



2021 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

GUINEA BISSAU
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Foreword



On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Guinea Bissau I have the pleasure to present the 2021 Annual Results Report for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2020. Progress was made in the very challenging context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The results achieved reflect the collective efforts of the United Nations Development System comprising of 16 UN resident and non-resident entities working to improve the living conditions of the peoples of Guinea Bissau in the following outcome areas:

- I. Consolidating stability and rule of law, democratic participation and equal opportunities for all.
- II. Inclusive and sustainable economic growth to promote the reduction of poverty.
- III. Equitable and sustainable access to health services, nutrition, HIV / AIDS, water, sanitation and hygiene, education and quality of protection.
- IV. Promotion of sustainable management of the environment and natural resources, risk management and disaster prevention.

The 2021 results mark an important transition milestone, the first reporting year since the closure of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea Bissau (UNIOGBIS). The Security Council Resolutions 2458

(2019) and 2512 (2020) mandated the reconfiguration of the UN presence in Guinea-Bissau to support the country's development and peacebuilding efforts. The year 2021 was also a bridge between the UNDAF and the new generation of Cooperation Framework with its explicit focus on the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2026 was signed between the UN and the Government of Guinea Bissau and its Peoples in August 2021, as the main vehicle for the achievement of the Agenda 2030 in Guinea Bissau, aligned with the development priorities as set out in the National Development Plan 2020-2023. The UNSDCF integrates the eight peacebuilding priorities adopted by the Government to strengthen the peace and development nexus in Guinea-Bissau.

I want to use this opportunity to thank the Government of Guinea Bissau for its commitment to Agenda 2030 and SDGs as well as African Union Agenda 2063 through the implementation of the national development plan. We will continue to deepen our fruitful partnership with the line ministries, including the Ministry of Economy, Plan and Regional Integration, to improve the living conditions and livelihoods of the Bissau-Guineans. I also want to acknowledge the collaboration with civil-society organizations and private sector for greater inclusion, innovation, and impact of our interventions. Let me also use the opportunity to thank our development partners for the additional funding provided including tackling the adverse impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on lives, livelihoods, and economy.

Looking forward, we hope to build an ever more relevant UN for the people of Guinea-Bissau. A UN that brings everyone together. A UN that generates world class policy advice and innovation. A UN that can help ensure that growth and development benefit everyone in Guinea-Bissau while protecting the environment for present and future generations.

Anthony Ohemeng-Boamah
UN Resident Coordinator in Guinea Bissau



UN Country Team

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Agencies under the Development Assistance Framework



Chapter 1: Key Developments Trends in the Country

A positive evolution of key trends marked the development context in 2021: The political climate improved following the hotly contested 2020 presidential elections. The relatively stability underpinned the recovery of the economy from the pandemic-induced recession. Growth accelerated reaching 6.5 %, on the back of record cashew nut production, public investment in infrastructure and gradual lifting of COVID 19 containment measures. The tertiary sector contributed the most to the growth (3.2%), followed by agriculture 2.6% and secondary sector 0.6%. Public financing also improved in 2021, with over 38 % growth in domestic revenue mobilization –taxes, compared with 2020. However, non-tax revenues dropped by 19.5 %, due to decrease in fishery revenues. Overall, fiscal space continues to remain a constraint as the debt burden increased from 69.9% of GDP to 73.1 % in 2021¹.

The growth in gross domestic product recorded in 2021, however, remained unaccompanied by structural transformation of the economy and shared prosperity. The real GDP per capita growth stagnated at 1.4%, less than the population growth of 2.4 %². Unemployment also ticked upwards from 6.7 % in 2020 to 6.8%, even though labour force participation rate increased by 1% albeit still to recover to its pre-pandemic level³. Inflationary pressures stayed worryingly high in 2021, driven by high prices of food and energy. While food security situation improved, following easing of pandemic containment measures, 4.4% of the population remained acutely food insecure, and 19% experienced food stress⁴. Over 67 percent of the population suffers from multiple deprivations and an additional 19% are vulnerable to multiple

disadvantages besides income. National budget allocation to the education sector increased slightly between the 2021 and 2022 fiscal years, from 9% to 14%. Allocations were reduced health from 13% to 10%. A significant portion of the budget is directed at supporting the wage bill, whereas actual disbursements remained low. Strikes by health workers affected the provision of health services, including the COVID-19 vaccination effort.

The COVID 19 pandemic, its socioeconomic impacts and economic recovery remained major markers of 2021, amplifying the pre-existing vulnerabilities. Over the reporting period, Guinea Bissau experienced three waves of infection, with cumulative confirmed cases of 6499 and 149 deaths as of 31 December 2021. Over 57% of the population above 18 years received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, whilst 38% have completed 2 doses. Periodic COVID-19 vaccination campaigns pushed coverage, but integration into routine primary health care provision has been minimal.

The impacts of climate variability and change were mixed in 2021. Rainfall only caused isolated floods in Oio, Quinara and Cashew regions. Coastal erosion and saltwater intrusion from sea level rise continued to gradually deteriorate mangrove rice productivity. While increasing droughts in the northeast are affecting water availability and the cultivation of lowland rice, potatoes, and cassava crops. Meanwhile, strides were made in biodiversity conservation. The total terrestrial protected area expanded from 11% in 2019 to 26.3% in 2021. Terrestrial and marine protected areas expanded from 11.6% in 2019 to 13.2% in 2021.

