WFP Guinea-Bissau
Country Brief
January 2020

Operational Context
Forty-five years of political instability have deeply constrained socio-economic and human development. More than two-thirds of the population live below the poverty line, and due to the gender bias in accessing resources, poverty impacts women more than men.

While legislative and presidential elections in 2014 after the coup d’état in 2012, ended the Transition Government and ushered in the democratically chosen President and Prime Minister, the political instability began again in August 2015, with a dismissal of the Prime Minister, and continued throughout the presidential mandate, which appointed eight Prime Ministers and dismissed four. The country held successful legislative elections in March 2019 establishing a new Government, which successfully organized Presidential elections on 24 November and 29 December 2019 without violent incidents. However, the result is currently being disputed. The outgoing President is the first one who has served a full five-year term and the country waits for the first peaceful handover.

WFP focuses on capacity strengthening of government institutions and builds synergies with national partners to optimize mutually supportive interventions that are part of an integrated strategy around home-grown school feeding, resilience, stunting prevention and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) treatment, emergency preparedness and responses. WFP mainstreams the corporate gender policy across its activities, and the gender analysis study conducted in early 2016 guided Country Strategic Plan (CSP) formulation, which is aligned with the country’s “Terra Ranka” development strategy and Zero Hunger Strategic Review approved by the Government in Jan 2019. WFP has been present in Guinea-Bissau since 1974.

Operational Updates
- WFP distributed 167,885 mt of food to 865 schools and reached 175,249 school children in eight regions with daily hot meals.
- WFP continued the distribution of 1.503 mt of premixed nutritious foods to 353 children aged 6 to 59 months under treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in 42 nutritional recovery centres in Oio, Bafatá, and Gabu, three regions with the highest stunting rate in the country. Each child received 200g per day of nutritious food for 90 days.
- WFP distributed 28mt of premixed nutritious foods to 4,587 children aged 6 to 23 months through its stunting prevention programme also in Oio, Bafatá, and Gabu. The individual ration is the same as that of MAM above.
- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Education trained 14 headmasters and members from 32 school management committees on the management of the school feeding programme and warehouse procedures.
- WFP organised a workshop, in partnership with a national NGO, ALTERNAG, to disseminate results and recommendations from the study on “HIV-sensitive social protection to identify social barriers to access treatment” in the Oio region and Bissau. The event raised awareness among regional health officials on how to overcome social, cultural, physical, and economic barriers preventing people living with HIV (PLHIV) in accessing social services.
- In close partnership with the NGO ALTERNAG, WFP produced and distributed the Nutritional Support Guide for PLHIV and communication materials in antiretroviral treatment centres. WFP and ALTERNAG organized trainings on implementation of the Guide in Bafata, Gabu, Tombali and Quinara regions and 74 regional health officials attended the trainings.

In Numbers
198 mt of food assistance distributed
USD 7.3 m six months net funding requirements
180,189 people assisted
in January 2020

Population: 1.9 million
Income Level: Low income
2018 Human Development Index: 178 out of 189
Chronic malnutrition: 27.6% of children between 6-59 months

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Main Photo
Credit: WFP/Renata Lobo
Caption: Beneficiaries of the School Feeding Program in Guinea Bissau, Oio region.
Monitoring

- WFP completed reconciliation of dispatched and distributed commodities between LESS and COMET from September to December 2019. Findings confirmed the non-reconciled balance in 2019 was negligible.

Challenges

- The ongoing political instability continues to be a major challenge involving multiple risks. The strike may hinder health, education, agriculture and social services if prolonged. For instance, one of the WFP and Ministry of Agriculture implemented resilience activities has been on hold until the strike is resolved.

- Current stocks of rice, beans, and vegetable oil, in-kind contribution, will be fully consumed by March 2020. WFP seeks additional cash and in-kind donations to ensure continued support to school feeding through the end of 2020 feeding 180,000 schoolchildren in 874 primary schools across the eight regions of Guinea-Bissau.

Donors

European Commission, United Nations Peacebuilding Fund