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, and average 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).

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.

In Numbers

179,753 people assisted
239 mt of food assistance distributed
US$ 0 million six-month (July - December 2023) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- Over 44,300 beneficiaries were identified for support through the Project Supporting Urgent Food Security Needs in Guinea-Bissau (PAUSA). The project will distribute Bas Fond and Mangrove rice, horticultural seeds, and fertilisers in July and August across 2,435 vulnerable communities.

- The nutrition team sent 9.3 mt of Super Cereal Plus to 36 health centres, across Cacheu and Quinara regions, under WFP’s Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) prevention and treatment activities to reach new 520 beneficiaries. MAM treatment is also ongoing in the Bafata, Gabu, and Oio regions.

- The Joint Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Project for social protection selected communities and identified beneficiaries within three sectors – Catio, Boe, and Bolama – to receive cash transfers. The project is a joint effort to develop a landmark social protection programme in the country with UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Furthermore, WFP carried out a field mission in the Buba, Pitche, and Sao Domingos districts to present the project and receive community feedback on implementation barriers.

- On 1 June, WFP celebrated International Children’s Day with a field visit to the Escola Nacional de Surdos e Mudos, a specialist school for children with disabilities in Prabis. WFP reaffirmed, alongside the Government, its commitment to the jointly developed Inclusive Education Programme.

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Photo Caption: WFP representatives after a meeting with Quinara’s regional delegates for health, education, and agriculture.
Credit: WFP/Talisma Dias
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Total Received (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>136.3 million</td>
<td>22.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023 Requirements (US$)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding (US$) (July - December 2023)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.6 million</td>
<td>0 million</td>
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</tbody>
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**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.

**Monitoring**

- WFP and counterparts from the Ministry of Education attended a conference on the monitoring and evaluation of school meal programmes in Lusophone countries, hosted by the Centre of Excellence of Brazil against Hunger. Guinea-Bissau’s Director of School Canteen Services presented the monitoring methods of the national school canteen programme, as carried out by WFP in partnership with the government.

**Challenges**

- On 4 June 2023, Guinea-Bissau held national elections for the first time since the dissolution of the Parliament following the attempted coup d’etat in February 2022. The opposition African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) claimed a majority over the incumbent government. WFP had to suspend non-essential missions until 18 June to follow recommended safety precautions surrounding the elections.

**Donors**

To date, 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.