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GUINEA-BISSAU



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GUINEA-BISSAU

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# FOREWORD

## BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR



As acting Resident Coordinator of the United Nations (UN) in Guinea-Bissau, I am honoured to present the Annual Results report for 2023. This covers the second year of the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022–2026, a UN 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 (CSOs), communities and international partners, to deliver on our promise to leave no one behind.

The work of the UN system 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 progress in various areas, directly contributing to the well-being of the people of Guinea-Bissau and working towards the attainment of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One notable achievement under this Cooperation Framework was UN system support for the successful organization of the legislative elections held on 4 June 2023. Guinea-Bissau also ratified the African Continental Free Trade

Agreement (AfCTA), becoming the forty-fourth Member State to tap into a regional market of 1.3 billion potential consumers.

Through various initiatives and interventions, the UN has also played a pivotal role in supporting human rights and peacebuilding efforts in Guinea-Bissau, recognizing their critical importance in fostering sustainable development in the region.

However, 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 Guinea-Bissau's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Declining cashew prices, together with an unsuccessful cashew marketing season, disproportionately impacted vulnerable populations, including women and children in Guinea-Bissau. This highlights 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. These include UN support for the strengthening of the data system, including the national census and Multiple

Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). This is crucial to enabling 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. These represent essential steps towards achieving long-term sustainability and resilience, strengthening development coordination partnership and seeking opportunities for south-south cooperation.

The journey ahead remains challenging, yet our unwavering commitment and the lessons learned in 2023 provide a solid foundation for the United Nations Country Team's (UNCT) continued efforts toward attainment of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs in Guinea-Bissau.



**Ms. Etona Ekole**  
UN Resident Coordinator  
and UNICEF Representative







## UN COUNTRY TEAM



**16**  
Agencies under the Cooperation Framework

### RESIDENT AGENCIES



### NON-RESIDENT AGENCIES



#### Ministries and government partners

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Communities  
 Ministry of Economy and Planning  
 Ministry of Justice and Human Rights  
 National Assembly  
 Ministry of Interior  
 Ministry of Agriculture  
 Ministry of Natural Resources  
 Ministry of Public Sector  
 Ministry of Public Health  
 Ministry of Education  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity

#### Funding partners

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
 European Union (EU)  
 Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance  
 GCF  
 GEF  
 GLOBAL FUND  
 Italy  
 Japan  
 PBF  
 SDG FUND  
 Spain  
 World Bank

#### Other partners

African Development Bank  
 CAJ  
 CENFOJ  
 European UnionDUE  
 IMC  
 IMF  
 INE  
 JAIFT  
 National Land Commission  
 National Land Commission  
 National Soil Laboratory  
 National Veterinary Lab  
 OGD  
 World Bank





# 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.







prevented over 50,000 tons of cashew from being exported during the 2022 campaign. The excess raw nuts carried forward from 2022 contributed to depressing farm gate prices in 2023.

However, the impact of real inflationary pressures is even higher than the nominal average suggests, since most of it is driven by food, which comprises over 70 per cent of poor households' expenditure. Approximately 80,964 people in Guinea-Bissau are estimated to be in crisis, requiring immediate food assistance. Over 223,536 people (13 per cent of the population) are food insecure and in need of assistance to prevent them from falling into crisis.<sup>3</sup> The figure is projected to reach 16 per cent in 2024.

The cost-of-living crisis has been marked by strike actions from labour unions. As of October 2023, over 10 incidents of reported strikes were recorded. Hiring freezes, arrears and poor working conditions have created a restive working environment for teachers and health workers, with implications for the delivery of basic services.<sup>4</sup> A survey reported 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 per cent) compared to rural regions (11 per cent).<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, over half of the public schoolteachers surveyed cited strikes, driven by chronic salary arrears, as one of the top three reasons for their absences.