¹ OGE 2022. Ministério das Finanças da Guiné-Bissau

² <https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/west-africa/guinea-bissau/guinea-bissau-economic-outlook>

³ ILOSTAT database.

⁴ WFP(2021). Guinea-Bissau Annual Country Report. World Food Programme



Chapter 2: COVID-19 Emergency Response

In 2021, the United Nations Country Team in Guinea Bissau continued to mobilise and respond to COVID-19's health emergency and socio-economic impact. The UN COVID-19 Socio-economic Response Plan (SERP) was developed and implemented in view of supporting the Government of Guinea Bissau's priorities to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on lives and livelihoods and to address the pre-existing and underlying structural weaknesses in the economy. The SERP complemented the Government of Guinea-Bissau priorities as expressed the National Contingency Plan for COVID-19, the Strategy for Development, Employment and Industrial Promotion 2020-2024, known as 'Hora Tchiga' as well as the National Development Plan 2020-2023. \$152 million mobilized; 1 million +peoples targeted.



OVER 1.000.000
PEOPLE
TARGETED








\$152 million
MOBILIZED



“ - The Hospital almost closed, with the health workers going to quarantine in their homes. For us that stayed it was a serious challenge: we didn't have enough protective equipment, we worked several long hours, and yes, I can't deny we were afraid, because this was a new disease, and we didn't have enough information. ”

- Aissatu Ture Barai
Midwife Cumura Hospital

<p>1  HEALTH FIRST: Protecting health services and systems during the crisis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 971 health care workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Integrated Management of Hospital Waste, Integrated Training in the Prevention and Response of COVID-19 in the Point of Entry. • 257 health care workers trained in oxygen therapy, non-invasive ventilation for COVID-19 patients and COVID-19 case management • 6 health checkpoints equipped with water tank, beds and solar panels • 252 community leaders were trained on detecting and managing COVID 19 • 10530 migrants and border communities provided with preventive kits • 2,700 families sensitized on prevention at COVID-19 • UN supported the government the High-Commission for COVID-19 in launching the digital vaccination certificate for COVID-19 with QR code, which is fully operational.
<p>2  PROTECTING PEOPLE: Social protection and basic services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 674 households supplied with basic hygiene equipment • 591,400 kg of food seeds (legumes and cereals), 1,050 kg of vegetable seeds and 290 tonnes of fertiliser (urea and NPK) were distributed to 38,928 beneficiaries • 300 women-led small and medium enterprises supported with business skills to mitigate devastating effects of COVID-19 • UN partners supported 1,500 schools, or approximately 75% of basic education schools, with minimum hygiene products
<p>3  ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY: Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN distributed over 100,000 kg of rice seeds to 3,067 farmers (2,619 men and 448 women) in 19 targeted villages. • 16 technicians from the regional directorates of agriculture, as well as 30 rural women were trained on resilient horticultural and agroecological practices • UN supported government-led resilience-building activities in the southern regions of the country, as part of a new collaboration with the Economic Development Project for the Southern Regions (PADES), an implementation unit within the Ministry of Agriculture. The project, funded by IFAD's Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF), aims to support rural households in Quinara and Tombali regions that were particularly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic
<p>4  MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A socio-economic impact assessment was carried out by UNDP. • Enhanced access to financial system by training 50, 000 households on financial literacy on establishing SMEs
<p>5  SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported 1400 vulnerable households in disadvantaged regions Capacity of the 14 facilitators of the 3 youth and civil society platforms (RENAJ, CNV & RENAJELF) on Peer educator capacity intervention to prevent forced/early marriages, FGM, SSR, HIV/STI, COVID-19, was strengthened, resulting in stronger awareness raising activities among their peers.

Chapter 3: Results of Implementation of Partnership Cooperation Framework

The Partnership Framework between Guinea-Bissau and the United Nations System (UNPAF) was organized around four (4) main outcomes aligned with the country's development objectives for the period 2015-2025. This Partnership Framework covers the period 2016-2021. It was implemented through the "Delivering as One" approach, which consolidated the integration and coordination of United Nations.

Outcome 1: by 2021, State institutions, including those of Defense, Security and Justice, consolidate stability and the rule of law, democratic participation and equitable access to opportunities for all.

Reporting Agencies: UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, OHCHR, UNIDO and IOM

Political Governance

- The UN supported a process to discuss the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission, in line with the Paris Principles, and as recommended by the UN Human Rights Council, in the context of Guinea-Bissau's universal periodic review
- Capacity of the National Assembly and the Audit Court strengthened to mainstream gender issues into the State budget, resulting in the development of a National Policy on Gender Equality and Equity as per its commitment in the context of the universal periodic review (rec. 143).
- Provided technical assistance to the government in formulating and implementing a new national anti-corruption strategy which has been adopted in 2022 and which included promotion of integrity and accountability mechanisms.
- 400 media professionals were trained to play a more effective watchdog role for good governance.
- Trained members of the Parliament and political parties' representatives on mediation, negotiation, and dialogue skills.



- Supported the development of an Anti-Corruption strategy, a Human Rights Action Plan (in line with UPR recommendation 32), and an Anti-Drug Trafficking strategy (in line with UPR recommendation 69).
- Strengthened capacity of Law Enforcement Officers through an Ethics and Integrity Manual, developed for the Judicial Police
- Strengthened the reporting capacity of Guinea-Bissau's through support to the Self-Assessment Checklist (SACL) of the Second Cycle of the UNCAC's Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM) within the scope of the Convention against Corruption.
- Trained 60 government officials on implementing the National Risk Assessment on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing action plan.
- Support to the establishment of mechanisms for supervision and monitoring of the National Integrated Plan to Combat Drugs, Organized Crime and Risk

Justice and Security Sector Reform

- The UN and partners strengthen the security sector through the training and recruitment of 41 new judges (28 men and 11 women), 157 clerks (98 men and 59 women) and 89 new lawyers (68 men and 21 women) were trained and registered with the BAR Association.





