



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guinea Bissau Country Brief October 2019



Operational Context

Forty-five 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 accessing resources, poverty affects women more than men.

A new Government was finally appointed on 3 July 2019 after the legislative elections on 10 March 2019 and an intervention from Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) that included conditional extension of the presidential term until the new election, scheduled for 24 November 2019. The current President is the first to complete a full five-year mandate peacefully in June 2019, despite mounting criticism. The composition of the government's Cabinet for the first time met gender parity, while youth were also well-represented.

WFP focuses on capacity strengthening of government institutions and builds synergies with national partners to optimize interventions that are mutually supportive and part of integrated strategy around home-grown school feeding, resilience, stunting prevention and treatment, emergency preparedness and possible responses. WFP in Guinea-Bissau mainstreams the corporate gender policy across its activities, and the gender analysis study conducted in early 2016 guided Country Strategic Plan (CSP) implementation. WFP has been present in Guinea-Bissau since 1974.



Population: **1.9million**

2017 Human Development Index: **177 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low income**

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

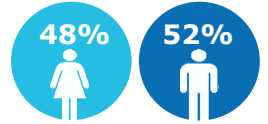
In Numbers

431 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 0 of cash-based transfers made

US 6.3 m six months (November 2019-April 2020) net funding requirement

177,435 people assisted
in September and October 2019



Operational Updates

- In October, WFP signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) for the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The LoU sets the principles of the partnership between WFP and the Government of Guinea-Bissau for the implementation of the CSP 2019-2024.
- In October, the parliament approved the four-year Government Programme, which includes two important areas of WFP support: "expand the school feeding to all public schools for 1st to 9th grades" and "promote exclusive breastfeeding, encourage healthy eating habits and combat malnutrition and obesity".
- On 25 and 26 October, supporting the Ministry of Health, WFP organized the second free-of-charge nutrition counselling in all 38 sectors of the country. WFP mobilized support from 28 partners, including ministries, national and international NGOs, the private sector, and the UN agencies. Nutrition counselling informed participants of their nutritional status and the consequences of wrong eating habits. They were given nutritional advice on diet to prevent diseases from unbalanced nutrition. A total of 4,674 people participated in this initiative across the country. Out of the total, 3,179 people were over the age of 15 (2,132 women and 1,047 men). From those under the age of 15, 767 were girls and 728 were boys. Details of the results will be shared during the commemoration of the National Nutrition Day.
- The 2019/2020 school year started on 16 September. WFP distributed 411 mt of food to 874 schools and reached 173,913 school children in eight regions with daily hot and varied meals in September and October.
- WFP continued the distribution of 4.6 mt of specialised nutritious foods reaching 746 children aged 6-59 months under treatment for acute malnutrition in 42 nutritional recovery centres in Oio, Bafatá, and Gabu.
- In September WFP, started its stunting prevention programme targeting 5,108 children aged 6-23 months in in Oio, Bafatá, and Gabu. As of the end of October 2,776 children were reached by food distributions.

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Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Renata Lobo

Caption: The doctor measures the height of six-month-old Serifo Seidi at the Mansaba district hospital in the Oio region of Guinea-Bissau.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
5.9 m	2.7 m	6.3 m*

*Six-month Net funding Requirements as of 31 October 2019.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has 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 food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacity of and coordination among national partners in responding to crises as a contingency measure

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: School-age children in Guinea-Bissau have access to nutritious meals during the school year

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide nutritious school meals to pre- and primary schoolchildren and take-home rations for girls in years 5 and 6 and strengthen the capacities of the Government and partners at the central and local levels to implement and monitor a nutrition-sensitive and gender-transformative school feeding programme

Strategic Outcome 3: Populations at risk of malnutrition in Guinea-Bissau, particularly children, women and girls of reproductive age and people living with HIV, have improved nutrition status in line with national targets by 2024

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Support the implementation of the national nutrition policy and the protocol for the integrated prevention of stunting and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition focusing on the provision of support for policy design and gender and age-informed implementation, technical assistance and capacity strengthening to the Ministry of Public Health, Family and Social Cohesion; social and behaviour change communication, the prevention of stunting among children aged 6–23 months, the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among children aged 6–59 months, and food and nutrition assistance to people living with HIV and their households

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 4: Smallholder farmers in Guinea-Bissau, particularly women and young people, have improved livelihoods and increased household incomes by 2024

Focus area: Resilience building

- Provide an integrated package of assistance interventions to associations of women and young smallholder farmers that comprises nutrition and literacy education, training in basic business skills, sensitization to their rights to adequate food and nutrition, market access through the school feeding programme and the transfer of knowledge on the optimization of agricultural value chains

Strategic Result 4: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic outcome 5: National institutions and legislators in Guinea-Bissau have enhanced capacity in and are accountable for the development, implementation and monitoring of evidence-based food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2030

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide an integrated package of assistance interventions to associations of women and young smallholder farmers that comprises nutrition and literacy education, training in basic business skills, sensitization to their rights to adequate food and nutrition, market access through the school feeding programme and the transfer of knowledge on the optimization of agricultural value chains

Monitoring

- In September, WFP led the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) survey in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), the National Institute of Statistics (INE). Data collection took place from 9 to 28 September in eight regions in Guinea-Bissau interviewing 4,683 heads of households. The survey assessed the Minimum Dietary Diversity of 5,819 women aged 15 to 49 years old and of 1,260 children under two years old. Preliminary results are expected by the end of November 2019.
- A mission from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) visited Guinea-Bissau from 21 to 25 October 2019. The mission had the objective to monitor the McGovern-Dole supported WFP managed School Feeding Programme. The Mission visited 11 WFP assisted schools in Bafata, Biombo, Cacheu, and Oio.

Challenges

- Political instability continues to be a major challenge and triggers risks. On 28 October, the outgoing President dismissed the Prime Minister Aristides Gomes, appointed Faustino Imbali as the new Prime Minister on 29 October, and encouraged military interventions to install the new Government, heightening a pre-electoral political and institutional crisis.
- Current WFP stocks of imported rice, beans, and vegetable oil will be fully consumed by March 2020. WFP seeks additional funding to ensure the continuation activities through the end of 2020 supporting 180,000 schoolchildren in 874 primary schools across the eight regions of Guinea-Bissau.

Donors

European Union, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, UNAIDS, United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, United States, and private donors.