



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Country Name Country Brief April 2021



## Operational Context

Guinea-Bissau is a low-income and food-deficit country, ranking 175 out of 189 countries in the 2020 Human Development Index ranking. Forty-eight 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 moderate acute malnutrition treatment, emergency preparedness and response. WFP has been present in Guinea-Bissau since 1974.

Population: **1.9 million**

2020 Human Development Index ranking:  
**175 of 189**

Global acute malnutrition: **5% of children aged 6-29 months**

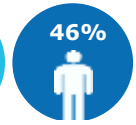
Chronic malnutrition: **28% of children aged 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

4.2 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.0 m six months (May-October 2021) net funding requirements, representing 38% of total

806 people assisted  
In April 2021



## Operational Updates

- WFP in partnership with the National Civil Protection Service (SNPC) has completed the registration of 851 households (6,000 people), whose houses and crops have been damaged by floods and strong winds in July-October 2020. Cell phones have also been distributed to enable cash-based transfers. Starting from May, targeted households will receive a monthly allowance of CFA 40,000 (around USD 72) for four months.
- Ninety-two schools from southern Tombali and Quinara regions have been identified to potentially be part of WFP's home-grown school feeding programme (HGSF). Through the latter, WFP is already linking 874 school canteens with locally grown and imported ingredients. Evaluation of the new schools identified is ongoing, based on the selection criteria set (such as infrastructural conditions, existence of toilets, community engagement etc.). Moreover, field-level agreements (FLAs) with non-governmental organization (NGO) partners on HGSF have been updated to improve efficiency and accountability. According to the updated FLAs, purchases from local farmers and distribution to schools will now be performed by different partners.
- In April, WFP received 85 mt of canned fish for school feeding and 38 mt of specialize nutritious foods (Super Cereal) for moderate acute malnutrition treatment. A total 304 mt of locally grown tubers, beans, rice and imported canned fish were delivered to partner NGOs for distribution to beneficiary schools.
- After having successfully supported the creation of a General Directorate of Inclusive Education (DGEI) in March, WFP, in partnership with its NGO partner Humanity & Inclusion (HI) and UNICEF, is currently working with the Ministry of Education to draft a law on inclusive education, aiming to improve education for children with disabilities. WFP and HI continue to strengthen the capacities of DGEI staff through trainings and awareness raising activities.
- Preliminary results of the Fill the Nutrient Gap study have been shared with key nutrition partners in Guinea-Bissau. The study, carried out by WFP in collaboration with local stakeholders, analyses the nutrition situation in Guinea-Bissau and identifies key barriers hindering access to healthy and nutritious foods for the most vulnerable. It aims to inform national policies and improve targeting of WFP's nutrition activities.
- In the context of its resilience building activities in rural communities in Gabu, Oio and Bafatá regions, WFP and its implementing partners have developed a technical handbook on rice cultivation and paddy fields restoration, to be shared with the beneficiaries.

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

**Main Photo: Caption:** Students receiving hot schools meals in Oio region.

**Credit:** WFP/Renata Lobo

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
12.4 m	10.4 m	2.0 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.

- WFP continues to support the development of a national Spatial Data Infrastructure database by strengthening the capacities of the SNPC on Geographical Information System analysis and remote sensing. Initial results of this activity will be presented by the end of May to partners.
- On 30 April, WFP organized consultations with key local and international partners on food security and nutrition to support the elaboration of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau for 2022-2026. The consultations gathered inputs on one of the outcomes of the framework (Outcome 3), "Equitable access to essential social services", which includes food security and nutrition.
- WFP continues to support the High Commissioner for COVID-19 with supply chain management of personal protective equipment, medical equipment, medicines and hospital lab supplies, receiving, storing and delivering these items to health structures around the country.

## Monitoring

- Since its last market survey in August-September 2020, WFP was able to conduct a new survey in April 2021, covering 44 markets across the country. The survey aimed to monitor market functionality and prices of food and non-food items. Results are expected to be shared in the upcoming weeks.
- WFP conducted three monitoring missions in Bissora, Mansaba and Ganadu sectors to assess implementation of the school feeding programme. During the missions, WFP exchanged with school directors, members of the school management committees and inspectors.

## Challenges

- WFP's school feeding activities in April were suspended to prepare and execute the handover of 229 schools from WFP to be part of the USDA-funded McGovern Dole Food for Education Program. WFP is working with partner NGOs and the Ministry of Education to resume distributions to the other schools in May.

## Food Security and Nutrition Situation

According to a survey conducted by WFP in March 2021, the food security situation in the country has significantly improved since October 2020. The number of households with an acceptable food consumption has increased from 86.2 percent in October 2020 to 94.2 percent in March 2021. If, in October, 20.3 percent of households were using severe consumption-based coping mechanisms to access sufficient food (such as decreasing meal portions or limiting number of meals per day), six months later, this proportion has dropped to 13.8 percent. Use of severe livelihood-based coping mechanisms, such as selling key productive assets to buy food, has also halved, from 42.4 percent to 16.9 percent. Improved food security at the time of the survey is partially due to higher rice availability following harvest in January 2021, as well as increased liquidity from credits contracted by around 25 percent of farmers from cashew nut buyers in the lead-up to the cashew nut campaign.

## Donors

Top five donors to WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Strategic Plan 2019-2024 include the European Commission, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Japan, China and USA. Additional support has been provided by the UN COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund, UNAIDS and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.