



UNITED NATIONS
GUINEA-BISSAU



2023 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

GUINEA-BISSAU

MARCH - 2023





FOREWORD

BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR

As Resident Coordinator (acting) of the United Nations in Guinea-Bissau, I am honored to present the Annual Results Report for 2023, the second year of the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 (UNSDCF), a United Nations vision and strategic agreement between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the United Nations Development System (UNDS). This report presents the commitment and collective efforts of UN agencies, funds, and programmes in Guinea-Bissau, working in partnership with the government, civil society organizations, communities and the international partners, to deliver on our collective promise of leaving no one behind in the accelerated march toward attainment of 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2023, one of the notable progresses under this cooperation framework was the UN system support for a successful organization of the legislative elections, held on 4 June 2023. Also, Guinea-Bissau ratified the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCTA), becoming the 44th Member State to tap into a regional market of 1.3 billion potential consumers. The UN system collective work in 2023 highlights the importance of partnership and collective action in facing multifaceted challenges. Through our joint efforts, the UN system in Guinea-Bissau made strides in





various areas, directly contributing to the well-being of the people of Guinea-Bissau and laying actions toward the attainment of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for future progress.

Political instability lingers, exemplified by the dissolution of parliament on 4 December 2023. The spillover of the war in Ukraine and adverse effects of climate change have spiked the prices of imported food, fuel, and fertilizers, further complicating the economic recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic. Declining cashew prices together with unsuccessful cashew marketing season disproportionately impacted vulnerable populations, including women and children in Guinea-Bissau, thereby highlighting the urgent need for inclusive and sustainable solutions to the poverty challenges in the country.

Looking ahead to 2024, the UN has identified key priorities that will guide our work and strengthen our impact. Among these, the UN system will support the strengthening of the data system, including the national census and MICS stands out crucial for informed decision-making and effective policy formulation. Additionally, our focus will include support for formulating a new national development plan and implementing a shock-responsive social protection system, essential steps towards achieving long-term sustainability and resilience, strengthening

development coordination partnership and seeking opportunities for south-south cooperation.

The UN has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to human rights and peacebuilding efforts in Guinea-Bissau, recognizing the critical importance of both human rights and peace in fostering sustainable development in the region. Through various initiatives and interventions, the UN has played a pivotal role in supporting human rights and peacebuilding processes and addressing the multifaceted challenges facing Guinea-Bissau.

The journey ahead remains challenging, yet our shared commitment and the lessons learned in 2023 provide a solid foundation for UNCT continued efforts toward attainment of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. As we move forward, the Guinea-Bissau UNCT unwavering committed to address the complex development challenges in partnership, remains, to accelerate the attainment of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs in Guinea-Bissau.

Ms. Etona Ekole,
UN Resident Coordinator a.i.
and UNICEF Representative

UN COUNTRY TEAM



UNITED NATIONS
GUINEA-BISSAU



10 (TBC)

Agencies under the Cooperation Framework

RESIDENT AGENCIES



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme



World Health
Organization

unicef
for every child

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



UN
VOLUNTEERS

UNOPS



IOM
UN MIGRATION

NON-RESIDENT AGENCIES



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



Impact Capital
for Development



International
Labour
Organization



IFAD
INTERNATIONAL
FUND FOR
AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT

Ministries and Government Partners

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Communities
2. Ministry of Justice
3. National Assembly
4. Ministry of Interior
5. Ministry of Agriculture | Ministry of Natural Resources | Ministry of Public Sector | Ministry of Health | Ministry of Education | Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity

Funding Partners

1. PBF
2. SDG FUND
3. GLOBAL FUND
4. GEF
5. GCF
6. GAVI

Other partners

1. World Bank
2. IMF
3. DUE
4. CAJ
5. IMC
6. CENFOJ
7. JAIFT
8. OGDТ
9. National Soil Laboratory
10. National Veterinary Lab
11. National Land Commission
12. INE

CONTRIBUTING TO



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CHAPTER



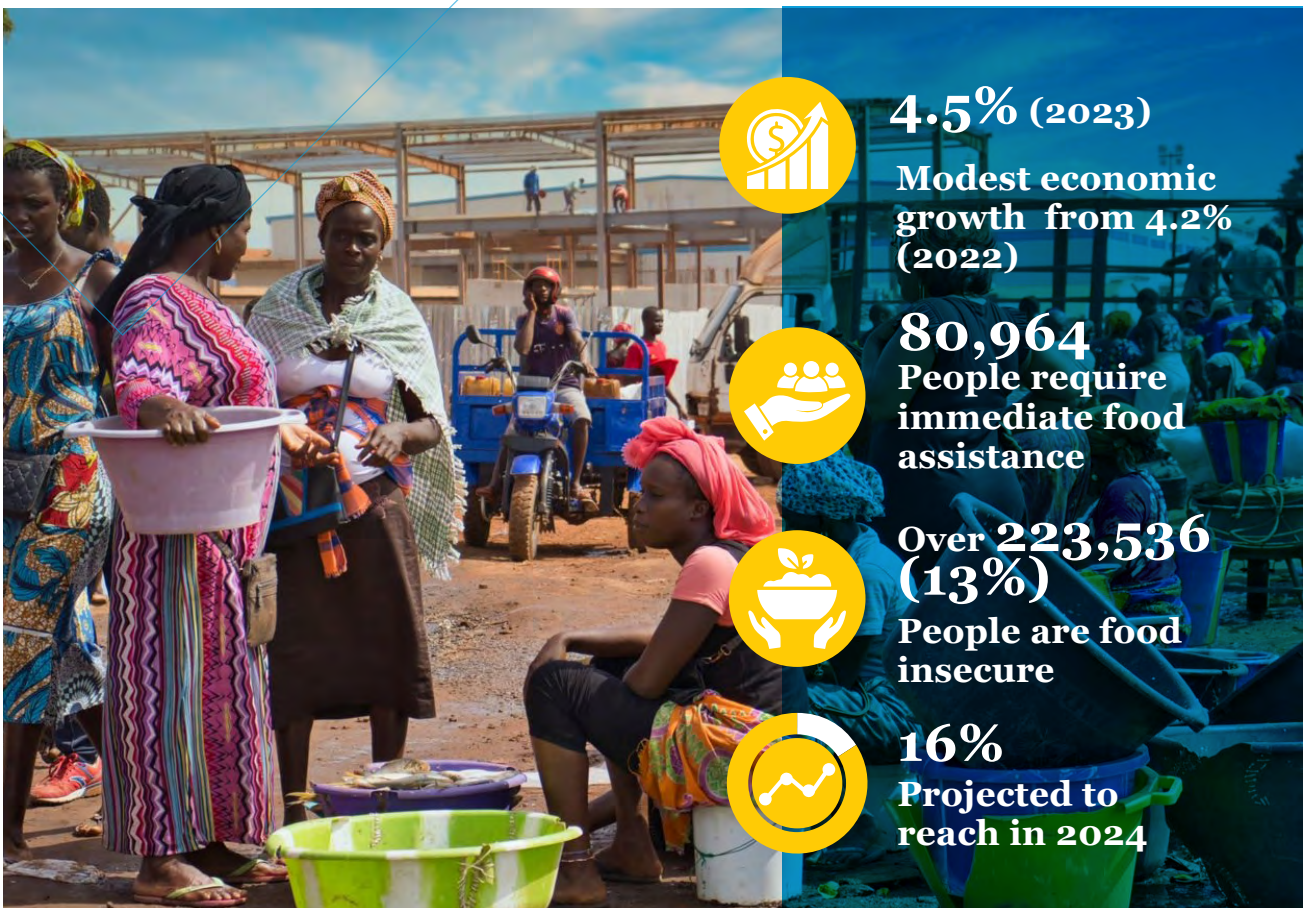
KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

Guinea-Bissau, a West African nation abundant in natural resources, faces socioeconomic challenges despite its assets. The country heavily relies on cashew nut exports, making it vulnerable to external factors. The economic landscape remains challenging, the spillover of the war in Ukraine has continued to spike prices of imported food and fuel. Additionally, falling global demand for commodities and tighter global financing environment, is adversely weighing down the economic growth prospects. Economic growth in 2023 has been modest, inching to 4.5%, up from 4.2% in 2022¹. This marginal improvement can be attributed in part to the inclusion of unsold cashew stocks carried over from 2022, following the unsuccessful 2023 cashew campaign. Nevertheless, real per capita GDP growth remains extremely low at 0.7%, falling well below the population growth rate of 2.5%. While inflation has moderated, it remains still high at 6.3%, far above the regional target of 3%. The fiscal deficit is estimated to reach 18%², due to additional expenditure by the government to palliate the cost of living. Debt load remains high averaging 81% of GDP.