Reduction (2020-2026 Guinea-Bissau's NISP) as per its commitment in the context of the UN Human Rights Council's universal periodic review of Guinea-Bissau (rec. 73).

- Strengthened the enforcement capacity of border agencies through training of staff of Bissau airport to use a portable Backscatter X-ray device to control the entrance and exit of illicit drugs.
- UN and partners trained parliamentarians and members of civil society on the adverse health effects of drug use and trafficking, through the Observatório Guineense da Droga e da Toxicodependência (OGDT) in collaboration with Liga Guineense dos Direitos Humanos (LGDH, or LIGA).
- Enhanced operational capacity of the Judicial Police with a training room as well as a vehicle. Another vehicle was purchased to the Guinea-Bissau's Joint Airport Interdiction Task Force at Bissau's International Airport.
- Supported capacity building of the Women and Children's Institute as the entity in charge of the National Committee on Human Trafficking (in line with UPR recommendation 88), through a census of the "Talibés Children" attending Koranic schools, which allowed the national authorities to formulate a strategy for the prevention and protection of child trafficking.
- Raised awareness and advocacy on child trafficking issues through the National Children's Parliament on Child Trafficking including children forced into begging
- Trained Border Entities, Border Surveillance Committees and Civil Society Organizations on the

The event has a positive impact on parliamentarians and civil society. The aim was to draw the attention and awareness of the nation's parliamentarians to the dangers of drugs, trafficking, and organised crime.

Abílio Junior

Head of the Observatório Guineense da Droga e da Toxicodependência (OGDT)

implementation of National Referral Mechanisms for Trafficking Victims.

- Supported the implementation of the "National Emergency Plan for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2020-2021.

Public Administration

- 168 civil servants including 53 women were trained on leadership skills through the Leadership Academy.
- Strengthened technical capacity of the National Center for Legal Professional Training (CENFOJ) in the development and implementation of training modules for personnel involved in the Justice sector.
- Trained 55 technical staff from 17 government ministries on mainstreaming gender throughout the planning and budgeting processes.
- The National Quality Policy was validated, creating the reference framework to reverse the shortcomings identified and to allow Guinea-Bissau to provide a sustainable response, not only to its internal needs, but also to open perspectives for medium-term profitability of investments through the provision of value-added services in ECOWAS and other countries.



Outcome 2: by 2021, the economic growth is inclusive and sustainable to promote poverty reduction, decent jobs, food security, and the structural transformation of the economy Inclusive growth.

Reporting Agencies: UNDP, FAO, WFP, IOM, UN-Habitat, ILO, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNIDO and UNESCO

Inclusive growth

- Strengthened capacity of the government to conduct general census of productive assets including agriculture and livestock through provision of mobile applications for survey, methodology, manuals, and norms.
- Enhanced the capacity of key government institutions to collect and analyze socio-economic data in ways that leave no one behind.
- Market monitoring system covering 44 key markets and covering all 39 sectors of Guinea-Bissau and collecting monthly prices of over 50 essential food and non-food commodities created to support the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Statistical Institute with data on the functioning of the national food markets
- Provided technical assistance to the Government to formulate an action oriented National Framework on Financial Inclusion.
- 300 beneficiaries including women were trained in financial literacy, business development and management skills.
- 12 micro enterprises were supported with seed capital to seize opportunities in the blue and green economy.
- 1610 women in 32 communities were empowered through training on leadership, basic budget management, access to justice, and land.



evidence-based, and inclusive food security and nutrition strategies and ownership. Moreover, the system provided valuable insight on population vulnerability to inform emergency preparedness and response.

- Strengthened capacity of the government to standardize data collection on food and nutrition security through the Cadre Harmonise.
- Strengthened the leadership and oversight capacity of the Government through mapping key food security and nutrition actors in Guinea-Bissau
- Enhanced the capacity of the Government for evidence-based policy making through a national data visualization platform specifically designed for the Government of Guinea-Bissau. The platform combines geospatial data on food security, nutrition, market prices, and climate in a digital database that enables easy user access and mapping
- 7600 vulnerable women, girls, and boys in over 1,080 vulnerable households were provided with Cash-based transfer (CBTs) to meet their basic food and nutrition needs.

Food security

- The UN supported the government to implement the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS).
- Capacity of key national institutions were strengthened in data collection and analysis on food security and malnutrition across the country in ways that support



