



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Brief June 2021



## Operational Context

Guinea-Bissau is a low-income and food-deficit country, ranking 175 out of 189 countries in the 2020 Human Development Index ranking. Forty-eight years of political instability since independence have deeply constrained socio-economic and human development. Poverty impacts women more than men, reflecting gender inequalities in access to education, land and credit. Vulnerabilities were further impacted by COVID-19, exacerbating institutional weaknesses, inadequate public services, lack of safety nets and overreliance on cashew nut exports.

In 2019, the country successfully held its second legislative and presidential elections since the 2012 coup d'état, though a legal dispute ensued over eight months regarding the presidential election results announced by the National Electoral Commission (CNE). Umaro Sissoco Embaló was recognized by ECOWAS in April 2020 as President of the Republic and called for the appointment of a new Prime Minister and government based on the results of the legislative elections of March 10, 2019.

WFP focuses on capacity strengthening of national partners to optimize gender-transformative and integrated interventions, encompassing inclusive home-grown school feeding, rural women empowerment, social protection, resilience, stunting prevention and moderate acute malnutrition treatment, emergency preparedness and response. WFP has been present in Guinea-Bissau since 1974.



Population: **1.9 million**

Human Development Index 2020 ranking: **175 of 189**

Global acute malnutrition: **5% of children aged 6-29 months**

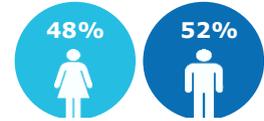
Chronic malnutrition: **28% of children aged 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**159.3 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 0.6 million** six months (July-December 2021) net funding requirements, representing 12% of total

**96,203 people assisted**  
In June 2021



## Operational Updates

- On 1-2 June, WFP, in coordination with local authorities, conducted a rapid needs assessment in the village of Companhe (Quinara region) to evaluate the damages of a fire that had devastated the village on 29 May. The mission found that 18 households had been razed to the ground by the fire and 31 cashew nut plantations had been burned, directly affecting 59 households (about 600 people). The population was in immediate need of food, seeds, shelter and clothes. To support these households, WFP rapidly launched a six-months cash assistance of 40,000 CFA (approx. USD 72) per month. A first payment of 120,000 CFA was made in June to the heads of households.
- On 7 June, WFP and the Alliance of Biodiversity and CIAT (CGIAR) organized a validation workshop to present key results of their response analysis for climate adaptation management and programming. The workshop convened around 40 participants, including representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Institute of Meteorology, as well as partners from UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The objective of the study was to better understand how climate risks will impact food security over the coming decades. The analysis will allow WFP Guinea-Bissau to identify entry points for climate adaptation actions into its existing and future activities in the country.
- WFP approved its pro-smallholder farmers' procurement plan for 2021/2022 for its home-grown school feeding programme. Since 2020, all 874 WFP-supported schools have been receiving fresh and locally-grown nutritious foods. According to the plan, a total of 1,849 mt of local fresh tubers, beans and salt will be procured from local farmers, starting from July 2021. The purchase and distribution of the food is ensured by partner NGOs (Tinguena, KAFO and ECAS-D).
- In June, a total of 8.7 mt of specialized nutritious foods (Super Cereal Plus) were distributed to 29 health centres in Oio, Bafata and Gabu, as part of the stunting prevention and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment programmes.
- On 24 June, WFP presented preliminary results from its Fill the Nutrient Gap study to 40 representatives from national institutions and partner organizations (see the focus below for further information on the study). The objective of the workshop was to identify potential interventions to facilitate the population's access to a nutritious diet. A final validation workshop will be held in September.
- WFP and its implementing partners distributed agricultural tools and seeds to 120 women farmers in Cates to support the cultivation of vegetables in their communities.

**Contact info:** Alessia Vittorangeli, Partnerships, OIM and Communication Officer ([alessia.vittorangeli@wfp.org](mailto:alessia.vittorangeli@wfp.org))

**Country Director:** Joao Manja

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/guinea-bissau](http://www.wfp.org/countries/guinea-bissau)

**Main Photo:** A nurse performs a nutritional assessment on a child during the Free Nutrition Consultations in Oio region. Credit: WFP/Renata Lobo

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>12.4 m</b>	<b>10.4 m</b>	<b>0.6 m</b>

### 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 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 Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**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*

**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.

### Strategic Result 5: 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 national institutions with support for policies, technical assistance and the transfer of knowledge and advocate for the effective formulation and implementation of gender-transformative social safety nets, food security and nutrition programmes (including data collection and analysis, evidence generation and monitoring systems) and emergency preparedness and response mechanisms.

- As part of asset creation and resilience strengthening activities, 80 mt of local rice was distributed in the villages of Cates, Calaque Nalu, Calaque Balanta and Darsalam (Tombali region) and technical support provided for the construction of 1,268 m of dykes and the rehabilitation of 1,730 m of canals. In Gabu, 220 beneficiaries taking part in asset creation activities received cash transfers for a total of 11 million CFA (approx. USD 1,747).
- WFP continues to support the High Commissioner for COVID-19 with supply chain management of personal protective equipment, medical equipment, medicines and hospital lab supplies, receiving, storing and delivering these items to health structures around the country. As of 28 June, Guinea-Bissau had recorded 3,881 cases of COVID-19, including 69 deaths.

## Monitoring

- WFP in partnership with the National Institute of Statistics (INE) and the Ministry of Agriculture provided capacity strengthening to 23 surveyors in view of the Food Security and Nutrition Situation survey (SISSAN) in July 2021.
- The assessment of 92 schools in the regions of Quinara and Tombali for their inclusion in WFP's school feeding programme has been completed. Results will be shared with the Ministry of Education to finalize the decision.
- WFP conducted a post distribution monitoring (PDM) to assess the immediate impacts of its cash assistance to 851 flood-affected households in Gabu. For this activity, 9 staff members from the National Civil Protection Service received a two-day training on data collection. The results of the PDM assessment will be published soon.

## Challenges

- WFP urgently seeks additional USD 0.6 million for the next six months, to implement activities of its Country Strategic Plan as planned, especially relief assistance to crisis-affected populations (floods, fires) which is currently underfunded.

## Fill the Nutrient Gap study

The Fill the Nutrient Gap study aims to analyse the nutrition situation in the country and identify key barriers faced by the most vulnerable to accessing and consuming healthy and nutritious foods. WFP found that 28 percent of households in Guinea-Bissau cannot afford a minimum energetic diet that includes rice, cereals, salt and oil. Such diet costs on average 1,322 CFA/day (approx. USD 2.3) for a family of seven members. This proportion gets as high as 68 percent when considering a nutritious diet that includes vegetables, dairy products, fruits, fish and meat, as its cost of 2234 CFA/day (USD 3.9) on average per family is widely inaccessible. One solution to reduce the costs of a nutritious diet is to improve the productivity of local crops, dairy products, fish and meat, which could generate up to 21 percent of cost savings. Other solutions include the reduction of the country's dependence to cashew nut exports (which exposes farmers to fluctuations in international prices), an increase in consumption of fortified rice and the inclusion of fresh produces and eggs into the school meals provided by WFP. For children aged 6-59 months, the distribution of ready-to-use supplementary food could reduce the cost of a nutritious diet for children by up to 40 percent. The study will be made publicly available in the coming months.

## Donors

Top five donors to WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Strategic Plan 2019-2024 include the European Commission, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Japan, China and USA. Additional support has been provided by the UN COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.