Despite the difficult/complex environment, Guinea-Bissau has successfully made progress in implementing the critical three-year IMF program. The \$36 million three-year arrangement, approved on January 30, 2023, aims to secure debt sustainability, improve fiscal governance,

and reduce corruption while creating fiscal space for increase spending on social sectors. Besides the fiscal support, access to the Extended Credit Facility has enhanced fiscal-reform credibility to donors and creditors, enabling the government to leverage additional budget support from partners. Over the reporting period, the government successfully made progress achieving the specified targets in the agreement.

The prevalent macroeconomic situation has translated into a worsening cost of living crisis. The declining cashew prices, which are central to the economy, have significantly impacted household incomes. Cashew remains a key income earner for the undiversified economy, with farm gate prices moving in tandem with income of most households. Household needs cashew to consume food. This means that any fluctuation in the prices of cashews has an immediate and significant impact on the financial well-being of families. Although the government's official reference prices for cashew remains at 375 CFA/kg, farmers received only 150cfa/kg. This price drop is influenced by both global and local market dynamics. Internationally, cashew prices have declined due to various macroeconomic factors, including global demand. Domestic, logistic constraints prevented over 50,000 tons of cashew from being exported during the 2022 campaign. The excess raw nuts carried forward from 2022 contributed in depressing farmgate prices in 2023.



4.5% (2023)

Modest economic growth from 4.2% (2022)



80,964
People require immediate food assistance



Over 223,536 (13%)
People are food insecure



16%
Projected to reach in 2024

However, the impact of real inflationary pressures is even higher than the nominal average suggests, since most of it is driven by food, which comprise over 70% of poor household's expenditure. Approximately 80,964 people are estimated to be in crisis phase requiring immediate food assistance. Over 223,536 peoples (13% of the population) are food insecure needing assistance to prevent them from falling into crisis³. The figure is projected to reach 16% in 2024.

The cost-of-living crisis has been marked by strike actions from labour unions. As of October, 2023, over 10 incidences of reported strikes were recorded. Hiring freeze, arrears and poor working conditions have created a restive work environment for teachers and health workers, with implications for the delivery of basic services.⁴ A survey reckoned that over one in four primary school teachers admitted to being

regularly absent, with absences occurring at least once a week. Such regular absences are more prevalent in urban areas (29%) compared to rural regions (11%)⁵. Furthermore, over half of the public-school teachers surveyed cited strikes, driven by chronic salary arrears, as one of the top three reasons for their absences.

On political side, despite the successful legislative elections (that mobilize a lot of the UN and partners attention) 2023 was also ripe with challenges: an unprecedented crisis led to the resignation of the President of the Supreme Court of Justice in November 2023, the Parliament was dissolved in December 2023, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers publicly expressed concern regarding the situation of the justice sector and the 1st February 2022 case, throughout the year human rights activists have denounced a shrinking civic space.

¹ The World Bank has recently revised down its estimate to 2.8%. However, the government estimates remains on the upside 4.2%.

² OGE 2023.

³ MADR 2023. Harmonised framework for analysing and identifying zones and food insecure populations in the Sahel and West Africa

World Bank. 2017. Quality Education for All in Guinea-Bissau. Retrieved from <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/pt/372021517990868290/pdf/>

⁴ Guinea-Bissau-Quality-Education-for-All-Project.pdf

⁵ UNICEF(2021). Time to Teach Teacher attendance and time on task in primary schools





Total population
1.9 million



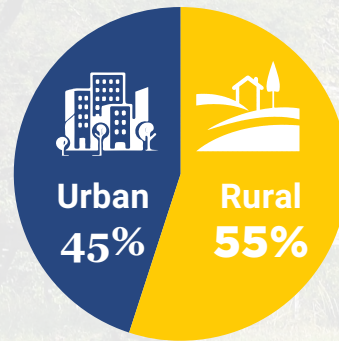
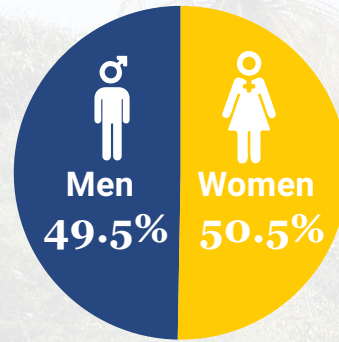
Population growth
2.4%



Children <15 years
41%



Youth 15–34 years
35%



Multidimensionally poor
64%
of population



GDP per capita
609,966 CFA

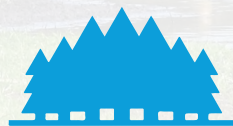


GDP
962,650,000,000 CFA



Land Area

- **36,125 sq. km**
- **70%** of population resides along the coast
- **Second most vulnerable country** to climate change after Bangladesh



Protected Area

- **26%** of national territory
- **59%** of key biodiversity sites
- **50.7%** of marine protected sites
- **Highest natural wealth per capita** in West Africa



CHAPTER



UN development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework

► 2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results




In August 2021, the United Nations (UN) System in Guinea-Bissau Resident Coordinator, and the Government of Guinea-Bissau, represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, and Communities, signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the period 2022-2026, as a formal commitment to attainment of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. This new Cooperation Framework, which commenced following the expiration of the extended United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2020 in December 2021, signifies a strategic evolution in the partnership between the UNDS system and Guinea-Bissau. Developed through comprehensive consultations involving government entities, civil society, and the private sector, the UNSDCF outlines a holistic approach to sustainable development within the country and it is closely aligned with the National Development Plan (NDP) 2020-2023 and the 17 SDGs.

The Cooperation Framework outlines three strategic priorities critical for Guinea-Bissau's

development: transformational governance; structural economic transformation alongside inclusive and green growth; and the development of human capital. The interlinked and interdependent priorities are organised these three strategic outcomes, 18 outcome indicators, 16 outputs and 77 output indicators. It seeks to mainstream the principles of leave no one behind, gender equality and women empowerment and a human rights-based approach to development cooperation. In the context of transition, it integrates the eight peacebuilding priorities adopted between the Government and stakeholders in the prelude to the closure of UNOGBIS in December 2020. As the primary vehicle of UN support, it also integrates key priorities of the Socioeconomic Response Plan (SERP) against COVID-19 adopted by the UNCT in 2021.

The year 2023 marked the second year of the UNSDCF's implementation, witnessing the collaborative efforts of 13 resident and non-resident UN entities. A biannual joint work plan was implemented for 2022 and 2023 to guide these efforts. This annual report aims to highlight the progress made towards enhancing the lives and well-being of the people of Guinea-Bissau throughout the reporting year 2023, focusing on the outputs achieved through the Cooperation Framework's initiatives.