On the political side, despite the successful legislative elections that were the primary focus of UN and partners' attention, 2023 was rife with challenges. This included an unprecedented crisis leading to the resignation of the President of the Supreme Court of Justice in November 2023, Parliament being dissolved in December 2023 and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers publicly expressing concern regarding the justice sector and the 1 February 2022 case.<sup>6</sup> Throughout the year human rights activists have denounced a shrinking civic space.

The economic landscape remains challenging, as the spillover of the war in Ukraine has continued to spike prices of imported food and fuel. Additionally, falling global demand for commodities and a tighter global financing environment is weighing down economic growth prospects. Economic growth in 2023 has been modest, inching to 4.5 per cent, up from 4.2 per cent in 2022.<sup>1</sup> 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 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth remains extremely low at 0.7 per cent, falling well below the population growth rate of 2.5 per cent. While inflation has moderated, it remains high at 6.3 per cent, far above the regional target of 3 per cent. The fiscal deficit is estimated to reach 18 per cent,<sup>2</sup>

due to additional expenditure by the Government to palliate the cost of living. Debt load remains high, averaging 81 per cent of GDP.

Despite this challenging environment, Guinea-Bissau has successfully made progress in implementing the critical three-year International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. The \$36 million programme, approved on 30 January 2023, aims to secure debt sustainability, improve fiscal governance and reduce corruption, while creating fiscal space for increased 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. Declining cashew prices, which are central to the economy, have significantly impacted household incomes. Cashews remain a key income earner for the undiversified economy, with farm gate prices moving in tandem with the income of most households. 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 remain at 375 CFA francs per kg, farmers received only 150 CFA francs per 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

<sup>1</sup> The World Bank has recently revised down its estimate to 2.8 per cent. However, the Government estimate remains on the upside at 4.2 per cent.  
<sup>2</sup> OGE 2023.

<sup>3</sup> MADR 2023. Harmonized framework for analysing and identifying zones and food insecure populations in the Sahel and West Africa.  
<sup>4</sup> World Bank. 2017. Quality Education for All in Guinea-Bissau. Retrieved from <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/pt/372021517990868290/pdf/Guinea-Bissau-Quality-Education-for-All-Project.pdf>.  
<sup>5</sup> UNICEF (2021). Time to Teach Teacher attendance and time on task in primary schools.  
<sup>6</sup> The date of a failed coup d'etat where armed forces surrounded the government palace for several hours, while the President and the Prime Minister were inside for a cabinet meeting.



## GUINEA-BISSAU: AT A GLANCE



Total population  
**1.9 million**



Population growth  
**2.4%**



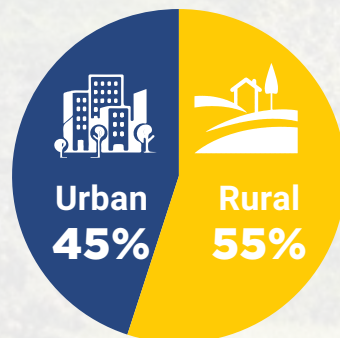
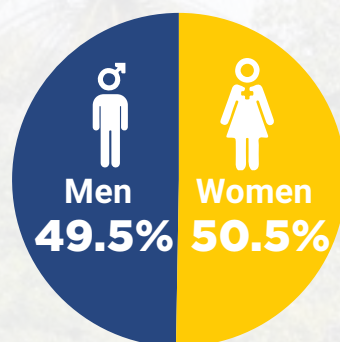
Children <15 years  
**41%**



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



### SIDs

- **105,000 sq. km** of maritime
- Exclusive Economic Zones is **7 times entire size** of the territory



Economic growth in 2023 has been modest, inching to **4.5%**, up from **4.2%** in 2022



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 crisis.



The figure is projected to reach **16%** in 2024.





# CHAPTER



## UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

### ► 2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework results




In August 2021, the UN System in Guinea-Bissau's 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 replaced 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. 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 comprised of 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's empowerment, as well as 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 The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) 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.