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- 186,100 school age children were provided with nutritious meals during the school year including take home ration of rice provided to 15, 600 girls to incentivize school attendance.
- 20,000 vulnerable children aged 6 -23 months at risks of stunting received 180 metric tons of specialised nutritious food.
- 3131 children benefited from moderate acute malnutrition treatment (MAM).
- Strengthened the technical capacities of the National Laboratory for Quality Control of Fishery Products and its Derivatives through:
 - technical assistance to implement a plan towards meeting requirements for ISO 17025:2017 accreditation including diagnostic, validation of processes and procedures for management and operation of laboratories
 - laboratory equipment, materials, and reagents.
 - Training of laboratory technicians to carry out quality analyses and present reliable results, in accordance with ISO standards, in microbiological, physico-chemical, and sensory analysis applied to fish and other fishery products.
- Improved competitiveness of Mango value chain in the three regions (Cacheu, Oio and Bafatá), through different components: production, local processing, and export support.
- IDEA App programme incubated 60 Business Idea for entrepreneurship, especially women and youth. Among them, 52% led by women.
- More than 240 peoples were trained in technical itinerary of mango production and quality commercial of mango.
- The Project for the Development of Artisanal Fisheries (DESPAR), in collaboration with the General Directorate of Artisanal Fisheries, has begun mapping for the installation of artisanal fish preservation units in the regions of Cacheu and Quinará, to support fishermen
- 7000 of Fruit Fly Trap distributed close to the mango producers in the regions of Cacheu, Oio and Bafatá.
- 80 people trained in Agro-entrepreneurship, including 30 women.
- Strengthened capacity of the Government to undertake urban and regional development planning through implementing the Spatial Development Framework.
- 40 staff from the National Statistics Office (INE) trained on formulating balanced regional plans for sustainable regional development.
- A strategic development platform was developed for the archipelagos of Bijagos including priority investment for sustainable development.
- Strengthened implementation of inclusive land laws and regulations through the establishment of 48 multistakeholder platforms for dialogue at the national level and in all 8 regions and administrative sectors of the country. Land commissions were implemented in all the 8 regions, of which 140 of the 511 members were women commissioners.
- Enhanced technical capacity of the government through technical assistance to draft rules of procedure for the land commissions and the draft statutes of the National Land Observatory
- Strengthened implementation capacity through technical assistance to partners involved on the land law, in particular the General Directorate for Cadastre, Land Use Planning, and Taxation
- Raised awareness on the content of land laws and regulations in Creole and various local languages on community radio stations
- 618 peoples including 289 women trained on land law, provisions for inclusive access.

Structural transformation and diversification

- Strengthened evidence-base formulation of strategies to transform and diversify the economy through key studies including "Building a better future for the business environment in Guinea-Bissau" addressing micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Guinea-Bissau and the "Exploring Alternative Development Futures, Human and Economic Development Trends to 2040", illustrating growth trends in Guinea Bissau over the next 19 years. These data driven studies were developed in close collaboration with academia, and in close consultations with Government, national, international partners, CSOs, private sector and the wider UN-family
- Provided technical assistance to the formulation of the Blue Economy Strategy and investment plan which will prioritize the enabling business environment, expand access to financial services and fintech solutions, and tap into the blue economy/green growth to diversify the economic opportunities and strengthen resilience for the most vulnerable.



Outcome 3: by, 2021, all citizens, particularly the most marginalized and vulnerable, have equitable and sustainable access and use health services, nutrition, HIV / AIDS, water, sanitation and hygiene, quality education and protection.

Reporting UN Entities: UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNESCO, UNDP, WFP, and IOM

Positive progresses were achieved towards planned results defined in the 2021 joint workplan, especially towards the achievement of the SDGs # 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 16 and the Strategic Priority 3 (Outcome #3) – “Develop the human development potential of the Bissau-Guinean population”.

Universal health coverage and health security

- The UN provided technical and financial assistance to strengthen the policy and planning capacity in the government which resulted in the validation of the : National Guideline for Hospital Waste Management; Ebola Contingency Plan; National Immunization Strategy (2023-2027); National Health Accounts 2015-2017 report; National Action Plan for Health Security; Action Plan on Cancrum Oris (Noma) 2022-2026; Road map for the implementation of International code of Diseases 11 edition, medical death certification and verbal autopsy; Survey on the Safety of Reproductive Health Products and Services in Guinea-Bissau (GPRHCS) carried out and report available, National plan for the integration of MRSA/STI/HIV/Malaria/TB/Nutrition/Immunization and community health services (2021-2025).
- Strengthened pandemic preparedness and response capacity through technical support to update daily the COVID-19 national dashboard and present daily and weekly surveillance reports
- The UN and partner provided technical assistance to the High Commission for COVID-19 to scale up critical medical oxygen capacity through a comprehensive assessment of five oxygen plants
- Undertook joint advocacy and resource mobilization which resulted in the donation of laboratory equipment and supplies including RT-PCR for COVID-19 and other diseases
- The UN and partners advocated jointly at the Peoples National Assembly for greater prioritization of mental health in national development planning, strategies and budget. Six radio stations benefited from technical assistance to increase public awareness on mental health services including access to psychosocial to cope with COVID-19.
- Strengthened the technical and operational capacity of the High Commission for COVID 19 and the Ministry of Health through establishing an Integrated Network of



Ambulances. Provided 15 fully equipped ambulances with lifesaving medical equipment and GPS and trained first responders including doctors, nurses and drivers on basic emergency care.