UNSDCF 2022-2026	National Development Plan 2020-2023	2030 Agenda	SDGs
<p>By 2026 people in Guinea Bissau enjoy improved democratic governance, peace and the rule of law, and their basic needs are met</p>	<p>Strategic Objective 1</p>	<p>Peace and partnership</p>	
<p>By 2026 Guinea Bissau has achieved structural economic transformation driven by enhanced productive capacity, value addition, the blue economy and inclusive green growth that leaves no one behind, while capitalizing on Small Island Developing State characteristics and ensuring sustainable use and the protection of natural resources</p>	<p>Strategic objectives 2, 3, and 6</p>	<p>Prosperity and Planet</p>	
<p>By 2026 the population of Guinea Bissau, especially the most vulnerable, will have increased and equitable access to and use of essential quality social services, including in emergencies</p>	<p>Strategic Objectives 4 & 5</p>	<p>Peoples</p>	



► 2.2. Cooperation Framework: priorities, outcomes and outputs



STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Transformational and inclusive governance encompassing respect for the rule of law and sustaining peace

OUTCOME >> 1

By 2026, people in Guinea Bissau enjoy improved democratic governance, peace and the rule of law and their basic needs are met.



Output 1.1



Provision of **100 biometric kits** and digitalization of birth certificates, as citizen identification.

Output 1.3



Register **893,618 individual voters** by ensuring a more diverse representation with **434,009 men and 459,609 women** participating.



Mobilized **USD 2.4 million** for June 2023 legislative elections, voters turnout to be **80%**.

Output 1.4



11.02% cases handled by **Centre of Access to Justice** for mediation and conciliation.



Resolution of **3,783 cases**, with **2,067 men and 1,716 women**.

Output 1.5



Successfully enhanced law enforcement capacities by training **150 officers** and members of judiciary system; **24 law enforcement officers (19 men and 5 women)** received specialized training in ethics and integrity.





Output 1.1

The institutional framework and the human and operational capacities of the State, other national actors and agents of change are enhanced to support a transformational change and societal shift in favor of democratic governance and to respond to all citizens' needs.

The UN has enhanced the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to monitor public administration, extending financial support for the development and launch of the inaugural monitoring report, a valuable insight into public sector recruitment and career advancement, thereby providing data accessibility for informed decision-making processes.

Two key national entities have successfully incorporated data management and digital information systems into their operational frameworks, notably, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights' integrated identification system, a transformative the civil registry, which is enhancing governance and

societal inclusivity. The United Nations provided 100 biometric kits and the digitalization of birth certificates, and the Ministry fortified the process of citizen identification. Also, the United Nations empowered the National Assembly by implementing an interactive web platform and live streaming of sessions, thereby promoting transparency and accountability. The digitization of legislative bills since independence, although not fully completed, to become accessible via its website (<https://www.parlamento.gw/>), implies a significant stride towards better records keeping, inclusive governance and participation.



Output 1.2

Inclusive political and intra/inter-party dialogue processes among all relevant stakeholders on the key reforms outlined in the Conakry Agreement, particularly the constitutional review, as well as national reconciliation, and citizen engagement, involving youth, women, and vulnerable groups, to consolidate democracy and sustain peace is created.

The UN, in fostering trust among political and social actors, enhanced partners' election capacity and coordination mechanisms with national authorities, civil society groups, and international partners. This resulted in 200 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) advocating for a fair and transparent legislative election of June 2023 and the avoidance of divisive rhetoric by political actors, as well as women's participation in electoral monitoring.

The UN also facilitated political dialogue among political actors, resulting in the adoption of an electoral code of conduct and civic education campaigns free of divisive politics, with 64 CSOs (36 men and 28 women containing representatives of persons with disability) monitoring political spaces across Guinea-Bissau. During the post-election period, the UN facilitated the identification of lessons and recommendations for future election program improvement, particularly focusing on inclusivity and empowering women in politics.





Output 1.3

Inclusive political processes, including a credible and transparent electoral cycle and a strong and independent mediascape, are strengthened.

In 2023, the UN supported inclusive political participation across various sectors in collaboration with the government, during legislative elections. The UN contribution made it possible for the government to register, 893,618 individual voters, ensuring a more diverse representation with 434,009 men and 459,609 women participating.

The UN facilitated the establishment of three new Birth Registration (BR) services in health facilities, benefiting 40 health providers and 20 community leaders and civil registration officers in the Bafatá region, augmenting their understanding of BR processes.

The UN supported the registration process that resulted in the school enrollment of 38,881 children, with a focus on integrating registration systems with the health and education sectors. Notably, over 480 preschoolers obtained birth certificates through

mobilization efforts involving kindergartens and community leaders.

The UN played a pivotal role in strengthening political leadership skills, particularly among women, by training 40 female political party members in areas such as public speaking, campaign strategy, and women's leadership. This initiative aimed to empower the few 11 women elected in the parliament in 2023.

The UN managed election basket fund supported by international partners mobilized a total of \$2,453,169.57. As a result, the country's legislative election was concluded on June 4, 2023 with a high voter turnout of 79.57%, surpassing regional averages. It is worth noting that the government funded 70% of this election cost, and the results were commended for their credibility, transparency, and inclusivity by 202 international observers.



Output 1.4

Access to quality justice services, especially for vulnerable people, and the promotion and protection of human rights and gender equality are enhanced.

With the UN assistance, in 2023, 11.02% of cases handled by the Centre of Access to Justice (CAJ) were referred for mediation and conciliation. This indicates a notable utilization of alternative dispute resolution methods within the justice system. The CAJ's efforts have resulted in the resolution of 3,783 cases, with 2,067 involving men and 1,716 involving women.

The UN's intervention in Gabu has been pivotal, particularly through the establishment of the Model Police Station and the adoption of the Community Policing Strategy. This initiative emphasizes the involvement of civil society, especially women and youth, in security operations. The establishment

of a Gender Desk within the police station is a groundbreaking achievement, symbolizing a commitment to addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and serving as a vital resource for survivors. The UN has also worked together with the police to advance the rights of LGBT persons in the country and improving 27 police officers' knowledge on equality and non-discrimination. This training has contributed to the development of institutional capacity to protect all citizens according to the law, independently from their gender and sexual orientation. It has certainly contributed to influencing the perception of police officers and the need for changing social norms in the Guinea Bissau.





Output 1.5

A culture of independence and integrity across the judicial system, including through the strengthening of oversight and accountability mechanisms, is fostered and the reforms of the justice sector and relevant law enforcement authorities are supported to reduce impunity and fight against drug trafficking and transnational organized crime and prevent violent extremism.

The UN played a pivotal role in combatting trafficking in persons (TiP) through various initiatives. Firstly, in collaboration with the Judicial Training Centre (CENFOJ), the UN developed a manual on trafficking in persons aimed at professionals in the criminal justice system. This manual’s validation marked a significant milestone in enhancing professionals’ capacities, ensuring their approaches align with international best practices.

Furthermore, the UN supported the Institute for Women and Children (IMC) in strengthening the national policy against TiP, particularly focusing on trafficking children. This effort involved the elaboration of a new National Strategic Plan for TiP combat, spanning five years and adopting a participatory approach across administrative regions.

The UN successfully enhanced law enforcement technical capacities of 150 officers and members of the judiciary system. As a result, 24 law enforcement officers (19 men and 5 women) technical skills in ethics and integrity were enhanced. This initiative

institutionalized standards of ethics and integrity within key law enforcement and legal institutions.

The UN has contributed to improvement of the performance of the Airport Anti-Trafficking Cell at Bissau International Airport (Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces-JAIFT Bissau), 15 males, and 3 females’ technical capacities in risk indicators and intelligence in the fight against drug trafficking, was enhanced. This contribution was translated into a concrete operational response in terms of drug seizures at Bissau airport and ultimately leading to a reduction in drug trafficking within the national and international markets.