2023 marked the second year of the UNSDCF's implementation, and 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><b>By 2026, people in Guinea-Bissau enjoy improved democratic governance, peace and the rule of law, and their basic needs are met.</b></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 and 5</p>	<p>People</p>	



► 2.2. Cooperation Framework: priorities, outcomes and outputs

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1**

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 favour of democratic governance and to respond to all citizens' needs.**

The UN has enhanced the capacity of CSOs to monitor public administration, extending financial support for the development and launch of the inaugural monitoring report. This valuable insight into public sector recruitment and career advancement will provide 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 civil registry system, which is

enhancing governance and societal inclusivity. The UN provided 100 biometric kits and the digitalization of birth certificates, and the Ministry fortified the process of citizen identification. The UN also empowered the National Assembly by implementing an interactive web platform and live streaming of sessions, thereby promoting transparency and accountability. Since independence, the digitization of legislative bills so they are accessible via its website (<https://www.parlamento.gw/>), although not fully completed, implies a significant stride towards better record 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, CSOs and international partners. This resulted in 200 CSOs advocating for fair and transparent legislative elections in June 2023 and the avoidance of divisive rhetoric by political actors, as well as women's participation in electoral monitoring.

The UN also facilitated dialogue between political actors, resulting in the adoption of an electoral code of conduct and civic education campaigns free of divisive politics. 64 representatives from CSOs (36 men, 28 women, including people with disabilities) monitored political spaces across Guinea-Bissau. During the post-election period, the UN facilitated the identification of lessons and recommendations for future election programme 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. 434,009 men and 459,609 women were registered, ensuring a more diverse representation of the country's population than in previous elections.

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 enrolment 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 11 women elected to parliament in 2023.

The UN-managed Elections Basket Fund, supported by international partners, mobilized a total of \$2,453,170. As a result, the country's legislative elections were concluded on 4 June 2023 with a high voter turnout of 79.57 per cent, surpassing regional averages. It is worth noting that the Government funded 70 per cent of this election cost, and 202 international observers commended the results for their credibility, transparency and inclusivity.





#### 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.**

In 2023, with UN assistance, 11.02 per cent of cases handled by the Centre for 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 Gabú 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 to improve 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, independent 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 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 combating trafficking in persons (TiP) through various initiatives. Firstly, in collaboration with the Judicial Training Centre (CENFOJ), the UN developed a manual on TiP 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 creation of a new National Strategic Plan to combat TiP, spanning five years and adopting a participatory approach across administrative regions.

The UN successfully enhanced the 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) had their technical skills in ethics and

integrity 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 were enhanced. This contribution was translated into a concrete operational response in terms of drug seizures at Bissau airport, 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-centred approach in drug prevention through awareness-raising activities promoted by the Guinean Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addiction (OGDT), in partnership with the 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.”

