



World Food Programme

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WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Brief MAY 2023

Operational Context

Guinea-Bissau has been experiencing political instability which has severely constrained socio-economic and human development. In this context, 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, a lack of safety nets, and overreliance on cashew nut exports.

Malnutrition is widespread. According to WFP's Fill the Nutrient Gap study (2022), over 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.

Since February 2022, the country's food security and nutrition situation has been further aggravated by the consequences of the Ukraine crisis. As the country is a net food importer, soaring food and fuel prices are severely hindering access to food for vulnerable households. About 96,000 people are facing acute levels of food insecurity as per the latest Cadre Harmonise analysis (March 2023).

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 programme, resilience building and social protection.



Population: **2 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **177 out of 191**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **31 percent of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

179,753 people assisted
in May 2023



236 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.6 million six-month (June-November 2023)
net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- Five new water wells drilled in Buba, Quiana Region and two in Pitche, Gabu Region as part of the Peacebuilding Fund project to support smallholder farmers. The project is jointly implemented with the United Nations Development Programme and emphasizes women empowerment.
- Local horticulture was supported in these regions through the purchase of production materials, the measurement of production perimeters, and the staging of five workshops for participatory community planning. These workshops allowed local communities to influence the direction of the project.
- Following the successful scale-up of WFP's home-grown school meals programme in April, WFP distributed locally procured rice to supply 852 school canteens, reaching 178,993 children. Home-grown procurement directly supports circular economic linkages between smallholders and the national provision of school meals, establishing a resilient economic cycle.
- WFP finalized field-level agreements with five NGOs (GUIARROZ, RA, AD, AIFA PALOP and MERS BODJAR) to support the identification and selection of producers who will benefit from agricultural inputs donated through the Project Supporting Urgent Food Security Needs in Guinea-Bissau (PAUSA). The project aims to reach over 47,000 vulnerable producers in one year.
- WFP launched its cash transfer programme for Gabu, Tombali and Bolama-Bijagos Regions. This included the official presentation of the joint-UN project to the regional governor in Bolama-Bijagos. The project will prioritize support for people affected by the devastating fire that impacted the Canhabaque sector in February.

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Photo Caption: WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Director João Manja in a lesson with 2nd grade children during a visit to Egara school on Onhocomo island, as part of a field mission to the Bolama-Bijagos region in May. **Credit:** WFP/Talisma Dias

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
132.4 million	9 million
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$) (June – November 2023)
26.6 million	1.6 million

SDG: Zero hunger

SDG Target: 1 – 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 assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacities of national partners and local communities in preparedness and response.

Strategic Outcome 2: Children, vulnerable populations, and people at risk of malnutrition in Guinea Bissau have improved diets and access to basic services, including health, education and nutrition by 2027.

Focus area: *Root causes*

Activities:

- Provide nutritious school meals and take-home rations to schoolchildren for improved education outcomes, and pilot approaches to strengthening the national school health and nutrition system.
- Provide nutrition services for populations at risk of malnutrition and strengthen community and national-level nutrition services.

Strategic Outcome 3: Rural communities in Guinea-Bissau, particularly women and young people, have increased resilience in the face of climate change and socioeconomic shocks and stressors by 2027.

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Provide an integrated support package to smallholder farmers, especially women's and young smallholder farmers' associations, for improved livelihoods, access to markets, diets, and resilience.

SDG: Partnerships for the goals

SDG Target: 5 – Capacity Building

Strategic Outcome 4: The social protection system in Guinea-Bissau is strengthened by 2027.

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Provide technical support and capacitate national institutions to build an efficient, inclusive, nutrition-sensitive, and shock-responsive social protection system.

- Under WFP's nutrition activities, 70 health technicians were trained in the integrated management of moderate-to-severe acute malnutrition and the prevention of chronic malnutrition in Cacheu, Oio/Mansoa, Quinara and Tombali Regions. Furthermore, nine metric tonnes of fortified blended food were delivered to assist 700 people across the month, 51 percent of which were women.

Challenges

- On 4 June, Guinea-Bissau held national elections for the first time since the dissolution of the Parliament following the attempted coup d'état in February 2022. WFP had to suspend non-essential missions until mid-June and restrict its movements to follow recommended safety precautions in the lead-up to these elections. The national power shift also slowed down cooperative actions with the Government during this period.

Donors

The top five donors to WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Strategic Plan 2023-2027 include Guinea-Bissau (as part of a debt-swap agreement with Spain, and the AfDB donation), Japan, Norway, private donors, and Ireland. Additional support has been provided by the UN SDG Fund, the UN Peacebuilding Fund, and the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS.