



WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Brief

February 2018

Operational Context

Due to persistent political instability, no elected President has successfully served a full five-year term since independence from Portugal in 1973. Forty years of political instability have deeply constrained socio-economic and human development. More than two-thirds of the population live below the poverty line. Due to the gender bias in access to resources, poverty affects women more than men. Half the population age 15 and above are illiterate.

WFP focuses on capacity development of government institutions and builds synergies with national partners to optimize interventions. Interventions are mutually supportive of a school-centred approach. The regional gender strategy and a gender analysis study conducted in early 2016 guides Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) implementation. WFP has been present in Guinea-Bissau since 1974.



Population: **1.8 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **178 out of 188**

Income Level: **Low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **27.6% of children 6-59 months**

Main Photo

Credit: WFP / Stenio Andrade
Caption: WFP training on food security data analysis from 21 to 23 February in Bissau

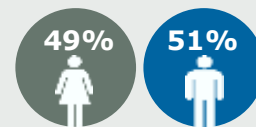
In Numbers

580.9 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 27,531 cash-based transfers made

USD 7 m six months (March-August 2018) net funding requirements, representing 33% of total

174,452 people assisted in FEBRUARY 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP and partners continued pilot activities for home-grown school meals in Guinea-Bissau through the purchase of locally produced food items channelled from smallholder farmer associations prioritizing women. This pilot initiative has been taking place in Oio, Cacheu and Bafatá regions, and is planned to expand to other regions. The programme encourages rural smallholders to produce diverse food crops for supply to school meals, benefiting household incomes and local economies.
- In February, WFP conducted quarterly activities for food distribution to WFP-supported schools across the eight regions of Guinea-Bissau. A WFP-contracted private transport company was engaged to distribute the food donations.
- Together with the Ministry of Education, WFP organized an event on 7 March, celebrating the African Day of School Meals for which the official date has been 1 March since its creation by the African Union in 2016. The Ministry and WFP agreed to hold the event at "1 de Junho" school in Canchungo, Cacheu. Learning from the 2017 event, the Ministry and WFP involved more schoolchildren. WFP and Ministry of Education staff traveled to Harare, Zimbabwe for a continental workshop on home-grown school meals and the African Union's official celebration of the African Day of School Meals on 1 March.
- Between 5 and 12 February WFP conducted a field survey to collect information on food security for periodic reporting to Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). Between 21 and 23 February, WFP organized a training on analysis of food security data. Participants became more familiar with processes to calculate and interpret food security indicators.

Contact info: Bob Barad (bob.barad@wfp.org)
Country Director: Kiyomi Kawaguchi
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/guinea-bissau

WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
----------------------------	----------------------------------	---

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

21.3 m	10 m	7 m
--------	------	-----

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: School age children in Guinea-Bissau have adequate access to safe and nutritious food all year-round.

Focus area: Root Causes

16 m	7.2 m (45%)	5.3 m (33%)
------	-------------	-------------

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Children and malnourished ART clients in Guinea-Bissau have malnutrition indicators in line with national goals by 2025.

Focus area: Resilience Building

3 m	0.2 m (7%)	1 m (33%)
-----	------------	-----------

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 3: Smallholder farmers (particularly women) have enhanced livelihoods to better support food security and nutrition needs throughout the year.

Focus area: Root Causes

2.1 m	2.6 m (124%)	0.7 m (33%)
-------	--------------	-------------

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome 4: National institutions have enhanced capacity to efficiently plan and implement programmes in the areas of food security and nutrition and disaster mitigation by 2025.

Focus area: Root causes

0.2 m	0 m (0%)	0 m (0%)
-------	----------	----------

WFP Country Activities

Provide school meals to primary schoolchildren, including take-home rations for girls from 4 to 6 grade

SO 1

Provide training to school management committees, teachers, and inspectors on the management of school meals and complementary activities

Provide technical and analytical assistance to the Government in policy formulation, legal framework and management of a national school meals programme

Provision of complementary food to children aged 6-23 months

SO 2

Treatment of MAM among children aged 6-59 months
Provision of nutrition support to ART clients and their households

SO 3

Provide support to smallholders to develop efficient local food production planning, warehousing, transformation and marketing through asset rehabilitation and training of farmers' associations (including literacy classes for women farmers) in targeted areas

SO 4

Provide technical and analytical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and Institute of National Statistics to institutionalize the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) for regular food and nutrition security monitoring and disaster mitigation with appropriate budget

Monitoring

- In February, WFP conducted five joint field missions for monitoring of school meals activities. Missions were conducted with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and NGO cooperating partners in the following areas: Bula, Calequisse, Cacheu, Quebo, Bedanda, Bafata, Cosse, Xitole, Bigene, Ingore, Bambadinca and Gamamudo.

Challenges

- Political instability remains a major challenge for achieving zero hunger and for WFP operations in Guinea-Bissau. Nevertheless, WFP has been able to work along with technical members of different ministries and NGO cooperating partners.
- Lack of government resources for social services in education and health sectors have caused challenges for capacity strengthening as well as future sustainability of WFP programmes.
- Deficient infrastructure (port, roads, warehouses, telecommunications) and climate change create uncertainties and delays for planning food distribution and storage.

Design Competition

On 1 February, the Ministry of Education and WFP launched a children's design competition in 80 schools assisted by the national school meals programme. The contest aims to promote arts among children, raise awareness about school meals, and strengthen dialogue between assisted children and stakeholders, including WFP. Five drawings selected from each region will enter the national contest. Staff members from WFP, the Ministry of Education and other invited art advisors will select the five best drawings for entry into the WFP international competition in Rome.

Valentim Ié, one of the winners of the 2008 international competition, has continued to work with art over the years. Today he is 22 years old and hopes to pursue advanced studies in architecture or engineering. Valentim has made wooden art objects portraying African culture, some of which were donated to WFP Guinea-Bissau as a sign of his appreciation of WFP efforts to support school meals and other activities to end hunger. He is expected to take part in the closure of the design competition.

Donors

Guinea-Bissau, European Commission, UN Peacebuilding Fund, Japan, USA