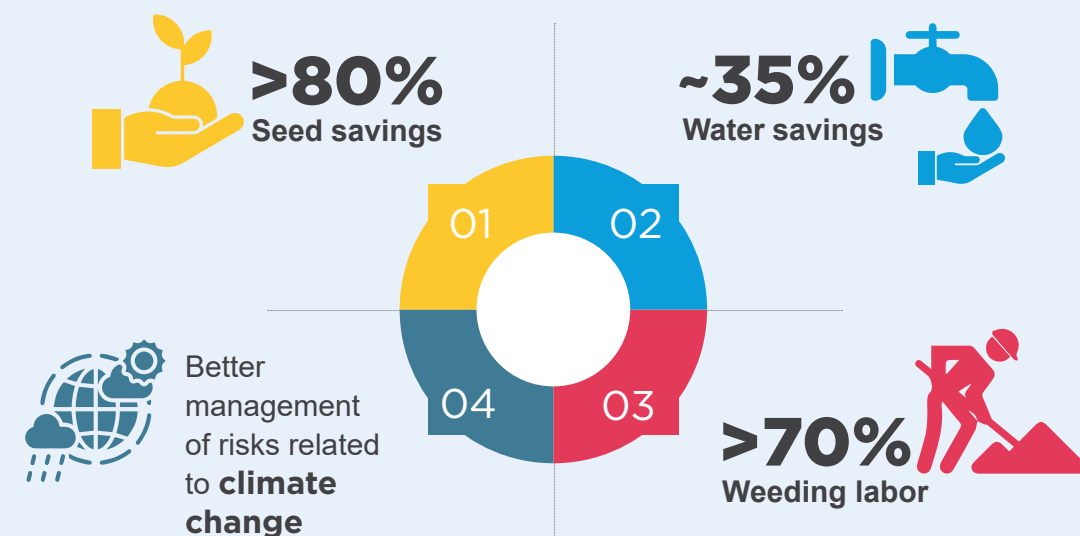
We are in the Gabú region, in the east of Guinea-Bissau, specifically in the village of Sintchä Benfica. In this area of Fulani and Muslim majority live some of the populations facing the most difficulties in the complex Bissau-Guinean social mosaic. It was one of the regions chosen as location of 5 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-Making.<sup>7</sup> The project is financed by the UN Joint Fund for Sustainable Development Goals and implemented by the UN in Guinea-Bissau.

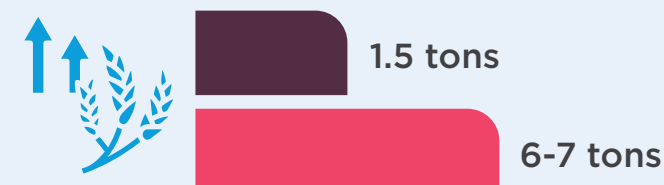
In her village, as head of the family, Djadja was part of a group of 7 men and 3 women who received training in improved rice production techniques, called SRI (System of Intensified Rice Farming), involving different practices from ancestral production models. SRI is characterized by specific methods for selecting and preparing seeds, soil, transplanting, controlling and managing water and nutrients throughout the rice growing cycle.

<sup>7</sup> 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

The practice of SRI has several benefits for the producer,



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.**



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!”



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

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 Small Island Developing State (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.**

The UN, in partnership with the Government of Guinea-Bissau has strengthened community capacities in agriculture and environmental sustainability. Notably, 69 staff members from non-governmental organizations (NGOs),<sup>8</sup> 24 per cent of whom are women, had their capacities in project management, monitoring and evaluation, and organizational management strengthened. Additionally, 1,200 farmers, divided into 60 Listening Groups from Cacheu, Oio and Biombo regions, had their technical skills enhanced through training to address land-related conflicts and to engage in income-generating activities. Over 58,000 small-scale farmers, including 47 per cent women, received vital agricultural resources, fostering increased productivity. 150 tons 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 tons of rice and 15,550 tons 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 Economic Development Project for the Southern Regions (PADES) project across the regions of Tombali, Quinará 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. This marked a significant stride towards inclusive growth and sustainable development in Guinea-Bissau in providing 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.

The UN supported the development of three strategic policy documents (1. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment, 2. Mapping of Coastal Zones and 3. Natural Resources Governance Framework in Guinea-Bissau) to bolster national policies for climate resilience and energy access. This work aligns the Government's commitment to coastal resource utilization, economic empowerment and enhancing the policy environment.

With UN support, the Ministry of Agriculture's efforts extended to the agropastoral sector with the vaccination of 154,646 animals, reducing mortality rates and controlling infectious diseases. Moreover, the technical capacities of 4,193 farmers were enhanced in agricultural best practices and innovative technologies. 40 agents from the Ministry of Agriculture received technical training in cashew pest detection, as did 520 producers, including 60 women (11.5 per cent), 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.**

To improve financial inclusion, the UN supported the implementation of national strategies and action plans to expand access to microfinance. This benefited small businesses and startups, enhancing economic participation. 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 Catió localities. This led to the introduction of four thriving business ventures - selling ice water, juice, fish preservation and ice vending. These businesses have catalysed a remarkable transformation, as evidenced by a 100 per cent increase in average community income over three months, reaching 2,220,000 XOF (\$3,758), symbolizing substantial economic empowerment.

