



WFP GUINEA-BISSAU

COUNTRY BRIEF

March 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Fragile political transition since the coup d'état in late November 2025 continues to shape WFP's operating environment, with persistent tensions, including opposition detentions, contested constitutional reforms, and sensitive engagement with the international community, straining donor confidence and external support.
- WFP operations resumed despite political uncertainty. Core activities, including school feeding, nutrition, and smallholder agricultural market support, continued in early 2026, sustained by strong engagement with line ministry technical staff and UN partners.

IN NUMBERS



146,345 people assisted in January-February 2026



52%
Male



48%
Female



325 mt food distributed



USD 39K cash transferred



USD 7.5M (March – August 2026)
net funding requirements

Photo Caption & Credit: Children eating school meals at a WFP-supported school. WFP/Flávio Sambu

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Guinea-Bissau's operational environment remains sensitive following the November 2025 military coup, with continued political tensions, including judicial proceedings against opposition leaders, contested constitutional reforms strengthening presidential powers, and intermittent international mediation efforts by the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries.
- While security conditions remained generally calm in early 2026, diplomatic relations have experienced adjustment, with several international partners adopting a cautious stance and suspending or reassessing their engagement, resulting in delays to critical development financing.
- High external debt and limited fiscal space continue to exert significant economic pressure, constraining government capacity to finance social programmes, against a backdrop of significant food insecurity. The latest available *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis projected that over 146,000 people faced Crisis-level food insecurity or worse during the June-August 2025 period.
- WFP provides life-saving assistance and promotes resilience-building in Guinea-Bissau through an integrated food systems transformation approach, ensuring that programmes are mutually reinforcing and strategically aligned to strengthen livelihoods and deliver sustainable food security outcomes for the most vulnerable people.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

School-Based Assistance

- Under the PACVEAR-GAFSP project, WFP initiated procedures to secure 800 mt of rice and 130 mt of beans for distribution to 388 schools, reaching over 81,000 children. This represents an important step in strengthening market linkages between youth- and women-led smallholder farmers' cooperatives and schools.
- To further strengthen the home-grown school feeding model across the country, WFP started assessing options to introduce fresh fruits, vegetables and animal protein in selected supported schools. The analysis included engagement with partners to leverage existing cold-chain infrastructure at regional level to reduce post-harvest losses and enable more diversified and nutritious school menus.

Nutrition

- To advance food systems transformation, WFP supported the development and packaging of a cereal-based supplementary food formulation, the acquisition of phytosanitary certification, and the submission of five samples to a WFP-accredited laboratory in Italy. The initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises to produce nutritious foods for nutrition, school feeding and other institutional markets in Guinea-Bissau.
- In January, WFP distributed 17 mt of Super Cereal Plus (CSB+) to 955 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) across 48 health centres, covering programme requirements for both January and February.
- High staff turnover and political uncertainty caused delay in communication and finalization of the annual workplan between WFP and the Ministry of Health.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- A key milestone in developing Guinea-Bissau's national Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Early Warning Systems was achieved with the selection of national and international consultants through a multi-stakeholder process led by the National Civil Protection Service, supported technically by WFP and with broad institutional participation. The consultants will design the strategy, marking a foundational step

to protect at-risk communities in one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries.

Smallholder Agricultural Market Support

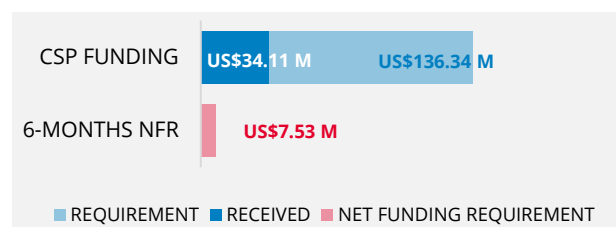
- In February, WFP and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) conducted a mission to the *Bafatá* and *Gabú* regions to engage stakeholders and finalize a work plan under the PACVEAR-GAFSP project. IITA will provide technical support to youth- and women-led smallholder cooperatives, strengthening local production and linkages to school feeding demand.
- WFP, in partnership with UNFPA, handed over six sewing machines to support training in tailoring under the pilot *One Tabanca at a Time* initiative. This initiative represents a joint UN effort to deliver integrated services to strengthen food systems, empower youth and women farmers, and promote resilient livelihoods aligned with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Agenda.

Social Protection

- WFP is awaiting signature of a USD 1.3 million tripartite agreement with the African Development Bank and the Government of Guinea-Bissau to support a national safety net programme for cash-based transfers. Jointly designed with other UN agencies, the initiative remains stalled due to political circumstances.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)



Donors:

Donors Supporting the Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

African Development Bank, European Commission, Finland, Guinea-Bissau, Ireland, Japan, Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, Private Sector, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, and United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.