Over 83 young people (47 boys and 36 girls) are better informed about the effects of drug use and the need for a people-centered approach in drug prevention through awareness-raising activities promoted by the Guinean Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addiction (OGDT), in partnership with UN, in the context of the World Drug Day.

“Look around. Never in all my years have I had so much rice.”



48% women participated at National Level project among 150 farmers

SRI is System of Rice Intensification

Djaja Baldé speaks with difficulty, she’s a stammer, but that doesn’t undermine her glow as she leads through the fields she cultivates with her household of 17 people: “Look around, see for yourself. Never in all my years have I had so much rice.”

We are in the Gabú region, in the east of Guinea-Bissau, specifically in the village of Sintchä Benfica. In this area of Fulani and Muslim majority live some of the populations facing the most difficulties in the complex Bissau-Guinean social mosaic. It was one of the regions chosen as location of 5 of the 15 pilot fields for improved rice production created in 2022 under the Enhancing Food Security and Food Sovereignty in Guinea-Bissau: Producing Evidence for Policy-Making⁶. The project is financed by the UN Joint Fund for Sustainable Development Goals and implemented by the UN in Guinea-Bissau.

In her village, as head of the family, Djadja was part of a group of 7 men and 3 women who received training in improved rice production techniques, called SRI (System of Intensified Rice Farming), involving different practices from

ancestral production models. SRI is characterized by specific methods for selecting and preparing seeds, soil, transplanting, controlling and managing water and nutrients throughout the rice growing cycle. With the results obtained in the peasant milieu, this technique received attention not only from the farmers but also from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development itself, and was popularized in other villages, namely in Sare Dabel, Wakilare, Madina Yoba, Gadamaio, Djabicunda/Uassado and Saucunda, both in the east of the country.

These techniques are part of the United Nations’ efforts to support Guinea-Bissau in its efforts to achieve zero hunger and sustainable agriculture, in line with the SDGs.

These are not new practices or recent knowledge. The fact is that at the end of the 1990s, when this African sub-region received international support to set up pilot camps, Guinea-Bissau was coming out of its devastating civil war - the country was left on the sidelines of the advances made across borders.

Djadja is adamant and visibly moved: *“This year, my family will eat well, without any worries. I’ll never go back - I’ll use this new technique until the end of my days, until I die!”*


The practice of SRI has several benefits for the producer,


>80%
Seed savings


~35%
Water savings


>70%
Weeding labor


Better management of risks related to climate change


1.5 tons
6-7 tons
With the application of these techniques, rice yields have doubled from the usual 1.5 tons per hectare obtained with previous techniques to 6-7 tons per hectare.

⁶ The project is financed by the Joint Fund for Sustainable Development Goals and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and implemented by the FAO with the World Food Program





STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Structural economic transformation, sustainable development and inclusive and resilient green growth that leaves no one behind

OUTCOME 2

By 2026, Guinea-Bissau has achieved structural economic transformation driven by enhanced productive capacity, value addition, blue economy and inclusive green growth that leaves no one behind, while capitalizing on SIDS characteristics and ensuring sustainable use and protection of natural resources.



Output 2.1



Over **58,000 small-scale farmers**, with a notable **47% women**, received about **1,000 tons of improved seeds**.



With the UN technical and financial assistance, the government animal health program vaccinated **154,646 animals**.

Output 2.2



Almost **661 individuals (341 women, 320 men)** benefited from UN interventions, and financially supported **68 women** yielding a remarkable **31.5% increase in benefits over 6 months**, showcasing tangible economic gains and gender inclusivity.



Infrastructure development initiatives have acquisition of **3 boats and rehabilitation of 31.1 km rural tracks**.

Output 2.3



Over **15,147 beneficiaries from 21 CBOs (53% women)** received small grants to bolster their disaster management capacities and climate change adaptation efforts.

Output 2.5



Rice production surged from **4 to 12 tons**, representing a **66.66% increase** and benefiting **50 families**.





Output 2.1

Capacities to foster resilient, inclusive, and diversified economic growth and sustainable human development, leading to poverty reduction and leaving no one behind are enhanced.

UN in collaboration with the Government empowered community capacities in agricultural enhancement and environmental sustainability in Guinea-Bissau. Notably, 69 NGOs staff members⁷, with 24% being women, capacities were strengthened in project management, monitoring and evaluation, and organizational management. Additionally, 1,200 young individuals divided into 60 Listening Groups from Cacheu, Oio, and Biombo regions technical skills were enhanced and organization to address land-related conflicts and engage in income-generating activities and over 58,000 small-scale farmers, with a notable 47% women, received vital agricultural resources, fostering increased productivity. Moreover, 150 tonnes of rice were distributed to enhance food security.

The UN collaboration with the Government yielded significant progress in strengthening market access and economic empowerment. notably, collaboration between over 150 local producers and the World Food Programme (WFP) supplied 142,150 tonnes of rice and 15,550 tonnes of sweet potatoes to UN-managed school canteens, generating revenue of 77,819,000 CFA francs, with more than half of the suppliers being women. This effort was complemented by targeted capacity strengthening of women and young female horticulturists in horticulture, small business setup, and income management under the PADES project across the regions of Tombali, Quínara, and Bolama/Bijagós. These initiatives not only enhanced market

access and linkages for local produce but also fostered economic empowerment and skill development among women and youth, marking a significant stride towards inclusive growth and sustainable development in Guinea-Bissau basic business and agricultural mechanization skills for 150 individuals, including women, youth, and people with disabilities. Land development initiatives encompassed 1,530 hectares, benefiting 1,590 households.

To align the government's commitment to coastal resource utilization, economic empowerment and enhance the policy environment, the UN supported the development of three Strategic policy documents (1. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), 2. Mapping of Coastal Zones, 3. Natural Resources Governance Framework in Guinea Bissau) to bolster national policies for climate resilience and energy access.

With UN the support, the Ministry of Agriculture efforts extended to the agropastoral sector with the vaccination of 154,646 animals, reducing mortality rates and controlling infectious diseases. Moreover, 4,193 farmers technical capacities in agricultural best practices and innovative technologies were enhanced; 40 agents from Ministry of Agriculture technical capacities were enhanced in cashew pest detection; 520 producers, including 60 women (11.5%), thereby supporting the sustainable growth of agropastoral sector.



Output 2.2

Enabling environment improved and private sector capacities, response to emerging market opportunities and contribution to productivity, growth, and livelihoods are boosted.

In the realm of financial inclusion, The UN supported the implementation of national strategies and action plans, which led to expanded access to microfinance, benefiting small businesses and startups, thus enhancing economic participation. In particular, in the domain of new business development, the GEF Small Grant Programme (SGP) supported the construction of two photovoltaic ice making units in the Suzana and Catio localities which led to the introduction of four thriving business ventures - selling ice water, juice,

fish preservation and ice vending. These businesses have catalyzed a remarkable transformation, as evidenced by a 100% increase in average community income over three months, reaching 2,220,000 XOF (3,758 USD), symbolizing substantial economic empowerment.

Furthermore, sustainable forest management initiatives, including the approval of the "Institutional and Technical Monitoring, Reporting and Verification

⁷ The project is financed by the Joint Fund for Sustainable Development Goals and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and implemented by the FAO with the World Food Program



(MRV) support for REDD+ readiness” document, underscore the UN commitment to environmental stewardship.

With technical and financial assistance from the United Nations, a comprehensive investment plan for the agriculture sector was formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, focusing on key areas such as rice, onion, and poultry production. This plan was subsequently presented at a global Investment Forum, spotlighting strategic efforts to reinforce food security and augment agricultural productivity.

Guinea-Bissau blue economy sector has witnessed notable strides. The UN technical and financial assistance for enhancing the fishing sector’s capacity has significantly improved livelihoods and promoted the sustainable use of ocean resources. Notably, 661 individuals, including 341 women and 320 men, have benefited from the UN interventions, and financial support to 68 women yielding a remarkable 315% increase in benefits over six months, showcasing tangible economic gains and gender inclusivity.

The UN assistance for infrastructure development initiatives, including the acquisition of 3 boats and the rehabilitation of 31.1 km rural tracks, have enhanced access to remote areas, potentially unlocking economic opportunities previously inaccessible. The UN-supported initiatives facilitated better access to essential services and improved mobility for residents

of 18 villages, benefiting 4,200 individuals, half of whom were women. Moreover, the project played a pivotal role in boosting the marketing of agricultural outputs, demonstrating a positive impact on the local economy and community well-being by connecting remote areas with vital economic and social hubs.

With the UN assistance, the Ministry of the Public Sector adopted a National Strategy for Rural Job Creation, aimed at generate around 40,000 jobs, underscores a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach, integrating gender considerations and international labor standards. This strategy fosters social dialogue and inclusivity, ensuring holistic development across rural communities.

The support of the UN Guinea-Bissau strengthened the Ministry of the Public Sector capacity for inclusive economic growth by validating priorities for a national strategy and action plan to promote employment-intensive linkages for key infrastructure investments through promoting local content, prioritizing local Small and medium-sized enterprises and vocational capacity development, all in view of increasing economic diversification and expanding the share of women working in industry. During the reporting period, over 40 senior policymakers (12 women) on jobs-intensive investment strategies to help promote resilient and inclusive economic growth for sustainable human development and poverty reduction.



Output 2.3

Stakeholders’ capacities in terms of disaster and climate risk informed development are enhanced.

Through UN-supported initiatives, 15 community-based participatory planning (CBPP) sessions were conducted across 17 villages in Sao Domingos, Pitche, and Buba districts. These exercises targeted governance, women’s empowerment, and climate change adaptation resulting to the formulation of community priorities, constraints, and action plans for the next five years. Additionally, 588 individuals, with 75% being women, technical capacities were enhanced on diverse areas, such as climate change adaptation, business management, and leadership across the three districts.

Furthermore, the UN through the GEF SGP, a total of 15,147 beneficiaries from 21 community-based organizations, with 53% women, received small grants to bolster their disaster management capacities and climate change adaptation efforts.

The UN strengthened the technical capacity-building of the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Soil Laboratory, including technical skill building conducted in Lisbon and rehabilitated plans for infrastructure, and the National Veterinary Laboratory five national technicians technical were assessed and strengthen in diagnostic techniques and biosafety technical skills



Output 2.4

Cities/communities better value the natural capital and improve their resilience to climate and disaster impacts as part of local sustainable and resilient economic development.

The UN enhanced agricultural productivity, access to clean water, land restoration, waste management, community empowerment, and spatial planning in regions. Notable achievements include the rehabilitation of 460 hectares of rice fields and the construction of rural infrastructure benefiting 25,248 farmers in the Tombali and Oio regions. Additionally, the provision of 8 solar boreholes and 3 manual boreholes has benefited over 5,755 individuals across 11 communities, alleviating water scarcity issues.

The UN support through the Small Grants Programme has resulted in the restoration and sustainable management of 84 hectares of land, benefiting 2,384 people engaged in climate-smart agroecology.

Through these efforts, rice production has surged from 4 to 12 tons, representing a 66.66% increase and benefiting 50 families. Waste management initiatives

resulted in collection and treatment of over 720 tons of urban solid waste and the assistance of 240 rural women in product evacuation. Additionally, 18 communities have been granted land titles, and collaborative planning guides have been developed with government stakeholders.

UN capacity building in Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT) have promote spatial planning methodologies, involving 35 participants, including 6 women, from various sectors. Community management and territorial development plans have been devised to enhance rice production in 25 fields, while local management structures established to ensure the sustainability of provision of works and equipment. These initiatives collectively contribute to fostering socio-economic development and environmental sustainability in the target regions.



Output 2.5

Sustainable governance and management of environmental and natural resources, including biodiversity protection, and renewable energy are strengthened.

The UN has supported the government to implement key initiatives with promising results. Through the Small Grants Programme, the adoption of low-carbon energy technologies has surged at the grassroots level, delivering benefits to communities. Notably, 40 homes within the Mata de Uco ecological complex now utilize photovoltaic energy, directly benefiting 313 individuals, including 102 men and 211 women. Furthermore, solar systems now power two ice factories in Suzana and Catio communities, indirectly benefiting a substantial population of 2,622 people, comprising 1,355 men and 1,277 women.

UN assistance has been instrumental to enhance Guinea Bissau's legal framework for land use planning and management integrating peace and conflict sensitivities. working closely with the National Land Commission, the UN facilitated the creation and dissemination of participatory recommendations aimed at fostering more peaceful and inclusive land management practices. This initiative reflects the UN's holistic approach to sustainable development and peacebuilding, ensuring that strategies are grounded in the local context and experiences, and shared with both national and international

stakeholders, thereby reinforcing the national commitment to inclusivity and peace in land management.

Additionally, with the UN support the administrative groundwork for the General Census of Agriculture and Livestock (RGAE) is underway, marked by the development of regulatory texts, technical documents, and technician training. A pilot census survey conducted in Biombo and Bafata regions serves as a preparatory step for a comprehensive agricultural census.

In a partnership-focused effort, the United Nations, alongside the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Lisbon, has notably enhanced the government's ability to gather data and evaluate the impact, severity, and damage inflicted by cashew pests across the nation. The findings highlight the prevalence of resinosis, a detrimental fungal disease, alongside destructive pests like the branch sawyer and parasitic plants, providing a crucial resource for devising effective pest management strategies countrywide.





TRANSFORMATIONS AND PEACE- BUILDING IN THE LIVES OF COMMUNITIES

Description: Ussumane on his motorcycle, selling fish to his community

Ussumane Dabó was like all the young people in the village who depended on their families and farming. His free time was spent at his tea stalls and in various discussions. With all this, the community saw potential in him because he was respected by everyone. When the Projeto Gestão Inclusiva e Pacífica de Terra Project was implemented with funding from the PBF, FAO and UNHABITAT, the Clube de Escuta methodology was adopted, which aimed at identifying 20 young men and 20 young women to form separate groups called the Clube Escuta.

The main mission of the Clube de Escuta was to involve young people in the management and peaceful resolution of conflicts linked to land ownership. At the same time developing a sustainable financial system among the members called “ABOTA”, which provided a weekly contribution of 1,000 CFA francs for revolving credit based on a lottery in which each member chose a number that would appear on the list as the receiving round.

When it was Ussumane Dabo’s turn, he received 20,000 CFA Francs from the group to repay in 19 weeks, each week 1000 CFA Francs. From there, he began to think about some kind of profitable activity that would allow him to pay back the 1000 CFA Francs of credit to the people who had to be paid every week. Suddenly the idea came to him to go and buy fish in Yara, a village on the border with Senegal, where his community

bought fish from the young Senegalese who drove by on their motorcycles every day.

It was a winning bet. On the very first day, he got up early at around 7 a.m. With the help of his old motorcycle and an investment of 4,000 CFA francs of gasoline, he bought fish worth 15,000 CFA francs. Back in his community, he sold the same amount that the Senegalese were selling and obtained a sale value of 30,000 CFA francs before 10 o’clock in the morning, which meant a profit of 15,000 CFA francs, and returned to his “stand” with his usual colleagues. The changes in him with his daily fish sales quickly inspired his fellow Club members and young people from the village and surrounding areas to take up the trade.

With the sale of fish, Ussumane reinvested in other sectors such as animal husbandry, selling gasoline, and charging cell phones through the solar panel he installed on his house thanks to his business.

The dynamics of the Clubs meant that the Peacebuilding Fund project increased the Clubs’ financing capital to 800,000 CFA francs so that they could continue to carry out their activities. Thanks to his work in commerce, Ussumane Dabo, a 32-year-old father of seven, manages to provide for his children and family.

In addition to these issues, the situation is aggravated by the absence of clearly defined territorial boundaries and the limited involvement of local residents in land decisions. With the



Description: Meeting at Clube de Escuta

support of UN-Habitat, demarcation and planning efforts have been carried out in the intervening communities, with a view to long-term progress.

The process of demarcating community boundaries was carried out using a highly participatory methodology, based on previous work carried out by the FAO with the support of the delimitation brigades and the local population. The aim of the process was to clearly define the boundaries of the communities using GPS systems and to have them recognized by the State of Guinea-Bissau through land recognition certificates.

In addition, the community now has a Territorial Development Plan (PDT) that will guide the growth of the site. Through the various participatory planning workshops held, residents had the opportunity to learn about the planning process and express their views on the most pressing local needs and future aspirations.

“Well, I’ve learned a lot here,” said Adriano, “I’ve learned that we have to manage our land well and that there are also spaces that we can set aside and prioritize for development to come [...] we’ve already planned areas in case there’s a possibility of building a market (feira) or a hospital, or a school, or a field for young people to play sports.”

The experience at local level was then reflected in a guide on demarcation and participatory land planning at community level in Guinea-Bissau and validated by the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Urban Planning, with the aim of institutionalizing the process and enabling its future replication and expansion.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



The Inclusive and Peaceful Land Management Project implemented in the regions of Cacheu, Oio and Biombo, in northern Guinea-Bissau, has **succeeded in overcoming the barriers to involving young people in the management and resolution of conflicts linked to land ownership, thus contributing to the materialization of SDG-16**, the Sustainable Development Goals relating to Peace, Justice and Effective Institutions within the Cooperation Framework signed between the United Nations and the government of Guinea-Bissau. The contribution of young people in mediating and resolving conflicts was widely witnessed by the heads of the villages where the project was implemented.

“UN-Habitat came to support us in making the delimitations [...] I think we will no longer have land conflict problems because everyone will know where their boundaries begin and end, and the boundaries of others too,”

said Adriano Nhamo Nanque, a resident of the Quicet Section, in the Biombo Region, also included in the project.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Human capital development



OUTCOME 3

By 2026, the population of Guinea-Bissau, especially the most vulnerable, will have increased and equitable access and use of essential quality social services, including in emergencies.



Output 3.1



In 6 regions, 45% health facilities were integrated with national health priorities set through a revitalized primary healthcare forum.



In 2023, 1.3 million mosquito nets were distributed under seasonal malaria prevention campaigns, benefiting 120,000 children and 91% cases received treatment.

Output 3.2



With UN support, 852 primary schools, benefitting 178K children, 25K girls including 634 children with disabilities.

Output 3.3



USD 300,000 cash transferred to 1,500 vulnerable households in Tombali, Gabu and Bolama regions during test phase.

Output 3.4



A total of 268 communities reached and 201 communities declared and certified ODF, indicating a substantial reduction in ODF, aligned with SDG 6 targets.

Output 3.5



Nutritious food (222.3 Mt) reached over 24,700 children under 2 years, surpassing previous year's result by 19%; specialized nutritious food (80.9 Mt) distributed; 4,320 children aged 6–59 months, with a remarkable recovery rate of 92.2%.



Output 3.1

By 2026, Guinea-Bissau's health system has the capacity to provide high-quality, integrated, people-centered health services, based on primary health care approach and comprehensive essential service packages as defined in the National Health Development Plan, and applied to development and humanitarian settings.

UN effort engaged the highest level of government and development partners in the lead to a National Primary Health Care Revitalization conference held from 6-8 February whose recommendations and Call to Action recentered the National Health Development Plan on the acceleration of progress towards SDG 3. The UN also oriented central and regional cadres after the installation of the new government to maintain commitment and momentum for the shift to sub-national level results-based planning and budgeting to develop need responsive and context specific coverage and quality improvement plans that define practical strategies to accelerate progress and improve accountability for multisectoral investments made to produce and protect health at the local level.

With UN support, 45% of health facilities in six regions offer integrated services, aligned with national health priorities set through a revitalized primary healthcare forum. UN agencies facilitated capacity strengthening and the development of multi-annual regional plans to bolster Ministry of Health capabilities.

UN efforts targeted HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections, expanding testing and treatment services, with 73% of HIV-positive individuals receiving care. HIV testing among pregnant women reached 98.8%, with 91% receiving antiretroviral treatment, while family planning campaigns recruited over 27,000 new users.

With the UN support, the Community Health Workers (CHWs) played a pivotal role, providing early treatment for childhood diseases and malaria and in promoting the use of health services by pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. Notably, 1.3 million mosquito nets were distributed in 2023, aiding seasonal malaria prevention campaigns that benefited 120,000 children, with 91% of malaria cases receiving appropriate treatment.

UN provided resource strengthening the technical capacities and support initiatives such as maternal mortality reduction efforts in Buba and midwives' association involvement. However, program effectiveness depends on stable staffing, efficient stock management, and enhanced community engagement, which have been challenging to meet.



Output 3.2

Education institutions and teachers have increased capacities to ensure an equitable and inclusive education system and to strengthen access to quality formal, informal and non-formal education for children, youth, and adults, especially for girls and women, including through IT technologies, to acquire basic level of literacy, adequate learning outcomes, transversal skills, and lifelong learning opportunities.

The United Nations played a pivotal role in enhancing the access of children and youth to quality education. At the policy level, the UN supported the Ministry of Education's capacity to effectively manage and oversee approximately 12,500 teaching staff through the development of the draft National Teacher's Policy. This should improve the efficient, equitable allocation of teachers in 2024.

The UN supported the Ministry of Education to develop comprehensive policy frameworks to improve equitable access to education for out-of-school children, including developing and

technically validating National Strategy for Out-of-School Children and its costed operational plan, and finalizing the accelerated learning curriculum.

In addition, the UN supported 852 schools with school feeding programmes, benefiting 178,993 children, including 24,987 girls and 635 students with disabilities. In early childhood education (ECE), the technical validation of Guinea-Bissau's first-ever preschool curriculum for 5-year-old children was an important milestone. With UN support the curriculum will contribute to universal quality ECE for all 5-year-olds by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goal 4.2).





Output 3.3

National institutions have enhanced national capacities to develop, implement and finance a resilient social protection system based on clear vulnerability criterion and a strong management information system, including in emergency situations.

Through the UN initiative “Building Resilience in Guinea-Bissau through a Shock-Responsive Social Protection System,” the UN assisted the Government of Guinea-Bissau in advancing its social protection framework leading to the completion of six out of the nine critical steps necessary for the development of the National Social Protection Policy and Strategy and marking substantial progress in bolstering the nation’s resilience through enhanced social protection measures.

The United Nations aided the government in establishing a National Social Registry and implementing pilot cash transfers, distributing approximately USD 300,000 among 1,500 vulnerable households in the Tombali, Gabu, and Bolama regions. These initiatives were complemented by comprehensive analysis of the social protection landscape, the elaboration of policy framework and single registry development, and the delivery of thematic capacity strengthening program for the government officials and NGOs involved. These activities significantly contributed to enhancing the

institutional capacity for a non-contributory social protection system, showcasing the UN’s commitment to fostering resilient shock-responsive social protection mechanisms in Guinea Bissau.

With UN support for the National Strategy for Inclusion of People with Disabilities and the National Strategic Plan of Inclusive Education. An Online Community and repository were establishment, and has facilitated collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders. Initiatives targeting vulnerable groups have focused on improving employment, health, education, and welfare, leading to the development of the and communication materials to raise awareness. A project in the Cacheu-Sao Domingos region impacted over 330 women and their dependents, establishing community savings groups, and implementing health micro-insurance programs. This initiative significantly enhanced financial inclusion and healthcare accessibility, resulting in approximately USD 12,000 saved collectively, thus bolstering human and social capital.



Output 3.4

Communities in rural, peri-urban areas and small towns increasingly achieve the right to adequate housing and habitat, have access to sustainable water and sanitation services and improved hygiene practices leading to an open defecation free status, via scalable service delivery models linked to markets.

The United Nations in promoting sanitation and hygiene in Guinea-Bissau, particularly through the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach, resulted in a total of 268 communities reached sanitation and hygiene initiatives, and 201 communities declared and certified Open Defecation Free (ODF). This indicates a substantial reduction in open defecation, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) targets.

Furthermore, the UN Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) interventions focused on building resilience and sustainable systems, reaching 77,554 individuals

in the process. In 2023, female participation in community initiatives increased from 20% to 42%, requiring more resources for WASH’s water component.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN initiated a comprehensive project to monitor and address the virus within informal settlements. Over 1000 households were surveyed in five key cities: Bissau, Bafatá, Gabú, Mansoa, and Bubaque, providing robust empirical evidence to inform pandemic response strategies.



Output 3.5

The national nutrition service has the technical capacity to plan, deliver services, monitor, and evaluate implementation of interventions at central, regional and facility level to ensure food security and reduce acute and chronic malnutrition among under five children, adolescents, persons living with disabilities and women in most affected areas, including in emergency situations.

With contributions from the UN, significant improvements were made to combat malnutrition particularly among children in priority regions. Simplifications to the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) protocol were implemented, leading to technical capacity strengthening of 119 professionals and 475 Community Health Workers (CHWs).

With UN support, 222.3 Mt of nutritious food reached over 24,700 children under 2 years, surpassing the previous year's result by 19%. Furthermore, 80.9 Mt of specialized nutritious food was distributed, aiding in the recovery of 4,320 children aged 6-59 months, with a remarkable recovery rate of 92.2%.



Output 3.6

National systems have strengthened capacity for policy development and implementation of interventions to promote child protection, gender equality and diversity and prevent harmful practices.

The UN strongly supported the validation and dissemination, by the government of the first-ever Child Protection Policy and Action Plan, and a new Child Protection Code was submitted to the Parliament for approval. Efforts also included the initiation of a Child Protection case management system, and nationwide extension of incident reporting through digital tools on child protection cases, results of the UN contribution.

The UN assisted the State in concluding the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) implementation report, which was validated by the Government and civil society partners, with the participation of children and young people. The report is in the submission phase.

The Ministry of Woman, Family, and Social Solidarity, along with various partners including the United Nations, have made significant strides in child protection, and combating harmful practices such as violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect of children in the reporting period. Incident reporting on such cases doubled from 2022 to 728 reported cases in 2023, with 140 survivors of sexual violence and 67 of child marriage among them. Moreover, 118 cases were managed by the judicial system. Additionally, over 12,000 children and adolescents received violence prevention information, thanks to the efforts of 41 child protection service providers partnering with the UN.

In a significant effort to combat female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, and violence against children, over 60,000 individuals across 132 communities were engaged in transformative dialogues through UN assisted initiatives. With the support of the United Nations, innovative community engagement tools were developed, and a comprehensive study on the patterns and drivers of FGM was conducted to enhance the effectiveness of interventions. The initiative saw the establishment of six men's clubs, specifically designed to fight gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices, involving 239 youths in targeted awareness campaigns. Social mobilization efforts were further amplified through the 'Engaging Boys and Men to End FGM' campaign, directly reaching 1,647 individuals. This initiative aims to foster human rights and gender transformative approaches, advocating for social norm changes to eradicate harmful practices. A pivotal moment of this campaign was the organization of the first-ever Caravane during the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Human Rights declaration, aimed at sensitizing communities and linking these efforts to compelling human interest stories, thereby marking a significant stride towards cultural and normative change.





“I always strive to fulfill my family’s needs.”

Caption: Mafudge holds hands with his 11-year-old son as they wait in line to receive money from the mobile phone company. Photo: © Credits_WFP_Charlotte_Alves

In a small village of Timbo, in the Tombali region, there lives a man called Mafudge Sanhá. He lives with his wife and four young children, struggling to survive. Mafudge is visually impaired. He lost his sight due to an illness five years ago, and since then, his 11-year-old eldest son has become his trusted guide.

His family faced a lot of challenges, particularly the lack of money to purchase basic food supplies. The situation became even more difficult with the rising prices of commodities in the market. Without money, many families could not support themselves and provide daily meals.

To address this situation, the United Nations Joint Project “Building Resilience in Guinea-Bissau through a Shock-Sensitive Social Protection System”, funded by the Joint Fund for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focused on improving the well-being of vulnerable households by providing financial support to ensure meeting the basic needs of their families.

Mafudge and his family are among the 1,500 most vulnerable households identified by the August 2023 beneficiaries’ registration in the Bolama-Bijagos, Gabu, and Tombali regions of Guinea Bissau. The identification and registration prioritized the most vulnerable households that are food insecure, affected by economic and climate shocks, especially the women-headed households and people with disabilities.

Accompanied by his son, Mafudge Sanhá, walked towards the crowd of men, women, and

young people from thirty other villages in the Catió sector to receive the first tranche of cash transfer. In his words, “What brought me here is something very important. The census has been carried out. They told us that the day would come, that they would give us the money and that is a reality today,” says Mafudge Sanhá, always holding the hands of his son as he waits for his turn in the queue to receive the money transfer via the mobile operator as the financial service provider present on the ground.

In addition, Mafudge Sanhá said “We were told to use the money for what we need most, in food and other things like that. So now I intend to spend the money on that because everyone in Guinea-Bissau knows that the situation is not very good.”

Before receiving the first installment of 40,000 XOF (US\$ 64.56), Mafudge says that he and his family were “going through difficult times”. “There was almost no food left, rice went up and I had to borrow money from my sister in Bissau.”

Like many other heads of family, Mafudge must continue to support his family in difficult times and in a country where only 2.5 percent of people benefit from social security, leaving others behind. He said “I have a family and I don’t want them to suffer at any time. I always try to fulfill my family’s needs.” Although he is grateful for the financial support he has received, he advocated that the duration of the intervention be extended to ensure that his family’s basic needs can be met.



Caption: Mafudge receives a mobile phone from the Ministry of Social Action, Family, and the Advancement of Women at the launch of the Social Protection Cash Transfer Program. Photo: © Credits_WFP_Charlotte_Alves

Fortunately, there is hope on the horizon for Mafudge and other vulnerable families in similar situations. The success of the pilot program could pave the way for its future adoption on a wider scale. Over a period of three months, it will help families like Mafudge’s to meet their immediate needs to avoid negative coping strategies.

In Guinea-Bissau, the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, combined with the crisis in Ukraine and the effects of climate change, have highlighted the extreme fragility and inadequacy of the country’s social protection system in supporting people like Mafudge to overcome adversity and live a fulfilled life, despite the challenges they face.

“The escalating prices of basic food products consume almost 60 percent of household income. This situation is unsustainable. And with the fall in cashew prices, the main source of income for most households, livelihoods are under even greater threat, plunging many into extreme poverty,” explains Jocelyn Fenard, interim UN Resident Coordinator in Guinea-Bissau and UNFPA Representative.

