



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Brief SEPTEMBER 2023



In Numbers

69 937 people assisted in September 2023



222 mt of food assistance distributed

US \$50,482 in Cash-Based Transfers distributed

US \$17.1 million six-month (October 2023 - March 2024) net funding requirements

Operational Context

Guinea-Bissau has experienced political instability which has severely hampered socio-economic and human development. Poverty affects women more than men, as they have less 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

Chronic malnutrition: 31 percent of children between 6-59

Income Level: Low

Operational Updates

- On 21 September, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, and the UN Resident Coordinator Office launched Guinea-Bissau's first national social protection programme as partners in the Sustainable Development Goals fund joint project. The launch ceremony took place in the tabanca (village) of Timbo, in Tombali, in the presence of the Minister for Women, Families and Social Solidarity, and 70 people receiving WFP's assistance. This marked the beginning of the monthly mobile delivery of 40 000 XOF (USD 64.72) to 1 500 vulnerable households, each month for three months, in the regions of Gabu, Tombali and Bolama-Bijagos. The initial transfers have been effective and will support participants with nearly USD 300,000 over the course of the first delivery period.
- WFP presented the School Meals coalition to the General Directorate of Social Action and School Canteens within the Ministry of Education. WFP is the secretariat of the government-led coalition, supporting governments in their aim to ensure that all school-aged children have access to a healthy meal at school. The directorate approved of the initiative and will in turn brief government ministers, advocating towards the signing of the Declaration of Commitment at a national level.
- WFP began the distribution of Supercereal Plus (SC+) to 24,000 children aged between 6 and 23 months in three regions with high rate of food insecurity and chronic malnutrition – Oio, Bafatá and Gabú. Since the programme launch at the end of August, WFP has delivered 222 mt of SC+ to 48 health centres. For Moderate Acute Malnutrition treatments, a further 32 mt of SC+ were delivered across seven regions in the country, to reach 1,887 beneficiaries.

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Photo Caption: United Nations Resident Co-Ordinator and UNFPA's Representative Jocelyn Fenard with national and local government representatives and community leaders, at the launch of the Social Protection delivery, in Timbo, Tombali.
Credit: WFP / Charlotte Alves

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
132.4 million	20.9 million
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$) (October 2023 – March 2024)
24.99 million	17.1 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.

- From 18 to 22 September, two training sessions based on nutrition and gender equality were held for 110 rural women in the Agricultural Teaching and Training Centre in Buba. Forty of these women were from the Tombali region, and 70 were from the Quinara and Bolama Bijagos regions. Participants were given information on nutrition best practices and money management, whilst the gender equality session focused on discussing critical issues facing women in the country, including early pregnancy, early marriage, leaving education, and female genital mutilation.

Monitoring

- From 18 to 22 September, WFP visited eight health centres in the region of Bafatá to monitor the rollout of the SC+ distribution programme to 24,000 children across three regions. The monitoring team found that all health centres visited had received the correct quantities of commodities on time. Some centres had already begun distribution, whilst others were ready to begin as scheduled on 22 September.
- WFP and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) visited a project site in Hafía, where fields are being used to continue piloting the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). The agricultural technique that was introduced in the country last year promises markedly higher yields, offering a significant boost in productivity for the country's main staple food.

Challenges

- 26 September marked the official opening of the new school year in Guinea-Bissau, with the national government presiding over a back-to-school campaign. However, public schools remained closed, and are planned to reopen on 9 October. There is currently a shortage of more than 2,000 teachers across the first six grades of the national education system. Naturally, this delay has prevented WFP from reaching children with the national school meals programme, which supports nearly 180,000 children across the country.

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.