



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Brief July and August 2022

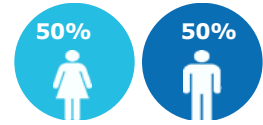


## In Numbers

68 mt of food assistance distributed in July

USD 0.4 M six months (Sep 2022 - Feb 2023) net funding requirements

70 630 people assisted  
In July 2022



## Operational Updates

- On 27 June 2022, WFP, UNFPA and UNICEF, in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator Office and the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity, officially launched a two-year project on social protection, funded by the Joint SDG Fund. Project activities include the development of a shock-responsive social protection policy, the design of a social registry and the delivery of unconditional cash-based transfer to 1,500 food insecure households in Bolama Bijagós, Tombali and Gabu regions.
- In July, WFP distributed 60 mt of food to 70,630 schoolchildren (>50 percent girls) in assisted schools that had not yet closed for the summer holidays.
- In July, WFP concluded its School Connect pilot in 47 schools in Biombo region and kicked-off project expansion in 33 schools in Oio region in August. School Connect aims at improving tracking of attendance, consumption and stock inventory in schools participating in WFP's home-grown school feeding programme by digitising data collection and analysis via tablets. Since the beginning of the pilot in May, WFP distributed tablets to all 80 school directors and organized two trainings for 166 staff at the school, sector and regional levels. In July, all school directors from Biombo successfully shared reliable data on children attendance and remaining food stocks. Access to real-time information significantly reduced the lag between data collection and analysis, facilitating WFP's planning of school feeding operations for the 2022/2023 school year. WFP is currently seeking funds to expand the project to all 693 assisted schools across the country.
- Between July and August, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and partner NGOs, identified and registered 20,000 children aged 6-23 months at risk of malnutrition in Oio, Bafatá and Gabú, who will participate in WFP's stunting prevention programme. WFP also trained 75 health staff (including 51 women) from all regions on how to provide nutritional support for people living with HIV and tuberculosis.
- Between July and August, WFP and FAO Identified and trained 150 farmers in 15 villages in Gabú, Bafatá and Quinara regions on the principles of the System of Rice Intensification technique (SRI). This technique allows smallholder farmers to increase rice crop productivity while decreasing the quantity of water, seeds and chemicals used. Previously tested in Guinea-Bissau by local agronomists, the technique led to a four-fold increase in yields compared to traditional techniques. Through this pilot, funded by the SDG Joint Fund, WFP and FAO wish to further test this technique with local communities to appraise its potential for rice production in the country. Participants received rice seeds, created the nurseries for rice germination and prepared the fields for transplant of sprouts in September.

## Operational Context

Guinea-Bissau is a low-income country, ranking 177 out of 189 countries in the 2021/22 Human Development Index. Forty-nine years of political instability since independence have deeply constrained socio-economic and human development. Poverty impacts women more than men, as they have reduced access to education, land and credit. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated institutional weaknesses, exposing inadequate public services, lack of safety nets and overreliance on cashew nut exports.

Malnutrition is widespread. According to WFP's Fill the Nutrient Gap study (2021), more than two thirds of the population cannot afford a nutritious and healthy diet (4 USD/day for a family of seven). On average, 28 percent of children aged 6-59 months are stunted, while 5 percent of children aged 6-29 months are wasted.

Although 2021 was characterized by relative political stability, an attempted coup d'état on 1 February 2022 aiming to overthrow President Umaro Sissoko Embaló inaugurated a new period of political crisis. On 16 May, the President dissolved the Parliament, scheduling new parliamentary elections for 18 December 2022.

Since February 2022, the food security and nutrition situation in the country has been further aggravated by the consequences of the conflict in Ukraine. As the country is a net food importer, soaring food and fuel prices are severely hindering access to food for vulnerable households.

WFP, present in Guinea-Bissau since 1974, supports government policies and interventions in the areas of emergency preparedness and response, stunting prevention and moderate acute malnutrition treatment, education through its home-grown school feeding, resilience building and social protection.



Population: 1.9 million

Human Development Index 2021/22  
ranking: 177 of 189

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

**Main Photo:** Presentation of PBF-funded climate security project to Elalab village in Cacheu Region. Credit: UNDP/Ines Bastos

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

2022 Total Requirement (in USD)	2022 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	2022 Available contributions (in USD)
11.9 m	1.7 m	14.8 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.

- In August, WFP, UNDP, and partner NGOs kicked-off the implementation of an innovative project on climate security in 15 villages in Cacheu, Quinara and Gabu regions. The project, funded by the Peacebuilding Fund, aims to mitigate security issues arising from climate change impacts on land and water availability, by creating gender-inclusive civic spaces and implementing climate change adaptation solutions through Food assistance For Assets (FFA). WFP and its partners presented the project to local authorities, civil society organizations and targeted villages, and gathered information on conflicts and climate-related issues. In the coming weeks, WFP and its partners will organize a 3-day participatory workshop in each village to identify specific resilience projects they wish to implement.
- As part of its resilience activities, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture's Economic Development Project for the Southern Regions (PADES) and with funding from IFAD, WFP trained and equipped 13 market monitors in the regions of Tombali, Quinara and Bolama Bijagos to autonomously collect food prices and share them with local communities through radio programmes. In August, WFP also initiated the purchase of 248 mt of rice from PADES beneficiaries, to be distributed to schools in the southern regions, as part of its home-grown school feeding programme.
- On 28 July, WFP Guinea-Bissau presented its new Country Strategic Plan (CSP, 2023-2027) during the informal consultations of the Executive Board. The strategy, which is fully aligned with UN Sustainable Development and Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF, 2022-2026) and with the government's policies and development priorities, will be submitted for approval to the Executive Board in November. While standing in continuity with the previous CSP (2019-2022), the new strategy presents four programmatic shifts: 1. Improved synergy between WFP's programmatic areas; 2. Stronger integration of climate change adaptation across all activities; 3. New focus on social protection and 4. Better integration of cross-cutting themes (gender equality, social inclusion and environmental sustainability).

## Monitoring

- In July, WFP visited assisted schools in Catio sector, Tombali region, to monitor school feeding activities and inspect food storage conditions.
- In August, WFP conducted a monitoring mission in Buba, Quinara region, to observe the purchase, transportation and rice storage activities conducted by partner NGOs in the context of the resilience project implemented with PADES.
- Throughout July and August, WFP continued to collect monthly food prices in 44 markets across the country.

## Challenges

- Since July, WFP has been experiencing a pipeline break of specialized nutritious foods (Super Cereal Plus) due to shipment delays. As a result, WFP was not able to distribute SC+ to health centres in July and August. Product arrival is expected at the beginning of October.
- In July and August, road conditions, which are generally poor, were further degraded by intense rains, hindering access to remote villages and complicating implementation of nutrition and resilience activities and monitoring missions.

## Donors

Top five donors to WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Strategic Plan 2019-2022 include the European Commission, Guinea-Bissau (debt-swap agreement with Spain), USA, Japan, and China.