



WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Brief

March 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 and nutrition. The WFP gender policy aligned with the regional gender strategy and the country office 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

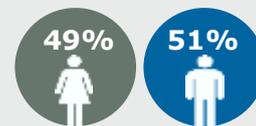
Credit: WFP / Stenio Andrade
Caption: Schoolchildren recite poetry on the African Day of School Meals celebration in Canchungo, on 7 March

In Numbers

581 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$5 m six months (April-September 2018) net funding requirements, representing 23% of total

173,593 people assisted in MARCH 2018



Operational Updates

- Together with the Ministry of Education, WFP organized an event on 7 March celebrating the 1 March, African Day of School Feeding established by the African Union in 2016. WFP and the Ministry of Education staff travelled to Harare, Zimbabwe for a continental workshop on home-grown school meals and the African Union's official celebration on 1 March. The national celebration was held at "1 de Junho" school in Canchungo, Cacheu. Learning from the 2017 event, the Ministry and WFP invited more schoolchildren to participate in the celebration.
- WFP and partners have been carrying out the second phase of pilot home-grown school meals with the purchase of locally produced food items by smallholder farmer associations particularly from women's groups. This pilot in Oio and Cacheu regions built on the lessons learned from the first pilot in Bafatá region (2014-2017) started in October 2017. In April, WFP will expand it to three additional regions. The pilot encourages rural smallholders to produce diverse food crops to supply to schools nearby for the school meals programme, increasing household incomes and inputs to local economies. These farmers also receive training on literacy, nutrition and agriculture skills. Among local food items purchased are peanuts, beans, pulses and tubers. Cooperating partners are local NGOs AD, COAJQ and KAFO.
- During March, WFP completed its quarterly food distribution to WFP-supported schools across the eight of nine regions of Guinea-Bissau supported by a private transport company whose drivers were all sensitized and trained on WFP programme and procedures.

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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 | 5 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. <i>Focus area:</i> Root Causes | | |
| 16 m | 7.2 m (45%) | 3.2 m (20%) |
| 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. <i>Focus area:</i> Resilience Building | | |
| 2 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. <i>Focus area:</i> 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. <i>Focus area:</i> Root Causes | | |
| 0.2 m | 0 m (0%) | 0 m (0%) |

WFP Country Activities

| | |
|-------------|---|
| SO 1 | Provide school meals to primary schoolchildren, including take-home-rations for girls from 4th to 6th grade. |
| | 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. |
| SO 2 | Provision of complementary food to children aged 6-23 months. |
| | 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

- During March, WFP conducted 15 joint field missions with the Ministry of Education and NGO partners for monitoring of school meals activities. Missions visited 16 sectors in seven regions (Buba, Bafata, Contuboe, Nhacra, Mansoa, Sonaco, Bolama, Fulacunda, Pitche, Gabu, São Domingos, Empada, Oio, Cacheu, Canchungo and Pirada).

Challenges

- Lack of resources resulted in discontinuation of stunting prevention and nutrition support for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.
- Political instability remains a major challenge for achieving zero hunger and for WFP operations in Guinea-Bissau. Since the nomination of the new PM in January, the Government has not yet been formed. Nevertheless, WFP has been able to work together with technical level colleagues of different ministries and NGO cooperating partners as well as the caretaker Government.
- Lack of approved government programme and budget have caused challenges to advance capacity strengthening of WFP partner ministries.
- Deficient infrastructure (port, roads, telecommunications) creates delays for planning food distribution.

WFP warmly recognized by schoolchildren

"Obrigado PAM, obrigado PAM, obrigado PAM," schoolchildren declared in Portuguese, repeatedly thanking WFP during a poetry recitation on the African Day of School Feeding celebration. Their words were heard by more than 300 people attending the event at "1 de Junho" school in Canchungo sector, Cacheu region, on 7 March.

Young Iracema Fernandes, a student of 21-year-old yet 5th grader at the host school, made a powerful speech at the ceremony expressing gratitude for WFP school meals assistance. "WFP has a great impact on the lives of children worldwide, especially in countries most in need, like Guinea-Bissau," said Iracema, who also praised the take-home rations to over 16,000 girls with the aim of increasing gender parity and helping to tackle widespread early marriage. "Thanks to that, there is an increased girls' enrolment in schools, which has minimised the concern of parents and educational authorities."

Donors

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