



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## GUINEA-BISSAU



### COUNTRY BRIEF

May 2026



**63,112\*** people assisted between March – April 2026 (47% female)



**398 mt\*** food distributed between March – April 2026



**USD 7.13M** required in the next six months (April – September 2026)

\* Preliminary figures

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP resumed programme implementation despite a challenging operational environment, ensuring continuity of critical assistance to the most vulnerable populations.
- The school feeding programme entered a critical phase due to significant funding shortfalls linked to declining Official Development Assistance worldwide. For April – September 2026, a funding gap of 46 percent is increasing the risk of pipeline breaks and disruptions to assistance for schoolchildren.
- Funding constraints also extend to social protection, limiting support to vulnerable households reliant on safety nets to meet basic needs and cope with internal and external shocks. The activity faces a 96 percent funding gap for the period April – September 2026.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- WFP continues to navigate a complex and evolving context, influenced by both national developments and external factors. The political environment in Guinea-Bissau following the government transition in November 2025 remains an important consideration for development partners, shaping coordination mechanisms, engagement modalities, and the outlook for international assistance during the current year.
- In parallel, spillover effects from the crisis in the Middle East, including elevated fuel prices and intermittent supply chain disruptions, are placing additional pressure on logistics, markets, and household purchasing power. Consequently, WFP is experiencing delays in the arrival of essential commodities and is having to undertake a review of transport contracts in response to rising fuel costs.
- Despite these challenges, WFP continues to provide life-saving assistance while investing in long-term resilience-building. Guided by an integrated food systems transformation approach, WFP ensures that emergency preparedness and response, nutrition, school feeding, smallholder agricultural market support, and social protection interventions are mutually reinforcing and strategically aligned, contributing to more resilient livelihoods and sustainable food security and nutrition outcomes for the most vulnerable populations.

Reporting Period: March – April 2026

**Photo Caption & Credit:** Women pounding rice after the harvest in the *Bafatá* region under a WFP-supported resilience project. WFP/Isabel Nunes Correia

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### School-Based Assistance

- In April, WFP started the final round of food distributions for the 2025-2026 school year, scheduled to conclude in July. A total of 454 mt of rice and 76 mt of canned fish were dispatched to 306 schools, including those in hard-to-reach areas such as the *Bijagós* Islands.
- WFP conducted a beneficiary satisfaction survey across three regions, covering 24 schools, to assess satisfaction with the in-kind rice contributions generously provided by the Government of the Republic of Korea. Preliminary findings indicate strong satisfaction among schoolchildren, teachers, and cooks, suggesting alignment with local dietary preferences and programme quality.

### Nutrition

- WFP supported efforts to expand the production and use of locally produced cereal-based supplements by deploying a Food Safety and Quality Specialist to a cassava processing facility in the *Tombali* region. The mission provided targeted, on-site technical assistance to address critical food safety risks and advance pilot products towards compliance, scalability, and procurement-ready production.
- In March, WFP and the Ministry of Public Health conducted nutrition awareness activities in the *Gabu* region, promoting healthy eating practices using locally available and culturally appropriate foods. The initiative included practical cooking demonstrations for 23 participants, with a focus on dietary diversity, nutrition during pregnancy and breastfeeding, and food hygiene.

### Emergency Preparedness and Response

- As part of an OCHA-led mission to Guinea-Bissau in March and April, WFP contributed to strategic dialogue, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement, underscoring its leadership in emergency response and in advancing the National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategy, under a Japan-funded project, with linkages to shock-responsive social protection.
- In April, WFP supported a multi-stakeholder workshop organized by the National Civil Protection Services to advance the national DRR

strategy. The workshop convened national institutions, the UN, and regional partners to identify key risks, institutional gaps, and priority actions through technical and participatory approaches. Building on a diagnostic analysis highlighting significant hydro-climatic, institutional, and social risks, the process is strengthening alignment with the Sendai Framework and contributing to a more coordinated, evidence-based, and inclusive national DRR framework.

### Smallholder Agricultural Market Support

- In March, WFP and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) conducted a multi-regional capacity gap assessment of smallholder farmers and cooperatives under the PACVEAR-GAFSP project. The assessment identified constraints and opportunities across value chains, including low youth participation, driven by negative perceptions of agriculture, rural-urban migration, and low literacy levels. Findings will inform targeted, market-oriented interventions to strengthen capacities, promote youth engagement in agribusiness, and expand rural employment.
- In April, WFP advanced the installation of cassava flour processing machinery in the *Tombali* region. Activities were carried out in coordination with the equipment supplier and Ministry of Agriculture technicians, who received on-the-job training in operation and maintenance. Final electrical adjustments are underway, ahead of operational trials and comprehensive equipment testing, paving the way for the factory to become fully operational.

### Social Protection

- A severe funding shortfall of 96 percent for April – September 2026 is constraining the delivery of social protection activities in a context where coverage remains extremely low, with less than 3 percent of the labour force covered by contributory schemes ([UNDP, 2025](#)). WFP continues to monitor progress towards the signature of an African Development Bank-funded project expected to enable the rollout of a national cash-based safety net programme.

## Cross-Cutting Issues

- Between March and April, WFP delivered sensitization sessions on the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) in 14 supported schools in the *Bolama* and *Biombo* regions, reaching students, teachers, and principals. The sessions increased awareness of CFM purpose and use, promoting participation, accountability, and access to safe reporting channels within school communities.

## Partnerships

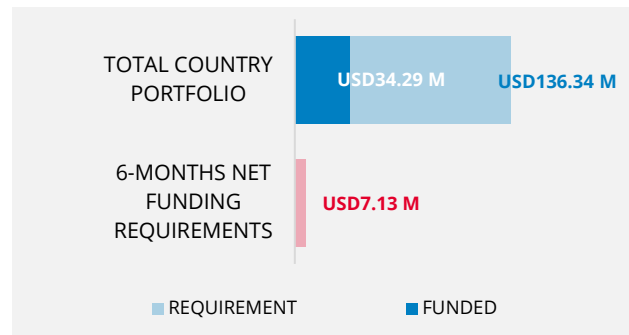


- WFP engaged in bilateral discussions with current and prospective partners to mobilize resources and strengthen advocacy efforts for the school feeding programme, amid heightened risks of pipeline breaks due to declining Official Development Assistance worldwide. In parallel, WFP collaborated with UN agencies on joint proposal development, advancing a coordinated One UN approach.
- In March, WFP and the Government of Japan signed the 2025 Kennedy Round Food Assistance Agreement, valued at USD 1.32 million, to support school feeding and nutrition activities in Guinea-Bissau. The contribution will provide essential food commodities, including rice and canned fish, to primary schoolchildren and support nutrition interventions for children under five through diversified food baskets, while contributing to local food systems, rural development and community resilience.

- WFP also received nearly USD 200,000 from Japanese private sector contributions to strengthen the national school feeding programme. The funding will support the expansion of home-grown school feeding activities, allowing for more diversified and nutritious meals, particularly through the inclusion of vegetables and animal protein, while reinforcing linkages with local producers.

## 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, United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

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