



Highlights

- WFP provided food assistance to 173,395 people through nutrition and school meals activities in December.
- In partnership with the Government, FAO and European Union, WFP supported organization of a national workshop to share data from the latest bi-annual food security and nutrition survey.

WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Brief

WFP Assistance

T-ICSP	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
GW01 (January 2018 to June 2019)	20.5 m	9.2 m (45%)	1.2 m

*January - June 2018



Country Programme 200846 started in April 2016 and is superseded by the transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan that began January 2018 and will run for 18 months. Current WFP activities contribute to the three outcomes of the United Nations Partnership Assistance Framework (UNPAF, Bissau-Guinean equivalent of UNDAF) and is aligned with Government priorities in the strategic and operational plan for 2015–2020, also known as *Terra Ranka*.

Built on lessons learned from previous WFP operations, the Country Programme promotes government and community ownership of an integrated, multi-sector social protection approach to improve nutrition, food security and government capacity in early warning and assessment.

People assisted through the programme include primary schoolchildren; undernourished children 6–59 months; undernourished people living with HIV (PLHIV) on treatment and their families; and vulnerable smallholder farmers. Cash-based transfers provided since the last quarter of 2016 will be expanded as WFP gains more experience and receives additional cash contributions.

The country programme has three objectives:

Reduce undernutrition among children 6–23 months through stunting prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among children 6–59 months; and provide nutritional support to undernourished people living with HIV.

Improve access to education and help increase government capacity for developing and managing a sustainable home-grown school meals programme.

Strengthen national capacity, both at government and community level, for scaling up food security and nutrition interventions, and connect agricultural production with sustainable markets.

In Numbers

173,395
People Assisted
December 2017



Operational Updates

In partnership with the Government, FAO and European Union, WFP supported a national workshop on 15 December to share data from the latest bi-annual food security and nutrition survey. Food insecurity affects 20 percent of the rural population, according to the latest survey conducted in October 2017 by SISSAN, the food security and nutrition monitoring system of Guinea-Bissau. The 10 percent drop from September 2016 data attributes to an increase in international prices for cashew in 2017, the main export cash crop. Food security may deteriorate in the future if nothing is done to rehabilitate rice farmlands that were flooded in 53 communities in the regions of Bafata, Gabu and Oio between July and September 2017.

WFP Guinea-Bissau joined the global campaign “16 days of activism against gender-based violence” from 24 November to 8 December. WFP supported the Institute for Women and Children to organize lectures on gender violence at primary and secondary schools across the country. Signs and banners promoting visibility for the orange-themed campaign were posted in WFP offices, and staff wore campaign t-shirts and “WFP Says No to Gender based Violence” badge necklaces. The national campaign was launched at a 24 November ceremony attended by the Minister of Women, Family and Social Cohesion, WFP, UNDP, UN Women, the National Network for Fight Against Gender and Child Violence, and the Institute for Women and Children.

The United Nations Peacebuilding Fund has approved a USD 453,413 contribution to WFP to empower rural women farmers in conflict prevention, negotiation, leadership, communication, networking and public policy advocacy. The larger 18-month project, “Supporting Women’s and Youth Political Participation for Peace and Development in Guinea-Bissau”, also includes components to be managed by UNFPA and UN Women.

WFP renewed field-level agreements with three existing cooperating partners and signed a new one with *Ação para o Desenvolvimento* (Action for Development, AD) for monitoring of school meals. NGOs *Faspebi* and Evangelic Church will continue to transport and distribute food items, and provide technical assistance to school directors on the Bijagos islands of Bubaque and Uno. National NGOs COAJQ and AD will provide technical assistance to school directors in Cacheu region.

In December, WFP completed a nine-month training of cooks working in 758 WFP-supported schools across the country. The training incorporated theoretical and practical lessons for two cooks from each school, and focused on promoting integration of locally grown products into school meals. Members of the wider community also benefited as the sessions were open to anyone interested.

Country Background & Strategy



Despite considerable agricultural potential, Guinea-Bissau has long been constrained by political turmoil that hampers economic development. With GDP of USD 1.057 billion and GNI per capita of USD 620, Guinea-Bissau is one of the poorest and most fragile low-income food-deficit countries today. Sixty-nine percent of Bissau-Guineans live below the poverty line on USD 2 per day, with higher poverty rates among people aged 15-25 years and women. Chronic food insecurity is compounded by shocks related to political instability, irregular rainfall and volatility of prices for imported rice and local cashew nut production for export.

Half the population above 15 years old is illiterate, with a wide gap in illiteracy rates between men (45 percent) and women (71 percent). Net enrolment, attendance and completion rates at primary school are extremely low, with significant disparities among regions; 27 percent of boys and 51 percent of girls are out of school. At 3.3 percent, HIV prevalence is among the highest in West Africa, with women more affected than men. Poor diet, inadequate feeding practices for young children, and high childhood morbidity contribute to global acute malnutrition rates of 6 percent among children 6-59 months, and chronic malnutrition rates of 27.6 percent countrywide.

WFP focuses on capacity development of Government institutions and builds synergies with national partners to optimize interventions. Interventions are mutually supportive of a school-centred approach. The regional gender strategy and a gender analysis study conducted in early 2016 guides country programme implementation.

WFP has been present in Guinea-Bissau since 1974.

Population: **1.8 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
178 out of 188

Income Level: **Low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **27.6% of children 6-59 months**

Donors

Guinea-Bissau, European Commission, Japan, USA

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