



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Brief April-May 2024



## 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.

According to the World Bank's Economic Update for 2024, Guinea-Bissau's economic growth is hindered by structural challenges, including heavy dependence on raw cashew nut exports, political instability, and a poor business environment, which exacerbate poverty and fiscal deficits.

In 2023, Guinea-Bissau's fiscal deficit increased to 7.6 percent of GDP from 6.1 percent in 2022 due to weak cashew export performance and falling revenues.

According to the latest Cadre Harmonise analysis (March 2024), over 117,294 people (7 percent of the analysed population) are projected to be in crisis phases. Additionally, 364,297 people (20 percent) are projected to be in the stressed phase during the forthcoming lean season (June–August 2024) and will need humanitarian assistance to prevent them from falling into the crisis phase.

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**

2023/2024 Human Development Report: **179 out of 193**

Income Level: **Low**

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

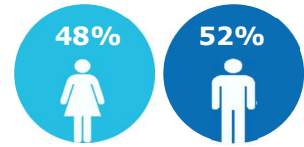
## In Numbers

**429 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 1.8 m** net funding requirement six months

**213,700+** people assisted

In April and May 2024



## Operational Updates

- WFP hosted the school feeding intersectoral committee meeting on 10 May. The meeting brought together representatives from different ministries to draw up the first draft of Guinea Bissau's commitment to the School Meals Coalition and to revise the committee's terms of reference, which will define the responsibilities of each member of the group.
- As part of WFP's efforts to assist crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacities of national partners and local communities in preparedness and response, WFP developed detailed capacity-building training for technicians across several ministries and key stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau. The training aims to equip participants with relevant skills in developing and applying vulnerability criteria for collecting reliable data.
- WFP, in collaboration with the International Labor Organization and UN-Habitat, is exploring initiatives on climate resilience and green communities. This partnership aims to support vulnerable populations, residents, government agencies, and other key stakeholders in understanding climate-related risks and implementing interventions to raise awareness of climate change and enhance community resilience.

## Emergency Food Security Support Project (PAUSA)

- WFP's Country Director and Representative, together with the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development visited WFP's seed storage warehouse in Bafata, eastern Guinea-Bissau. The visit provided an opportunity to oversee the 315 mt of seeds and 200 mt of urea that will be distributed later this year as part of the PAUSA project.
- The delegation also visited 130 ha of agricultural fields in Contuboel and Sonaco, in the Bafata and Gabu regions respectively, where irrigated rice production is being implemented using the System of Rice Intensification.
- On 14 May, a meeting was held between the social protection teams in Guinea-Bissau and regional Bureau.

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**Photo Caption:** WFP Country Director and Minister of Education visit to a school kitchen in Bafata where WFP provides school meals. **Credit:** Rewan Ahmed/WFP Guinea-Bissau

## Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Received Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
136.3 m	26.1 m	1.8 m

### Strategic 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.

### Strategic 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.

## NEW WFP Guinea- Bissau 2023 ACR

[Read the 2023 Guinea-Bissau Annual country report here](#)

### Donors *(In alphabetical order)*

African Development Bank, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Government of Guinea-Bissau, Ireland, Japan, Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, Korea, Norway, UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), Slovenia, Spain, and Joint Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Fund

- The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the design of training content for the technicians from the Ministry of Women, Family, and Social Solidarity and other stakeholders. The meeting provided an opportunity for the country social protection team to consider ways of starting the planned national capacity building on social protection. This would enable the participants to gain a solid understanding of the basics of social protection before progressing to more in-depth content.

- On 20 May, WFP launched the National Farmers' Organization Readiness and Maturity Assessment (FARMA) survey. This method allows a comprehensive evaluation of producers' organizations using quantitative and qualitative questionnaires. The exercise, as part of WFP's Small Farmers' Market Support Initiative, aims to contribute to the knowledge and strengthen the capacity of small farmers' organizations. The survey will end on 24 May and data processing will begin using the methodology or techniques/scripts provided by the Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) HQ team.

## Nutrition

- WFP continues its efforts to combat malnutrition under its project titled "Prevention of Malnutrition in Women of Reproductive Age, Children, and People Living with HIV/TB in Guinea-Bissau," in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health.
- In May, WFP, together with the Directorate of Food, Nutrition, and Child Survival Services (DSANSC), conducted a mission to target and register a total of 200 people living with HIV to receive assistance through the Cash-Based Transfer in the Oio region.
- Additionally, 300 pregnant women received assistance with WFP Super Cereal Plus in the Bissora and Mansaba health centres in the Oio region of Guinea-Bissau.
- WFP, together with the Minister of Public Health, visited a total of nine nutritional recovery centres where WFP assistance is provided in partnership with UNICEF in the Cacheu region. The mission was able to identify gaps and areas for improvement, and key next steps were agreed upon.

## Challenges

- In a recent statement, Guinea-Bissau's Government announced the suspension of its rice import subsidy due to challenging economic circumstances, including high levels of debt and low cashew nut production. This decision is significant as rice is the staple food of the country and is expected to significantly affect the price and availability of rice in the country.