



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Brief July and August 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). Umaro Sissoco Embaló was recognized by ECOWAS in April 2020 as President of the Republic and called for the appointment of a new Prime Minister and government based on the results of the legislative elections of March 10, 2019.

WFP focuses on capacity strengthening of national partners to optimize gender-transformative and integrated interventions, 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**

2019 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

**11 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 12,340** cash-based transfer made

**USD 483,953** six months (September-February 2021) net funding requirements

**4,933** people assisted in July and August



## Operational Updates

- In August, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture signed an agreement to jointly implement a project funded by IFAD's Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF). The project is carried out by the Economic Development Project for the Southern Regions (PADES), an implementation unit within the Ministry, and takes place during the 2021/2022 agricultural season. The intervention aims to support rural households in Quinara and Tombali regions that were particularly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. WFP committed to support PADES with the distribution of seeds to 19 targeted villages, the organization of training on climate resilient agricultural practices for partner organizations, national counterparts and graduate agronomists, as well as data provision on market price trends to be diffused via community radios. Between 16 and 20 August, WFP distributed 100,085 kg of rice seeds to 3,067 farmers (2,619 men and 448 women).
- On August 4, WFP and representatives from partner NGO Humanity & Inclusion (H&I) launched in Mansoa the second phase of their joint project 'Education without borders', initiated in 2020. While the first phase of the project focused on promoting inclusive education practices in 16 schools in Oio and Cacheu regions, in 2021 WFP and H&I will focus on improving physical accessibility of school canteens in 23 schools in the same regions. The activity will benefit 7,000 children, including 150 with disabilities. Targeting 200,000 people, WFP and H&I will raise awareness on the importance of social inclusion and access to education for children with disabilities. Moreover, the two organizations will continue to strengthen the capacities of national authorities, especially the newly funded General Directorate for Inclusive Education, to assist it in the elaboration of a strategic plan for inclusive education in Guinea-Bissau.
- With the aim of strengthening local capacities for improved nutrition outcomes, WFP and the Ministry of Health organized three capacity strengthening missions in Bafatá, Farim and Mansoa sectors. The objective of the visits was to improve the capacity of community health trainers to identify and register children aged 6-23 months for the distribution of specialized nutritious foods (Super Cereal Plus) to prevent chronic malnutrition. In total, 64 health staff were trained (42 men and 22 women).

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/guinea-bissau](http://www.wfp.org/countries/guinea-bissau)

**Main Photo:** Young girls, beneficiaries of WFP's school feeding programme, pose after a Math class. Credit: WFP/Renata Lobo

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
12.4 m	17 m	0.5 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 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. As of 30 August, Guinea-Bissau recorded 5,890 cases of COVID-19, including 120 deaths.

## Monitoring

- In July, WFP conducted a Food Security and Nutrition Situation survey using mVAM (mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping) approach, interviewing 2,187 heads of households via phone. The next survey, planned for October 2021, will use face-to-face data collection, providing a more in-depth analysis of the current food security and nutrition situation in the country. Data from the upcoming survey will inform the next Cadre Harmonisé report which will be released in November 2021.
- Between July and August, WFP visited communities in Bafatá, Quinara, Gabu and Tombali regions that are currently implementing resilience building activities. The objective of the mission was to monitor progress across the different projects, including the construction of dykes and wells, and collect the list of beneficiaries enrolled in the activities.
- In July, WFP also conducted a monitoring mission in Mansoa to assess conditions for the implementation of school feeding activities in anticipation of the 2021/2022 school year (starting at the end of September).

## Challenges

- WFP urgently seeks additional USD 0.5 million to implement activities planned for the next six months, especially with respect to its crisis response activities and home-grown school feeding programme.

## Food Security and Nutrition Situation

The food security situation in the country has remained stable since March 2021, according to the latest Food Security and Nutrition Situation survey conducted by WFP in July 2021. About 14.3 percent of the population was found to be food insecure (against 13.7 percent in March), peaking at 27 percent in Tombali and 22.3 percent in Oio. The revenues from the cashew nut campaign, between April and July, are a key driver for the relatively low prevalence of food insecurity. The number of households facing serious constraints accessing food has substantially decreased in 2021 compared to 2020, owing to the progressive reduction in COVID-19-related restrictions, the harvests from 2020/2021 agricultural campaign and the 2021 cashew nut marketing campaign.

In July 2021, the number of people resorting to severe consumption-related coping strategies (such as reducing the number of meals or decreasing food portions) was 12.6 percent, almost matching the pre-pandemic level of 12 percent registered in September 2019. However, it is expected that the food security situation will worsen during the lean season in August and September. In fact, the first crops of the 2021/2022 agricultural season will not be harvested before the end of October.

## Donors

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