



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Brief July 2025



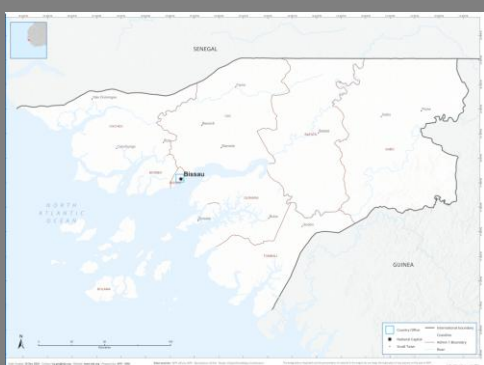
Operational Context

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 2025 (covering 2024 data), Guinea-Bissau's economy remained resilient in 2024, with real GDP growth reaching 4.8 percent, slightly above the 4.4 percent rate in 2023. However, the country continues to face structural challenges such as its heavy dependence on raw cashew nut exports, ongoing political instability, and a weak business environment all of which exacerbate poverty and fiscal risks.

According to the March 2025 Cadre Harmonisé analysis, approximately 122,000 people were classified as acutely food insecure (in IPC crisis phase or worse) from March to May 2025. Approximately, 334,000 people are projected to be in the stressed phase and will require humanitarian assistance to prevent deterioration into crisis during the same period.

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: **2.15 million**

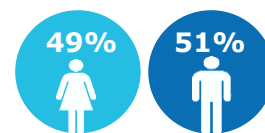
2024/2025 Human Development Report:
174 out of 193

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **30% of children**
between 6-59 months

In Numbers

20,500+ people assisted
In July 2025



US\$ 2,500+ cash assistance distributed

US\$ 8.4 million six-months net funding requirement
(July – December 2025)

Operational Updates

- In anticipation of the upcoming rainy season, Guinea-Bissau is ramping up its **Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)** efforts and **Early Warning Systems (EWS)**. The National Civil Protection Service (SNPC), working with WFP, UN agencies, and other key stakeholders, is developing terms of reference for a **national disaster risk reduction strategy**. On the ground, progress was made on rolling out multi-hazard contingency plans and launching community-based early warning mechanisms, including SMS alerts and radio messaging. These initiatives form part of a broader resilience-building agenda aimed at strengthening anticipatory action and reducing vulnerability in flood-prone and food-insecure areas, in alignment with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- WFP received a shipment of **1,800 metric tons of rice donated by the Republic of Korea** in support of the national school feeding programme, enabling the provision of daily hot meals to 200,000 children across 850 schools for 172 school days. Effective collaboration with the Ministry of Transport and Port Authorities guaranteed a seamless delivery of the cargo, ensuring timely reception and storage. Compared to 2024, turnaround time was reduced by as much as 90 percent, contributing to significant reductions in logistical costs.
- WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development** with the **provision of 47 metric tons of seeds** as part of a **Japan-funded project** aimed at improving food security and restoring agricultural livelihoods following the 2024 floods and related climate shocks. The support aims to help vulnerable communities, particularly women, children, and smallholder farmers who remain among the most affected. The seeds will be distributed to 330 smallholder farmers in Oio, one of the hardest-hit regions, as part of a joint effort to strengthen local food systems, promote inclusive recovery, and build resilience.
- WFP, in partnership with ECAS-D and under its agreement with the Seed Systems Group, began **distributing newly tested and certified rice seed varieties across four regions of Guinea-Bissau**. Distributions are complete in Bafatá and partially in Gabú, with activities ongoing in Gabú, Quínara, and Oio. Targeting smallholder farmers, the initiative aims to **strengthen national seed value chains** by improving access to climate-resilient seed varieties, enhancing local production systems, and contributing to food security through improved agricultural inputs.

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Photo Caption: Beneficiaries receiving newly tested and certified rice seeds in Bafata region of Guinea-Bissau **Credit:** WFP/ECAS-D (partner).

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

| Total Requirement (in US\$) | Received Contributions (in US\$) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 136.3 million | 39.8 million | 8.4 million |

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.

Challenges

- Guinea-Bissau continues to face political and social challenges, including concerns raised by the UN Human Rights Committee on judicial independence and civic space, as well as ongoing labour disputes in the health and education sectors. At the same time, regional initiatives, such as the recent ECOWAS workshop on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, reflect efforts to strengthen accountability and resilience. WFP is closely monitoring these developments, alongside the impact of heavy seasonal rains, to ensure continuity of assistance to the most vulnerable.

- WFP, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Agriculture** and the **Confederation of National Cooperatives** for the Production and Marketing of Agricultural Products (CCN-PCPA), delivered a second round of **training-of-trainers for cooperatives in the Bafatá and Gabú regions**. The training, focused on such areas as warehouse management, post-harvest loss reduction, financial literacy, and leadership, uses a structured, participatory, and hands-on approach. By improving storage practices, promoting quality assurance, and facilitating market access, including for the school feeding programme, the initiative is helping to **connect cooperatives with local processing units**, while **supporting rural communities to enhance food security**, build more resilient livelihoods, and create decent jobs.
- WFP's "**One SDG Tabanca at a Time**" initiative is advancing integrated rural development in remote villages of Guinea-Bissau through a **modular package of services** that strengthen food systems, economic inclusion, and community resilience. Anchored in **off-grid energy hubs**, the initiative delivers clean energy, water access, climate-smart agriculture, digital education, and basic healthcare, while leveraging digital extension, geospatial mapping, and drone-assisted assessments. The first phase targets 20 food-insecure villages and was recently featured on the WFP Innovation Database as a scalable model for localizing the SDGs. In partnership with Asas de Socorro, WFP supported poultry production training for 20 members (including seven women) of the CAMUCA cooperative in Cumpanghor. New chicken coops were completed and stocked with 300 laying hens and 300 broilers, boosting local livelihoods and food availability. Plans are underway with the Ministry of Education to integrate eggs into the national school feeding programme in the coming school year.
- WFP convened a **national workshop in Bissau** to present **findings from a capacity gap assessment of 23 SMEs** engaged in food processing across six regions. This is part of a coordinated effort to **strengthen sustainable local procurement of specialized nutritious food** through **public-private partnerships** and the debt-for-nutrition initiative. The SMEs, many led by women's groups and cooperatives, produce enriched flour, cassava, rice, and fruit-based products. The assessment confirmed strong potential to supply safe, nutritious food, while identifying gaps in infrastructure, technical skills, and market access. Using these findings, WFP revised its SME selection criteria with Nutritious Value Chain Technical Impact Briefs. These aim to guide future investments, capacity strengthening, and financial inclusion support delivered with the Ministries of Agriculture and Social Affairs under the UN Joint Flood Response Action Plan. The workshop brought together more than 80 representatives from government, UN agencies, civil society, financial institutions, and the private sector, creating space for inclusive dialogue resilient, gender-responsive, and climate-smart value chains. The participation of the Minister of Trade and Industry highlighted the national commitment to public-private collaboration and to integrating food systems into Guinea-Bissau's broader industrial strategy.

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