



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Brief May 2021

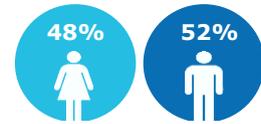


In Numbers

134 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.7 m six months (June-November 2021) net funding requirements, representing 33% of total

88,622 people assisted
In May 2021



Operational Updates

- On 11 May, WFP and the National Civil Protection Service (SNPC) organized two parallel inauguration ceremonies in Bissau and Gabu to launch a four-months cash assistance for vulnerable households who lost their houses and crops following floods and strong winds in July-October 2020. In total, 851 households across the country (7,000 people) received their first monthly allowance of CFA 40,000 (around USD 72).
- On 26 May, a landmark debt-swap agreement was signed by the Government of Guinea-Bissau, the Kingdom of Spain and WFP in Guinea-Bissau. The Government of Spain agreed to cancel a debt of USD 12 million, at the condition that USD 6.7 million will be invested by the Government of Guinea-Bissau to support WFP's nutrition activities in the country. The funding, which will be spread over the course of eight years starting from May 2022, provides unprecedented long-term stable support to WFP's nutrition programme. It will be used to a) provide direct food and nutrition assistance to 96,000 under-five children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 500 food insecure people living with HIV and their families; and b) to develop and implement a social and behavioural change communication strategy aimed at identifying and addressing the underlying causes of malnutrition.
- WFP provided capacity strengthening to 58 health technicians (24 men and 34 women) working in health and nutrition centres in Oio, Bafatá and Gabu regions to improve their management of MAM treatment.
- Under its resilience building activities in rural communities, WFP provided capacity strengthening to partner NGO COPE staff on how to organize and monitor rehabilitation activities. Moreover, WFP organised an information session for 47 beneficiaries from the village of Camadjaba in Gabu to explain the functioning of cash-based transfers.
- WFP continues to provide supply chain support to the High Commissioner for COVID-19, receiving, storing and delivering personal protective equipment, medical equipment, medicines and hospital lab supplies to health structures around the country. As of 1 June, Guinea-Bissau had recorded 3,770 cases of COVID-19, including 68 deaths.

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

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Main Photo: Caption: Beneficiaries attending the inauguration ceremony of the four-months cash assistance in Gabu in May 2021.

Credit: WFP/Alessia Vittorangi

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
12.4 m	10.4 m	1.7 m

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.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted a mission in Gabu to monitor the advancement of paddy field rehabilitation activities implemented by the partner NGO COPE. The mission found that 9 ha of land had already been rehabilitated and 200 m of dykes had been built by the local communities involved in the project.
- Four missions in Tite, Empada, Fulacunda and Buba sectors in Quinara region were carried out by WFP to evaluate the conditions of 43 schools that could potentially be part of WFP's home-grown school feeding programme. The evaluation takes into account several criteria, including the schools' infrastructural conditions, the presence of a storage space, the existence of toilets and water access, the level of community engagement, etc. The results of the evaluation will be shared once the evaluation of all 92 potential new schools is completed.

Challenges

- WFP seeks additional cash and in-kind contributions to ensure the continuation of relief assistance to crisis-affected populations, which is currently critically underfunded.

Food Security and Nutrition Situation

The food security situation in the country has significantly improved since October 2020, according to the latest Food Security and Nutrition Situation survey conducted by WFP in March 2021. The number of households with an acceptable food consumption has increased from 86.2 percent in October 2020 to 94.2 percent in March 2021. If in October 20.3 percent of households were using severe consumption-based coping mechanisms to access sufficient food (such as decreasing meal portions or limiting number of meals per day), six months later, this number had dropped to 13.8 percent. However, this percentage remains unusually high for this time of the year, when producers ripe the benefits of the cashew nut marketing campaign. WFP and its partners continue to monitor trends in food prices and food stocks in 44 markets across the country. The overall situation in the markets appears to be stable.

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, UNAIDS and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.