- The UN, Ministry of Health and community leaders implemented 5th COVID-19 national immunization which resulted in the scaling up of vaccination coverage from 9% to 38% among 70% of the population within the age cohort of 18 years and above.
- In coordination with other partners, the UN supported the government the High-Commission for COVID-19 in launching the digital vaccination certificate for COVID-19 with QR code, which is fully operational.
- The UN and partners provided targeted assistance to strengthen the management and operational capacity of the government: 476 health professional including doctors, nurses and maintenance technicians were trained in the management, use and maintenance of medical equipment for patients with COVID-19 and other diseases; 257 Health CW trained in oxygen therapy, non-invasive ventilation for COVID-19 patients and COVID-19 case management; 971 HCW were trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Integrated Management of Hospital Waste, Integrated Training in the Prevention and Response of COVID-19 in the Point of Entry.
- Partnerships were also fostered with implementing partners, such as ENDA Sante, to support the Ministry of Health in the implementation of self-care, training in Human Reproduction including post-abortion care strategies as well as with AIFO for the implementation of leprosy program.
- Strengthened access to critical health services for children and other vulnerable groups: Immunization (71% coverage) was reached for DPT3 from January to September; 37,608 pregnant women were supported to access antenatal care (ANC1) and 17,016 completed ANC4; Pediatric AIDS coverage increased from 21.4% in 2020 to 37.2% 2021; A new Community Health Programme (CHP) strategy was developed and 94% of the Community Health Workers (CHW) were trained; chronic malnutrition treatment services were provided to 1,004 children under-five, among which 788 children (84 percent) were cured (thus supporting implementation of UPR recommendation 105)
- Provided technical and operational assistance for the construction of a new central national medical warehouse for the storage and distribution of medicines to treat malaria, HIV and TB (CECOME),

located in Bissau. Despite the several challenges posed by the pandemic concerning not only the conduction of site works but in particular related to the production and delivery of construction materials, significant progress was made against the expected delivery by end 2022.

contributing to Guinea-Bissau's commitment to implement UPR recommendation nr. 116.

- Strengthened subnational capacities to deliver reproductive health services through technical and financial support: 11 health regions developed regional family plans; 45,352 condoms were



Sexual and reproductive health

- Capacity building of health workers was enhanced and a key priority during 2021, thus supporting Guinea-Bissau's commitment to "continue to implement effective measures to combat malnutrition with a view to reducing the main cause of child mortality and morbidity" (UPR recommendation 105)
- The UN provided technical assistance to the Government to build capacity of health workers in providing critical reproductive health services: 56 midwives, nurses and final year medical students were trained; 126 midwives were trained on Tocology/Partogram, obstetric ultrasound, pedagogical and technical supervision, family planning; 30 health professionals, 17 Young Leaders and 44 peer educators were trained to provide youth-friendly reproductive health services thus



- I was saved thanks to the existence of the operating room and the prompt intervention of the hospital's health professionals who spared no effort to help me.

- Ami Campini

Hospital Patient who underwent a cesarean section

distributed at the community level in four regions to prevent unwanted pregnancy and STI/HIV AIDS) and 60,919 condoms during the celebration of May 1st, and in other activities and programmatic dates for youth.

- Supported the government to improve access to critical reproductive health services: 40 cases of obstetric fistulas were repaired, 27 of which were complex during the fistula campaign and 13 were simple routine; financial and logistical support was

- provided to the Ministry of Health for the routine Obstetric Fistula case remediation campaign.
- improved young people access to basic social services: 14 facilitators of the 3 youth and civil society platforms (RENAJ, CNV & RENAJELF) were
- Several of the above-mentioned results have contributed to Guinea-Bissau's efforts to implement the commitments it made in the context of the UN Human Rights Council review of its human rights
- Enhanced awareness promoted youth participation and trained on Peer educator capacity intervention to prevent forced/early marriages, FGM, SSR, HIV/STI, COVID-19.
- situation, through the universal periodic review mechanism (recommendations 105-122, related to the right to health).



Education Sector

- The UN and partners provided technical and financial assistance to the Ministry of Education (MoE) to mitigate the negative effects of learning loss from COVID 19 restrictions which resulted: in 216 radio lessons for preschool and primary-aged children, benefitting as estimated 324,576 children (158,214 girls); 4,853 school directors and teachers in 1,500 schools benefitted from support to safely reopen schools and mitigate learning loss; evidence from the mWater JMP survey of WASH in schools was also used to strengthen access to safe learning environments. mWater data suggests that only 554 of the 2,099 schools surveyed (26.4%) have a basic level of water, sanitation, and hygiene; to address this issue, supported 1,500 schools, or approximately 75% of basic education schools, with minimum hygiene standards for COVID-19 prevention.
- Supported the development of the teachers' deployment and allocation plan for 2021 through support for targeted training to strengthen the capacity of 849 contract teachers to acquire basic pedagogical skills.
- Over 186,000 schoolchildren (47 percent girls), in 874 schools across the country benefitted from daily nutritious meals which enhanced school attendance.
- Provided technical assistance to the Government, communities and schools for gender-inclusive monitoring which fostered increase school attendance and retention of girls, in line with various UPR



recommendations aiming at reducing school drop outs (133-139).

- The UN and partners provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Education/INDE on life skills and comprehensive sexuality education, forced/early
- The UN and partners enhanced the capacity of secondary school teachers on pedagogical skills for empowering students as agents of change including ethically responsible, constructive and strong and inclusive institutions. Strengthened the capacity of government to formulate and implement youth responsive national policies and priorities through a strategic youth-led workshop (Management of Social Transformation (MOST) schools) which resulted in greater awareness of the role of youths in promoting

marriage, female genital mutilation, sexual and reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS and COVID 19. Also, curriculum documents for the 6th, 8th and 9th grade were reviewed and presented.

the respect of human rights and vulnerable groups, as well as youth engagement for a peaceful and inclusive society.

- Also, it strengthened the capacities of the participants (young leaders from different social segments and of different political persuasions and sensitivities) with appropriate skills and mechanisms of action to better assume their role in peacebuilding, building a just and equitable society as well as fostering responsible citizenship and non-violence.



Water and Sanitation

- The UN supported the government to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response through implementing basic infection prevention measures including access to hygiene and sanitation services in preparation against the Ebola outbreak announced in the neighboring Republic of Guinea.
- Improved access to basic sanitation services which resulted in 228 new communities declared Open

Defecation Free (ODF) making important progress on open defecation reduction in rural communities (in line with UPR recommendation nr 104 to increase the availability of safe, potable water and adequate sanitation facilities in rural areas) and contributing to a safe and clean environment for many children.

- Provided technical assistance to improve the quality of healthcare services through rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities 5 health care centers were



rehabilitated resulting and 6 schools which contributed to a safe learning environment for 1,300 pupils.

- Supported the government to coordinate partners in WASH sector by leading reflection, providing secretariat services, and supporting knowledge management. Water and Sanitation Group (Grupo de Água e Sanamento – GAS) meetings were resumed and contributed to improving coordination around COVID-19 response with a report on WASH sector response to the pandemic being elaborated and submitted to Government.
- Supported the government through technical assistance for costing the National Plan for the Elimination of Open Defecation by 2026.

Child Protection and Youth Participation

- The UN provided technical and financial assistance to strengthen child protection services through improved capacity building and strengthened coordination, monitoring, and case management, especially at sub-national level, where services are scarce: 95 social service and frontline workers, teachers (850), shelters (12) were trained

- Provided technical assistance to key civil society organizations and children's organization to improve the knowledge and skills to prevent and manage violence against children and gender-based violence cases; safe spaces for children were strengthened through improving the capacity for shelters to assist child victims of violence in Bissau and Gabu regions, where reported cases of violence are higher.
- 94,879 people benefitted from human rights educational dialogue training by the UN resulting in 63 public declarations to end female genital mutilations and child marriages, thus supporting implementation of UPR recommendation 157
- 14 facilitators of the 3 youth and civil society platforms (RENAJ, CNV & RENAJELF) benefited from peer educator interventions to prevent forced/early marriages, FGM, SSR, HIV/STI, COVID-19 resulting in stronger awareness raising activities among their peers.
- Child marriage prevention was mainstreamed in all social norms change interventions, involving traditional and religious leaders, adolescents, women, and families in line with UPR recommendation 178

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Outcome 4: by 2021, the public institutions, Civil Society Organizations, and the private sector ensure the promotion of sustainable management of the environment and natural resources, risk management, and disaster prevention.

Reporting UN Entities: FAO, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, WFP, UNIDO and UNESCO

Sustainable management of the environment

- The UN strengthened the capacity of the Government to implement Integrated Pest Management and control by training 24 national technicians.
- The UN strengthened the capacity of the government to review progress on the achievement of SDGs through capacity building to prepare the first country-driven Voluntary National Review on the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. Key officials from key ministries were trained on conducting VNR and INFF. The VNR will be presented in July 2022 at the ECOSOC High Political Forum meeting.
- The CSOs working in the mango value chain benefited from the institutional strengthening during 7 months with the placement of junior consultants in these institutions that allowed the elaboration of their Strategic Diagnosis and Improvement Plans to structure their organizations.

Disaster risks reduction

- GIS and remote sensing capacity of the National Civil Protection Service to improve rapid assessment and response to disasters strengthened. A national spatial data infrastructure was supported to provide key information related to essential infrastructure across the country including ports, roads, airports, hospitals, and schools
- Over 9,000 smallholder farmers from 25 vulnerable communities in Gabu, Bafatá, and Tombali regions benefited from various resilience-building projects aimed at improving water management and increasing agricultural productivity.
- 7600 peoples (including women and children) affected by floods and fire were assisted with key commodities to cope with lean season hardships
- Strengthened the resilience of crisis-affected communities through financial assistance to build

29 km of perimeter dikes, 65 km of secondary dikes and dug 9 improved wells for accessing clean water and diversification of horticultural production and implementation of agroecological practices.

- 1,610 women in 32 communities in Gabu, Tombali, Quinara, and Bolama regions were trained in income generating activities to enhance resilience of rural areas.
- Strengthened the surveillance capacity of the government through technical assistance to develop a digital platform to identify main pest of cashew plants and control measures including data on pest occurrence and diseases
- Improved the evidence-based for climate-informed policy and programmes through research on the interplay of climate variability and change on food systems in Guinea Bissau.

Enhanced climate-resilience of rural communities through technical and financial support to establish a 1-hectare horticultural area in the village of Bruce in Bubaque, equipped with solar panels and water facility of about 20,000 liters daily for domestic use.



Chapter 4: Leave no-one Behind and Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

Consistent with its role and responsibilities on human rights, the UN has continued to follow human rights developments in the country, bearing in mind also the impact on its partners and overall operational context.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further hampered the capacity of national partners to deliver on their obligations to promote, protect and fulfill human rights, in an already challenging climate of strikes and diminishing resources. The UN has worked with both duty-bearers and right-holders, in Bissau and in the regions, to strengthen their capacities, and facilitate joint efforts. In keeping with a human-rights based approach, it has sought to recaliber its support to help its national partners overcome the many challenges caused by the pandemic and help them build back better.

As demonstrated in the previous sections, several results included in this report directly fed into Guinea-Bissau's efforts to implement the recommendations it received and decided to support, in the context of the UN Human Rights Council's universal periodic review of its human rights situation in 2020. Among others, the UN has supported implementation of UPR recommendations. The UN continued to promote the inclusive participation and empowerment of often excluded and marginalized groups, especially youth and women in rural areas. Reaching out to youth (the largest population cohort of the country) and women was essential to promoting positive change in the country. By further developing the Leadership Academy's scope and sphere of influence, the UN system is supporting the development of the whole country, youth and women included.

