



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Brief

October 2020



Operational Context

Guinea-Bissau is a low-income and food-deficit country, ranking 178 out of 189 countries in the 2019 Human Development Index. Forty-seven years of political instability since independence have deeply constrained socio-economic and human development. Poverty impacts women more than men, reflecting gender inequalities in access to education, land and credit. Vulnerabilities were further impacted by COVID-19, exacerbating institutional weaknesses, inadequate public services, lack of safety nets and overreliance on cashew nut exports.

In 2019, the country successfully held its second legislative and presidential elections since the 2012 coup d'état, though a legal dispute ensued over eight months regarding the presidential election results announced by the National Electoral Commission (CNE). On 27 February 2020, before a confirmation by the Supreme Court, the winner announced by CNE proclaimed himself President, dismissed the Prime Minister and appointed a new one, prompting a political and legal crisis. On 7 September, the Supreme Court dismissed the electoral dispute over the presidential election. While Parliament approved the Government's Programme, the State Budget 2020 and the National Development Plan 2020-2023, political tensions persist amid a contentious constitutional reform, disputed parliamentary majority and the exclusion from Government of the main political party which won the legislative election. The human rights situation also remains a concern.

WFP focuses on capacity strengthening of national partners that are complementary to other partners to optimize mutually supportive and gender-transformative interventions in an integrated strategy encompassing inclusive home-grown school feeding, rural women empowerment, social protection, resilience, stunting prevention and MAM treatment, emergency preparedness and response. WFP has been present in Guinea-Bissau since 1974.



Population: 1.9 million

Child stunting: 28% of children under 5 years old

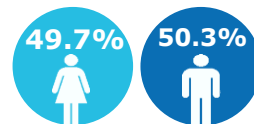
In Numbers

US\$ 73,000 cash-based transfers made

49.4 mt of food distributed

US\$ 3.3 m six months (November 2020-April 2021) net funding requirements

14,372 people assisted in October 2020



Operational Updates

- In October, the UNICEF-WFP social protection project supported 1,011 households (approx. 7,077 people) with mobile cash transfers. The project transfers monthly XOF 40,000 (approx. USD 72) for three months to targeted families in the eight rural sectors with the highest prevalence of food insecurity and urban Bissau. WFP and UNICEF presented, in a workshop with partners, the results of the project's baseline assessment, which revealed that 40 percent of beneficiary households had inadequate food consumption, significantly higher than the national average.
- WFP in coordination with the Ministry of Education plans to resume the on-site school feeding programme in early November. The agreement follows the decision by the Government to gradually reopen schools from 5 October onward, after being closed since 18 March due to COVID-19. During the school closure months, WFP distributed take-home rations, supporting over 180,000 schoolchildren from 874 schools in all regions of Guinea-Bissau. As of 15 October, the Ministry reported 839 of the 874 schools had reopened.
- WFP's implementing partner Humanity & Inclusion (HI) will launch in November an inclusive education project to support children living with disabilities in Oio and Cacheu regions, funded by WFP. In preparation, HI supported the capacity strengthening of the newly created General Directorate for Inclusive Education within the Ministry of Education; identified most vulnerable households with children with disabilities through a vulnerability analysis; procured hygiene kits to prevent COVID-19 spread; and conducted sensitization of communities and stakeholders.
- WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) and the National Institute of Statistics (INE) conducted a nationwide survey as part of the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS). In total, 2,052 heads of households were interviewed through phone interviews (mobile vulnerability assessment mapping or mVAM), using a database of over 12,000 phone numbers collected since 2016 during previous surveys. Results were presented in a virtual workshop with FSNMS stakeholders.
- WFP continued to provide supply chain support to High Commissioner for COVID-19. In October, WFP delivered personal protective equipment, medical equipment, medicines and hospital and lab supplies to health structures around the country. Overall, 215 oxygen cylinders were delivered to three COVID-19 hospitals in the Bissau area. As of 1 November, Guinea-Bissau had recorded 2,414 cumulative cases of COVID-19, including 1,862 recovered cases and 42 deaths.

Contact info: Marco Principi (marco.principi@wfp.org)

Country Director: Kiyomi Kawaguchi

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/guinea-bissau

Main Photo: Asset creation beneficiary receiving CBT in Camamudo, Bafatá region

Credit: WFP/Marco Principi

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
12.3 m	7 m	3.3 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 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 Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

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

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.

Strategic Result 5: 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 national institutions with support for policies, technical assistance and the transfer of knowledge and advocate for the effective formulation and implementation of gender-transformative social safety nets, food security and nutrition programmes (including data collection and analysis, evidence generation and monitoring systems) and emergency preparedness and response mechanisms.

- Health and nutrition centres in Oio, Bafatá and Gabu regions distributed WFP-provided specialized nutritious foods (CSB++) to 528 children under treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and to 6,767 children for stunting prevention.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted three field monitoring missions in October: (1) in Nhacra and Mansoa sectors, WFP monitored its resilience-building activities in flood-prone areas, confirming the distribution of seeds, farming materials and building of dykes and drainage channels; (2) in Mansaba sector, WFP led post-distribution monitoring for the UNICEF-WFP cash transfers, confirming that over 95 percent of families received the transfer and observing beneficiaries use of cash, community acceptance of the project and the need to strengthen the complaint and feedback mechanism; and (3) also in Mansaba sector, WFP visited two health centres and followed up on the distribution of specialized foods (CSB++) for stunting prevention and MAM treatment. WFP also interviewed by phone 178 smallholder farmers to monitor its local food purchases project.

Challenges

- Above-average rainfall in the preceding months July-September damaged roads, houses and crops, delaying implementation of WFP's activities and negatively impacting food security.
- Public sector strikes caused delays in the delivery of food to schools in October. Calls for further strikes are being monitored for potential future disruptions.
- Implementation of the UNICEF-WFP cash transfers faced delays due to the need to verify and reconcile beneficiary data with the mobile money service provider. As a result, the last group of the first round of transfers to 213 households were postponed to November.

Food Security and Nutrition Situation

In October, the food security and nutrition situation remained a cause of concern, with 14 percent of the population not having access to an adequate diet and 20 percent using severe coping mechanisms. Although the proportion of households engaging in crisis- or emergency-level livelihood-based coping strategies has declined since July, 42 percent of the households (approx. 680,000 people) remained in a severely vulnerable situation with reduced capacity to generate sufficient future income. Exports of cashew nuts – the country's main cash crop – increased and reached 148,455 mt as of 19 October in line with 2018 export and well below 195,547 mt in 2019, according to the National Cashew Agency. However, the average price to producers (300 XOF/Kg) remained the lowest in recent years and resulted in a loss of purchasing power among cashew growers. Abundant rains benefitted rainfed crops, though damages to crops caused by floods and strong winds are expected to negatively affect agricultural production in the main affected areas.

Donors

Donors to WFP Guinea-Bissau include European Commission, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Japan, United States and Private Donors. Additional support has been provided by the UN COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund, UNAIDS and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.