“The cash transfer pilot project is not just about providing financial relief. It’s also about dignity, resilience, and hope,” says Fenard.

The cash transfer pilot program was launched on September 21, 2023, in Guinea-Bissau. It is part of a broader social protection project being implemented by the Ministry of Social Action, Family and Women’s Promotion, WFP, UNICEF, and UNFPA, under the coordination and supervision of the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Guinea-Bissau.

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to provide a shock-sensitive social protection system that will help vulnerable families to cope with financial difficulties and ensure that their basic needs are met.



The story is part of the United Nations’ efforts to support Guinea Bissau in its efforts to **achieve zero hunger and sustainable agriculture in line with the Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2.**



► 2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2023, the Guinea-Bissau Development Partners Group (DPG) emerged as pivotal platform for fostering strategic dialogues between development partners and the Government, as coordinated and convened by the Resident Coordinator (RC), to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of development interventions in the country. The Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) operates its secretariat, ensuring streamlined communication and coordination among all stakeholders involved.

Co-chaired by the RC, the World Bank, and the European Union, the DPG has established its governance framework, defined its operational guidelines, and identified priority sectors including Health, Education, Governance, Budget Support, and Agriculture.

As a significant achievement over the reporting period, DPG facilitated strategic dialogue between the government and development partners, which was pivotal in mobilizing resources for the successful organization of legislative elections on 4 June 2023. The coordinated support through the UNDP Elections Support Project exemplifies partners' commitment to foster the democratic processes and governance in Guinea-Bissau. DPG also launched an online platform for sharing information and collaboration among partners. This platform provides a centralized space for the dissemination of sector-specific information, updates on upcoming events, and the coordination of partners of joint missions in country.

Despite these achievements, the UN Country Team faced challenges related to political and

institutional instability, including the dissolution of the National Assembly and frequent staff turnovers within ministries. These hurdles underscored the importance of adaptability and the need to bolster community capacities and local market capabilities for effective project implementation.

Challenges in program implementation highlighted the necessity for strengthening local communities and markets. Educational programs that empower individuals for local development efforts, along with bolstering local markets for project support, have been identified as critical areas needing attention. The reliance on international and regional suppliers has underscored the potential for enhancing local value chains to improve economic diversification and resilience.

Political instability and financial management issues have hampered policy engagement, while gender stereotypes and harmful practices necessitate comprehensive strategies for promoting gender equality. Challenges in health workforce levels, education system reliability, and social protection measures have further emphasized the need for improved systems and policy implementation.

The experience gleaned from addressing these challenges highlights the indispensable role of government leadership and engagement as well as multi-stakeholder collaboration, financial support, and communication. Enhancing data management and simplifying procedures are crucial for the successful implementation of programs. Emphasizing the necessity for innovation, resilience, and partnership building, these lessons learned are pivotal for navigating sustainable development complexities and effectively financing the 2030 Agenda.

CHAPTER

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR 2024



As we reach the halfway point of implementing the UN Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 (UNSDCF), we remain committed to learn from the challenges and achievements of the past two years. Our focus in 2024 is to consolidate the gains made for accelerating progress towards the SDGs. UNSDCF lays out our strategic priorities, guides our efforts towards sustainable development. The risks and opportunities identified in the second update of the Common Country Analysis will inform the development of our Joint Work Plan for 2024-2025. UNCT has outlined some key priorities for year that will help to achieve sustainable development and promote good governance in the country. These priorities will require close collaboration with the Government and other partners to ensure that interventions are aligned with national priorities and that resources are mobilized to finance the SDGs. In that regard, the following will be paramount priorities for the next year, in addition to continued work toward realization of the UNSDCF three outcomes.

Governance and Human Rights

The UN will support the electoral process in the Country. This will involve working with the Government and other partners to ensure the electoral process is transparent, free, inclusive, and fair. This entails both technical and financial assistance across the electoral cycle. Bearing in mind Guinea-Bissau's pledges under the global initiative Human Rights 75, the UN will support the government to engage with UN human rights

mechanisms including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), treaty bodies and special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council. The UN will also support civil society and other stakeholders to participate in the UPR process.

Strengthening National Development Planning

The UN will provide support to strengthen the national development planning processes, including sectoral plans to achieve national development priorities and the sustainable development goals. Specific support will be provided to formulate and implement a new National Development Plan, that is country-driven, inclusive, and aligned with national development priorities and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Support will also include preparing the government and national partners to better engage and follow up on the recommendations of the key global forums for setting the development agenda including the Summit of the Future, the Fourth International Conference of Small Island Developing State.

Enhancing Data and Statistical Systems

Integrated support will be provided to strengthen the national data and statistics system. This will involve working with the Government to improve data collection, analysis, and dissemination. UN will support the Government in conducting the national census and building the capacity of national institutions to collect and use data for evidence-based policymaking





including the organizing the national census as well as implementing the General Census of Agriculture and Livestock (RGAE).

Accelerating the SDGs

Furthermore, the UN will strengthen integrated policy support for the acceleration of the SDGs. The UN will prioritize accelerators programs and initiatives with catalytic and transformative impacts on vulnerable communities, including livelihoods, gender equality, human rights and inequalities. The UN will support the Government in developing and implementing systems-level transformative strategies to achieve the SDGs, including food systems transformation and social protection. Transformative initiatives to tackle food security will be prioritized, as well as strengthening health systems.

Development Partner Coordination

Additionally, the UN will continue to implement the Development Partner Coordination Framework (DPCF) in ways that support effective government leadership in key sectors, including health, education, agriculture, and economic governance. This will involve

working closely with partners to ensure that their technical assistance aligns with the Government's priorities and strengthen government institutions and systems, to fulfil Agenda 2030 and Guinea-Bissau's human rights commitments. This will help improve partner interventions' effectiveness and promote sustainable development in Guinea Bissau.

Resource Mobilization

Finally, scale up resource mobilization. This will involve working with the Government and other partners to mobilize resources for the implementation of the SDGs. The UN will support the Government in identifying funding sources, developing partnerships, and leveraging private-sector investment to finance the SDGs.

Partnership Development

Building on the Guinea-Bissau Development Partners Group (DPG) as a pivotal platform for fostering strategic dialogues between development partners and the Government, the UNCT will continue to strengthen its partnership initiatives, including seeking out avenues for south-south cooperation.

ACRONYMS

AfCTA	African Continental Free Trade Agreement	NGO	xx
BR	Birth Registration	OGDT	Guinean Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addiction
CAJ	Centre of Access to Justice	PADES	xx
CBPP	Community-Based Participatory Planning	RC	Resident Coordinator
CENFOJ	Judicial Training Centre	RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
CFA	xx	REDD	xx
CHW	Community Health Workers	RENLUV	xx
CLTS	Community Led Total Sanitation	RGAE	General Census of Agriculture and Livestock
CM	Child marriage	SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
CRENAG	xx	SDF	Spatial Development Framework
CRENI	xx	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
CSO	Civil Society Organizations	SERP	Socioeconomic Response Plan
DPCF	Development Partner Coordination Framework	SGP	Small Grant Programme
DPG	Development Partners Group	SIDS	xx
ECE	Early Childhood Education	TiP	Trafficking in persons
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	TTT	Transhumance Tracking Tool
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	UN	United Nations
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
GEF	xx	UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
HIV	xx	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IFAD	xx	UNDS	United Nations Development System
IMAM	Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
IMC	Institute for Women and Children	UNICEF	xx
LGBT	xx	UNOGBIS	xx
MICS	xx	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
MINSAP	Ministry of Health	USD	United States Dollar
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification	WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
NDP	National Development Plan		



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