To promote greater inclusion and accountability, the UN also provided technical assistance to improve the capacities of the National Assembly, the Audit Court, and key Ministries to develop the national budget taking women's rights, perspectives, and needs into consideration.

related to gender equality, child rights, the right to education, the right to health, the right to food, the right to water and sanitation, etc. It also helped the Government prepare its next report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Concrete efforts were also made to adopt a human rights based approach when developing the the UNSDCF, bearing in mind the groups left behind identified in the Country Common Assessment. Upon the request of the RC/UNCT a human rights advisor was deployed in August 2021. Under the RCO leadership, the UN designed a Peacebuilding Fund- supported project to strengthen the national human rights system, which includes support to establish a national human rights institution, to implement the national human rights action plan, to engage with UN human rights mechanisms. It also includes support to civil society organizations.

The work of UN agencies with CSOs, especially targeting youth and women, was particularly relevant to promote the leave no one behind approach.



Chapter 5: Efficiency and Effectiveness of the United Nations Joint Approach

The OMT Working group on Common services / facilities, Finance, HACT. Human Resources, ICT and Procurement facilitated the implementation of the Business Operations Strategy. In addition, the OMT endorsed recruitment of all vacant UNDSS positions to facilitate staff security needs efficiently which was implemented fully by end of 2021. Through the business operations strategy, new security measures were rolled out and a rigorous training on increased vigilance of security personnel on handling staff and



visitors' access to the UN premises was conducted which accounted for strict adherence to effective COVID-19 and security MOSS compliance. A security scanner has been installed to screen walk-in visitors to prevent security threats. Work was also done on the "Digital Access Control Management System" to allow its operationalization in 2022

In 2021, with the closure of the UNIOGBIS peace keeping mission the UNJMS officially moved to the main UN building offering services from a single centralized point. The clinic also underwent some renovation work which was completed by the end of the year. The OMT designed and rolled out a COVID 19 back to office plan which was observed by all agencies in the UN premises to maximise safety and well-being of staff and all personnel by end of 2021 100 % back to office plan was realized. In adherence to the COVID 19 SOPs the staff cafeteria was closed on the 1st floor and an outdoor cafeteria was adopted for implementation in 2022.

Through the ecoefficiency and greening initiative project, a UN joint workplan endorsed by the Representatives of UNDP, UNFPA AND UNICEF, will roll out phase 3 of the implementation plan for the **solar expansion project** for the UN building which is positioned to facilitate optimal harnessing of solar power utilization. This project is projected to reduce common services costs related to the utilization of the government power grid and

The closure of UNIOGBIS mission also significantly impacted the amount of UN office space availability. This allowed more agencies to move to the former UNIOGBIS building. Notably, UNDP and UNICEF, were both able to achieve more square footage utilization to facilitate staff better access to share resources / services ON 4TH AND 3RD floor respectively through regrouping by agency.

A stock-taking exercise for 2021 was conducted for all UN premises during the first quarter of 2022.



Chapter 6: Partnership and Financing of the 2030 Agenda

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, strengthened partnerships and multistakeholder engagement contributed to the results achieved in 2021. The UNCT successfully mobilized over USD 60 million, from bilateral, multilateral partners, working with civil society and private sector organizations to deliver on the strategic priorities of the extended UNPAF 2016-2020. The partnerships cut across social, economic and environment pillars of sustainable development.

Transformative partnerships were established: [The WFP and the Governments of Spain and Guinea-Bissau signed a landmark debt-swap agreement at the condition that 6.7 million USD of the cancelled 12 million USD owed to the Government of Spain will be invested in long-term support to nutrition activities in the country over eight years](#)

Key bilateral partnerships were reinforced with Japan as well with the European Union to strengthen implementation of community health interventions continued over 2021. UNIDO, through its WACOMP-GB project implemented, in partnership with Orange Money and European Union funds, built financing mechanisms to support entrepreneurs working in the mango value chain with 100.000 euros.

Partnerships with international financial institutions were reinforced. The UN partnered with the World Bank to provide technical assistance to support the Ministry of Education implement strategies on violence prevention in schools (especially sexual harassment). Multilateral partnerships with global funds were also enhanced between UNDP and UN-Habitat and Global Fund Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) for the construction of a new central national medical warehouse for the storage and distribution of medicines to treat malaria, HIV and TB (CECOME).

UN thematic trust funds were leveraged for joint work. The Peace Building Fund strengthened partnerships among UN agencies in the areas of political governance in ways that supported the implementation

of the peacebuilding priorities endorsed by the government. Many joint initiatives were undertaken in different sectors. UNICEF, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNDP, IOM, UNFPA, and WHO partnered in a PBF funded project to strengthen coordination, enhance preventive and protective women and child protection services, as well as to mobilize resources for a joint human rights programme. In 2021, UNDP and WFP secured funding for a future project on civic spaces, women, and climate risks. The UN team also secured funding for a project on human rights. UNDP, UNFPA and WFP jointly implemented a project on political stabilization and building trust among political actors, empowering youth, and facilitating grassroot transformative processes.

