



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Brief JULY 2023



In Numbers

59 812 people assisted in July 2023



193 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 7 million six-month (August 2023 - January 2024) net funding requirements

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. Projections for the lean season forecast that 79 000 people will be food insecure, as per the latest Cadre Harmonise analysis.

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**

Operational Updates

- A food security and nutrition study was carried out in order to define the nutritional status of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Guinea-Bissau. The results of the study, to be completed in August, will be used to inform forthcoming interventions that will deliver Cash-Based assistance to the households of PLHIV by the end of the year.
- WFP distributed 4 mt of Super Cereal Plus to 47 health centres, across the regions of Oio, Bafata, Gabu, Quinara and the Autonomous Sector of Bissau, under WFP's Moderate Acute Malnutrition treatment activities for children between 6 months and 5 years of age.
- The distribution of agricultural inputs under the Project Supporting Urgent Food Security Needs in Guinea-Bissau (PAUSA) has begun in July as part of WFP's resilience-building activities. Cereals seeds, horticultural seeds, and fertilisers will be distributed to 44,327 farmers in 2,435 vulnerable communities, supporting them amidst high price inflation.
- In Pitche, Gabu region, WFP helped communities build resilience to climate change by rehabilitating two belt dikes and delivering three training sessions on climate change preparedness, as well as horticultural and rice production. Furthermore, WFP completed the drilling of three wells, and the construction of two photovoltaic water holes with solar irrigation systems.
- In Sao Domingos, Cacheu region, WFP implemented two new horticultural perimeters with functioning wells and 4,000-litre irrigation tanks. WFP also purchased 10 mt of rice seeds and has already begun distribution in five communities in the sector.

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Photo Caption: Workers unload a truck delivering agricultural inputs to a distribution warehouse, for dissemination to farmers supported by PAUSA
Credit: WFP / Nolasco Monteiro

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
132.4 million	20 million
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$) (August 2023 – January 2024)
26.6 million	7 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.

- WFP and the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity signed the social protection work plan which will be implemented in the coming weeks. This project is a landmark for the country and will deliver support through Cash Based Transfers to 1 500 of the most vulnerable people in the country, including those recently affected by natural disasters.

Monitoring

- WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture staff conducted joint missions in the eight regions of the country to monitor the process of agricultural input distribution as part of the PAUSA project. Pipeline issues prevented the timely delivery of some seeds to WFP, but the mission found that the first phase of distribution is to be wrapped up by the end of August, allowing the second phase – the distribution of equipment and poultry rearing materials – to begin in September.
- WFP and AfDB conducted a joint monitoring mission to assess environmental and social safeguard aspects in preparation for the second phase of PAUSA. These safeguarding aspects considered the impacts of WFP's distribution of agricultural inputs to vulnerable communities.

Challenges

- With the current net funding requirements at 74% of needs, WFP has had to economise in its programmes in the country. School meals rations have had to be reduced, particularly in the quantity of rice, in order to ensure that WFP can maintain the same coverage in the number of beneficiaries receiving school meals.

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.