



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guinea Bissau Country Brief August 2019



Operational Context

Forty years of political instability have deeply constrained socio-economic and human development. More than two-thirds of the population live below the poverty line. Due to the gender bias to get access to resources, poverty impacts women more than men.

A new Government was sworn-in on 3 July 2019 after 4 months from successful legislative elections on 10 March 2019 and intervention from ECOWAS that included conditional extension of the presidential term until the new election, scheduled for 24 November 2019. The current President is the first to complete his full 5-year mandate in June 2019 under peaceful conditions, despite mounting criticism. The composition of the government's Cabinet for the first time met gender parity, while youth were also represented.

WFP focuses on capacity strengthening of government institutions and builds synergies with national partners to optimize interventions that are mutually supportive and part of integrated strategy around home-grown school feeding, stunting prevention and treatment, emergency preparedness and possible responses. WFP Country Office mainstream the corporate gender policy across its activities, and the gender analysis study conducted in early 2016 guided Country Strategic Plan (CSP) implementation. WFP has been present in Guinea-Bissau since 1974.



Population: **1.9million**

2017 Human Development Index: **177 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower income**

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

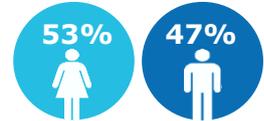
In Numbers

13 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 of cash-based transfers made

US\$ 1.7 m six months (September 2019 – February 2020) net funding requirements

1,042 people assisted
in August 2019



Operational Updates

- In August, WFP completed the assessment to expand the home-grown school feeding programme funded by the Government of Guinea Bissau to 40 new schools from 21 September (start of the 2019/2020 school year).
- WFP continued the distribution of 13 mt of SuperCereal reaching 1,042 children aged 6-59 months under treatment for acute malnutrition in 42 nutritional recovery centres in Oio, Bafatá, and Gabu.
- On August, WFP, in partnership with INASA, organised a workshop to discuss the findings from the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) Study. The report presented an analysis on the long-term economic and social impact of child malnutrition on Guinea-Bissau's development.
- On 8 August, the country office with support from the WFP Regional Bureau in Dakar, rolled out the Invoice Tracking System (ITS), an application that eliminates the need to rely on invoice paper copies and makes the payment process faster and more efficient.
- WFP completed the procurement process of 95 mt of SuperCereal for stunting prevention activities with financial support from the Government of Japan. WFP will assist 5,000 children aged 6-23 months in Oio, Bafata, and Gabu, the regions with the highest stunting rates as of September 2019.
- WFP signed a six-month workplan with the National Institute of Statistics (INE) and a Field Level Agreement with the national NGO AIFA PALOP for the 2019 round of data collection of the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System. The countrywide assessment will take place in September and preliminary results are expected by early November 2019.
- In August, the Information Technology Unit completed the Disaster Recovery Plan; conducted prevention IT maintenance in the Bafata Office and a training to all staff on cybersecurity and use of Microsoft Teams.

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Main Photo
Credit: WFP Guinea-Bissau

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
0.6 m	0.5 m	1.7 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations in Guinea-Bissau are able to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements in the aftermath of shock.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity of and coordination among national partners in responding to crises as a contingency measure

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: School-age children in Guinea-Bissau have access to nutritious meals during the school year

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide nutritious school meals to pre- and primary schoolchildren and take-home rations for girls in years 5 and 6 and strengthen the capacities of the Government and partners at the central and local levels to implement and monitor a nutrition-sensitive and gender-transformative school feeding programme

Strategic Outcome 3: Populations at risk of malnutrition in Guinea-Bissau, particularly children, women and girls of reproductive age and people living with HIV, have improved nutrition status in line with national targets by 2024

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Support the implementation of the national nutrition policy and the protocol for the integrated prevention of stunting and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition focusing on the provision of support for policy design and gender and age-informed implementation, technical assistance and capacity strengthening to the Ministry of Public Health, Family and Social Cohesion; social and behaviour change communication, the prevention of stunting among children aged 6–23 months, the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among children aged 6–59 months, and food and nutrition assistance to people living with HIV and their households

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 4: Smallholder farmers in Guinea-Bissau, particularly women and young people, have improved livelihoods and increased household incomes by 2024

Focus area: Resilience building

- Provide an integrated package of assistance interventions to associations of women and young smallholder farmers that comprises nutrition and literacy education, training in basic business skills, sensitization to their rights to adequate food and nutrition, market access through the school feeding programme and the transfer of knowledge on the optimization of agricultural value chains

Strategic Result 4: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic outcome 5: National institutions and legislators in Guinea-Bissau have enhanced capacity in and are accountable for the development, implementation and monitoring of evidence-based food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2030

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide an integrated package of assistance interventions to associations of women and young smallholder farmers that comprises nutrition and literacy education, training in basic business skills, sensitization to their rights to adequate food and nutrition, market access through the school feeding programme and the transfer of knowledge on the optimization of agricultural value chains

- On 22 August, WFP staff participated in a group session on stress awareness with The UN Regional Stress Counsellor for West and Central Africa, Mrs. Djeneba Coulibaly. The session was part of the visit to UN Country Team and United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBISS) conducted from 13 to 27 August 2019.

Monitoring

- In August the United Nations Association of German (UNA/Germany) visited WFP and met the management team. The visit was part of the UNA/Germany visit to Guinea-Bissau from 25 to 30 August 2019. In recent years, UNA Germany undertook study trips to countries where the United Nations was present on the ground, either with a peacekeeping operation, with a special political mission, or with a country team. The idea behind those study trips was to better understand the role and mandate of the UN presence in those countries, and to learn what challenges the UN is faced with in those often-fragile situations.
- In August, due to the school summer holidays, only 30 monitoring missions were conducted in the assisted schools in Bafata and Biombo regions. Reconciliation of dispatched and distributed food items between the WFP logistics execution support system (LESS) and the country office tool for managing programme operations effectively (COMET) from January to August 2019 was completed.

Challenges

- Current WFP stocks of imported rice, beans, and vegetable oil are sufficient to continue school feeding activities for the remainder of 2019 but will be fully consumed by December 2019. WFP seeks additional funding to ensure continuation of this activity in 2020 supporting 180,000 schoolchildren in 874 primary schools across the eight rural regions of Guinea-Bissau.

Donors

European Union, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Japan, UNAIDS, United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, United States.