During the implementation of the UNPAF Joint Annual Plan 2021 and formulation of the new Cooperation Framework 2022-2026, multistakeholder consultations were held among the United Nations, entities, the Government, CSOs and private sector. The preparatory works are underway to strengthen capacities of the government to mobilize and align financing with national sustainable development priorities and support COVID-19 recovery, under the integrated national financing framework (INFF). The concept note was developed and agreed with government, and its implementation phase should start in 2022.

Implementation partnerships were strengthened with civil society organizations. UN partnered with national and international NGOs to provide women and Child protection services, particularly at sub national level, where State services are limited. New partnerships were fostered to address FGM and Child Marriage with Plan International and new national NGOs, the national association of Social Assistants (AGAS) and the Association of Psychologists, to reinforce capacities of service providers for Child protection case management working in the justice and health services. Partnership was also established with the National Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (RENAP+ GB) to implement community-based peer counselling activities including COVID-19 prevention.



The partnership with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation/Minho University enabled the Ministry of Education to intensify the work of supporting education reforms including the design of alternative education programmes. Civil society implementing partners such

as Plan International, Humanity and Inclusion, Organização Guineense de Desenvolvimento, RENAJI and others, had to adapt their service delivery and monitoring systems considering the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chapter 7: Key Challenges and Lessons Learned

Despite the results achieved, there were some challenges faced in the implementation of the extended UNPAF 2015-2020. These included COVID 19 pandemic, leadership and coordination, programmatic and financial impediments. .

The pandemic remained the biggest operational constraint in 2021. The containment measures including lockdowns slowed down field operations, necessitating new adaptive modalities for work. Disruptions of supply chains and inflationary pressures from the pandemic imposed additional cost on procurement and made planning even more difficult.

While the political context remained relatively stable, the repeated changes in leadership of some key ministries posed a challenge to program continuity and institutional memory. Social tensions including strikes impacted on operations in the Ministry of Education in particular. Governance challenges were also constraining including financial accountability of some ministerial partners which slowed down implementation. Poor coordination within and across government departments impeded implementation.

Data remained a key constraint to monitor and evaluate results achieved. The dearth of reliable and disaggregated data across time and space including regions, communities and gender makes tracking of progress on the implementation of SDGs difficult.

Innovations in particular digitalization was employed to overcome some of the COVID 19 restrictions. Mobile platforms were used to collect data remotely. Innovative products with transformative impacts were also deployed like the 300 mobile money Kiosk to facilitate financial inclusion. Working with private

sector including financial institutions to enhance value addition will boost entrepreneurship, formalization and create much needed jobs for the fastly growing youth population.

Investment in capacity building, strengthening of ownership and broadening partnerships would address some of the coordination and data gaps in the way of evidence-based policymaking. Strengthening capacities at the regional levels will not only improve effectiveness of implementation, but will contribute to inclusion, impact, and sustainability of results. The involvement of stakeholders in particular beneficiaries in all stages of implementation remains critical.

Strengthening the system of public finance management will mitigate against fiduciary risks, by ensuring compliance with accountability standards, greater transparency and efficient tracking and reporting of partners funds put at the disposal of Ministerial departments.

Stronger integration of LNOB, gender and human rights into program design and delivery will also enhance inclusion ownership by those groups furthest behind including peoples living with disabilities. It is also important to strengthen the capacity of the government to report on international treaty obligations including human rights and gender.

Leveraging new and innovative financing opportunities through joint resource mobilization strategy will help close the resource gap, enhance efficiency and synergies of interventions for transformative impacts.



Chapter 8: UNCT key focus for next year

Moving forward, Guinea Bissau has positioned itself to capitalize on opportunities from recent transitional events and processes. Looking forward we want to consolidate these benefits and lay a foundation to jump-start the economy in this decade for Action. The Government plans to invest heavily in health, education, and infrastructure to unleash the creative and entrepreneurial energies of the people of Guinea-Bissau and overcome poverty. Identifying and tapping into the interlinkages between SDGs will be fundamental for the achievements of the following outcomes laid out in the UNSDCF. While the Partnership Framework was the expression of the common will of the parties to further strengthen their partnership, the Cooperation Framework identifies key catalytic development solutions and leverages United Nations



comparative advantages and value proposition in relation to other partners to promote ownership and engagement of all stakeholders for SDG achievement. The strategic priorities laid out in the UNSDCF are thus:

- I. Transformational and inclusive governance encompassing respect for the rule of law and sustaining peace
- II. Structural economic transformation, sustainable development and inclusive and resilient green growth that leaves no one behind
- III. Human capital development

KEY PRIORITIES 2022

- Implement the UNSDCF 2022-2026 as the framework for supporting the national development priorities towards the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The focus will be on the formulation on implementation of the multiannual joint workplan 2022-2023. Accountability structures including the Joint Steering Committee will be rolled out as well as strengthening and rationalizing UNCT governance structures of the Cooperation Framework agreed between United Nations System, the Government and the peoples of Guinea Bissau.
- Reconfiguration of the UNCT will be finalized to ensure that UN presence and posture in Guinea-Bissau is need driven based and context informed
- Accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. UNCT will continue to support the government in conducting the first Voluntary National Review of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. Support will be provided to align the National Development Plan with the SDGs, strengthen SDG data collection and analysis including support to the National Statistical Office (INE)
- Support data for national development planning through the implementation a national population census.
- Strengthening linkages between policy, planning, budgeting, financing and monitoring remain critical for achieving the SDGs. The UNCT will provide support to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in particular the implementation of Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)
- Mobilise planned, new and additional resources for implementing the Cooperation Framework. A joint resource mobilization, advocacy and partnership strategies will be implemented



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