ All types of data aggregation platforms were included such as scorecards and data visualization tools that reported on at least one of the target indicators for this assessment in a West African country.

² *Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework: Operational Guidance for Tracking Progress in Meeting Targets for 2025*, Geneva: WHO, 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

³ World Health Organization NCD monitoring framework

⁴ *Transform Nutrition West Africa* inception report, 2018

TABLE 1: 17 KEY NUTRITION INDICATORS

		WHA target	Nutrition status	Drivers
Children	U5 stunting			
	U5 wasting			
	U5 overweight			
	Low birthweight			
	Exclusive breastfeeding			
	Early initiation of breastfeeding			
	U5 anaemia			
	Minimum acceptable diet			
	Minimum dietary diversity			
Women of reproductive age	Anaemia			
	Wasting			
	Obesity			
	Minimum dietary diversity			
Adult	Sodium intake			
	Hypertension			
	Diabetes			
	Overweight and obesity			

The indicators included in this assessment cover maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN) status, underlying behaviours that drive nutritional status, and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Several of the indicators track Gambia's progress on global nutrition targets.^{2,3} In addition, the selected indicators represent important regional nutrition challenges and priority issues.⁴

TABLE 2: ASSESSMENT OF PRIMARY DATA SOURCES

Indicators		U5 stunting	U5 wasting	U5 overweight	Low birthweight	Exclusive breastfeeding	Early initiation of breastfeeding	U5 anaemia	Minimum acceptable diet	Minimum dietary diversity	Anaemia	Wasting/thinness	Obesity	Minimum dietary diversity	Sodium intake	Hypertension	Diabetes	Overweight and obesity	
Population		Children									Women of reproductive age				Adults				
Primary source ⁵	Quality																		
Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) (2013)	V	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++		-			
	T	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		-				
	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+				
	R	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	++	++		++				
Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) (2010)	V	++	++	++	++	++	++								-				
	T	-	-	-	-	-	-								-				
	A	+	+	+	+	+	+								+				
	R	++	++	++	++	++	++								++				
National Household Poverty Survey (1998)	V	?	?																
	T	-	-																
	A	+	+																
	R	+	+																
STEPS Survey (2010)	V															++		++	
	T															-		-	
	A															-		-	
	R															+		+	

KEY TO TABLE 2

Dimension	List of items	Rating	
V Validity/ comparability	Does the data source use the specified global measurement method for the indicator or can it be calculated from other indicators in the dataset?	++	Uses the standard measure and specifies the method of measurement/calculation
		+	Uses the standard measure, but no information is given on the method of measurement/calculation
		-	Uses a different measure than the standard & the standard measure cannot be calculated from other indicators in the dataset
		?	The measure is not specified in any way
T Timeliness	Does the data collection respect the recommended frequency for the indicator?	++	Data collected according to the recommended frequency and last data collection within the window
		+	Data not collected according to the recommended frequency, but last data collection within the window
		-	Data not collected according to the recommended frequency and last data collection not in the window
		?	No information on the year of collection
A Accessibility	Are the results of the survey published?	++	Report and datasets publicly available
		+	Report publicly available and datasets available after authorization
		-	Report publicly available but datasets not available
		?	No information on the survey retrieved
R Representativeness	Is the survey representative at national and first-level administrative divisions?	++	Representative at national and first-level administrative divisions
		+	Representative at national level but not at first-level subdivision
		-	Subnational survey
		?	Representative at national level but no information on representativeness at first-level administrative divisions

⁵ https://westafrica.transformnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/DA_database_primary_sources_Final.xlsx

Search for all primary sources and data platforms completed in November 2018 and data quality validation completed in December 2018. See technical note for further details on search strategy and assessment approach: <https://westafrica.transformnutrition.org/output/data-integration-assessment-technical-note/>

TABLE 3: SECONDARY DATA PLATFORMS

Indicators	U5 stunting	U5 wasting	U5 overweight	Low birthweight	Exclusive breastfeeding	Early initiation of breastfeeding	U5 anaemia	Minimum acceptable diet	Minimum dietary diversity	Anaemia	Wasting/thinness	Obesity	Minimum acceptable diet	Minimum dietary diversity	Sodium intake	Hypertension	Diabetes	Overweight and obesity
Population	Children								Women of reproductive age					Adults				
Data platforms																		
UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition estimates																		
Global health data exchange (IHME)																		
WHO data																		
Scaling Up Nutrition																		
World Bank Development Indicators																		
Our World in Data																		
Index Mundi																		
Global Nutrition Report																		
Countdown to 2030																		
Nutrition in the WHO African Region																		
Atlas of the African Health Statistics																		
Alive & Thrive/UNICEF country nutrition profile																		
UNICEF Global database on Infant and Young Child Feeding																		
UNICEF Global database on Iodized salt																		
UNICEF Global Low Birthweight database																		
Iodine Global Network																		
NCD Risk Factor Collaboration																		
Diabetes Atlas																		

 Data platform reports on indicator.

1 Primary data sources (Table 2) and data platforms (Table 3)

- Four nationally representative primary data sources were identified. The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) covers the greatest number of indicators (13), followed by the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS), which covers seven indicators.
- Eighteen data platforms were identified. Most platforms (10) use data directly from primary data sources, mainly the DHS and MICS, although some use data from other platforms. The Global Nutrition Report covers the most indicators (16) followed by Countdown to 2030 (10).
- All indicators covering the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets are reported on.
- Minimum dietary diversity for women of reproductive age (WRA) is not covered by any data source or platform.
- Diabetes among the general adult population is not covered by any primary data source. Nonetheless, several platforms report on this indicator referencing modelled estimates from the Lancet⁶ or other platforms.
- Indicators of child nutrition are covered by as many data sources and platforms as indicators of adult nutrition.
- Indicators of nutrition status are covered by more data sources but fewer platforms compared to indicators of nutrition drivers.

2 Assessment of primary data sources

- None of the data sources meet the highest standard across all four data source quality dimensions.
- All primary sources use the specified global measurement method for selected indicators, except for sodium intake, and reported indicators in the National Household Poverty Survey, where information on measurement methods is missing.
- There is only one data source (STEPS) reporting on hypertension and overweight/obesity among the general adult population, which is not publicly accessible, or timely.
- Three data sources are out of date and not within the recommended frequency window for all reported indicators (MICS, DHS, and the National Household Poverty Survey). The most recent data are from the DHS (2013), which is up-to-date for all indicators, except sodium intake and low birthweight.
- A publicly accessible report is available for all data sources, however, only three data sources (DHS, MICS, and the National Household Poverty Survey) are accessible after receiving authorization, and one (STEPS) does not grant access to the datasets.
- Two data sources (DHS and MICS) are representative at national level and at first-level administrative division, and the remaining two (National Household Poverty Survey and STEPS) are only representative at the national level.

3 Identification of data gaps

- No data are available on minimum dietary among WRA and on diabetes among the general adult population.
- Data are lacking on key indicators of diet-related NCDs in Gambia to report on NCD targets informatively.
- Most data sources are not timely and are out of date. To optimally inform policy and program processes and track progress, data should be collected within the recommended frequency for each given indicator.

⁶NCD Risk Factor Collaboration (NCD-RisC) (2016). Worldwide trends in diabetes since 1980: a pooled analysis of 751 population-based studies with 4.4 million participants. *The Lancet*, 387(10027), 1513–1530.

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