Furthermore, sustainable forest management initiatives, including the approval of the Institutional and Technical Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) support for REDD+ readiness document, underscore the UN commitment to environmental stewardship.

With technical and financial assistance from the UN, 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's blue economy sector has also witnessed notable progress. UN technical and financial assistance to enhance the fishing sector's capacity has significantly improved livelihoods and promoted the sustainable use of ocean resources. 661 individuals, including 341 women and 320 men, have benefited from the UN interventions. Thanks to support from

the UN, 68 women from rural areas benefited from funding and training in financial literacy and entrepreneurship. This enabled them to market locally sourced and sustainable products from the ocean and land, resulting in a profit increase of up to 312 per cent.

UN assistance for infrastructure development initiatives, including the acquisition of three boats and the rehabilitation of 31 km of rural tracks, has enhanced access to remote areas, potentially unlocking previously inaccessible economic opportunities. These 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 help from the UN, the Ministry of the Public Sector adopted a National Strategy for Rural Job Creation, aimed at generating around 40,000 jobs. By taking a comprehensive, multisectoral approach, integrating gender considerations and international labour standards, this strategy fosters social dialogue and inclusivity, ensuring holistic development across rural communities.

With the support of the UN in Guinea-Bissau, the Government enhanced its capacity to foster inclusive economic growth by identifying and validating priorities for a national strategy and action plan to promote job-intensive linkages in key infrastructure projects. During the reporting period, over 40 senior policymakers, including 12 women, were trained on strategies for supporting job-intensive investments in the planning and implementation of infrastructure projects.

<sup>8</sup> NIMBA, COCEDECAS & DDS-IEGB, ANCOF-GB, APRODEL and NADEL.





### 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 sessions were conducted across 17 villages in São Domingos, Pitche and Buba districts. These exercises targeted governance, women's empowerment and climate change adaptation resulting in the formulation of community priorities, constraints and action plans for the next five years. Additionally, 588 individuals, 75 per cent of whom are women, benefited from enhanced technical capacities in diverse areas, such as climate change adaptation, business management and leadership across the three districts.

Furthermore, through the GEF SGP, a total of 15,147 beneficiaries (53 per cent of whom are women) from 21 community-based organizations received small grants to bolster their disaster management capacities and climate change adaptation efforts.

The UN supported the National Soil Laboratory in conducting a comprehensive diagnosis and assessment of its needs, and in developing an action plan for the rehabilitation of its laboratory infrastructure. Five national technicians from the National Veterinary Laboratory were trained in diagnostic and biosafety techniques.



### 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 eight solar boreholes and three manual boreholes has benefited over 5,755 individuals across 11 communities, alleviating water scarcity issues.

The UN support provided through the SGP 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 per cent 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 using the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT) has promoted spatial planning methodologies, involving 35 participants, including six women, from various sectors. Community management and territorial development plans have been devised to enhance rice production in 25 fields, while local management structures have been established to ensure the sustainability of provision of works and equipment. These initiatives collectively contribute to fostering socioeconomic 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 SGP, 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 Catió, indirectly benefiting a substantial population of 2,622 people, comprising 1,355 men and 1,277 women.

UN assistance has been instrumental in enhancing 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. It ensures 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 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 the Biombo and Bafatá regions served as a preparatory step for a comprehensive agricultural census.

In a partnership-focused effort, the UN, alongside the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Lisbon, has notably enhanced the Guinea-Bissau 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

Ussumane on his motorcycle, selling fish to his community

**Ussumane Dabó**, a member of the Listening Club in the village of Canico Lenqueuroto in the Farim Sector, Oio region, northern Guinea-Bissau, was like all young people who depended on their families and agricultural work for their survival. During the implementation of the project “Inclusive and Peaceful Land Management in the regions of Cacheu, Oio and Biombo” with funding from the PBF, the FAO and UN-HABITAT, he was identified by his community to lead the boys’ Listening Club, whose mission was to involve young people in the management and peaceful resolution of conflicts linked to land ownership.

At the same time, the Listening Clubs developed a sustainable financial system among their members called “abota”, which consists of a

weekly contribution of 1,000 CFA francs for rotating credits on a lottery basis. Ussumane Dabo received 20,000 CFA Francs from the group to repay in 19 weeks. With his old motorbike, he decided to invest in selling fish on the street. His first day of selling already brought him 30,000 CFA francs. The changes he saw 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. The dynamism of the Clubs led the FAO, through the PBF fund, to increase the capital funding to 800,000 CFA francs so that they could guarantee the sustainability of their activities.

In addition to the entrepreneurial initiative, Ussumane Dabo and the young people from his village are social activists in resolving community



Delivery of the title of recognition of ownership by Eng. Braima Biai (Director General of Geography and Cadastre) to the Régulo de Quicet. October 2023

conflicts, which are very common in various areas of the country, especially regarding land ownership issues, animal theft, conflicts between livestock breeders and farmers, among others.

Thus, with the support of UN-Habitat, demarcations and planning were carried out in some communities in the regions of Cacheu and Biombo, 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. As a result, the boundaries of the communities have been clearly defined and land recognition certificates have been issued by the State of Guinea-Bissau, which will guarantee the security of occupation,

possession and rights to use and enjoy the land of these communities. The communities now also have a Territorial Development Plan (PDT), drawn up in a participatory manner with the community itself, which will guide the growth of the area.

In this dynamic, the project has managed to overcome the barriers of involving young people in conflict management and resolution, which demonstrates the power and engagement of communities in planning, thus contributing to the materialisation of SDG-16. These stories are a testimony to the possibility of peace and prosperity, even in the face of conflict, offering valuable lessons for similar communities around the world.



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

### 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-centred 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 efforts engaged the highest level of government and development partners in the lead-up to a National Primary Health Care Revitalization conference, held from 6 to 8 February 2023, whose recommendations and Call to Action recentred the National Health Development Plan on the acceleration of progress towards SDG 3. The UN also oriented central and regional community health workers (CHWs) after the installation of the new government to maintain commitment and momentum for the shift to sub-national level results-based planning and budgeting.

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

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

With UN support, the CHWs played a pivotal role, providing early treatment for childhood diseases and malaria and 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. 91 per cent of malaria cases received appropriate treatment.



### 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, transversal skills, and lifelong learning opportunities especially for girls and women, to acquire a basic level of literacy, and adequate learning outcomes.**

The UN played a pivotal role in enhancing children and young people's access to quality education. It 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 and beyond.

The UN also supported the Ministry of Education to develop comprehensive policy frameworks to improve equitable access to education for out-of-school children. This included developing and technically validating a 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, the technical validation of Guinea-Bissau's first ever preschool curriculum for five-year-old children was an important milestone. With UN support the curriculum will contribute to universal quality early childhood education for all five-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 its 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. This led to the completion of six out of the nine critical steps necessary for the development of the National Social Protection Policy and Strategy and marked 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 \$300,000 among 1,500 vulnerable households in the Tombali, Gabú 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 programmes 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 established. This 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 communication materials to raise awareness. A project in the Cacheu-São 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 health care accessibility, resulting in approximately \$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 UN's promotion of sanitation and hygiene in Guinea-Bissau, particularly through the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach, resulted in a total of 268 communities reached by sanitation and hygiene initiatives. 201 communities were declared and certified open defecation free. This indicates a substantial reduction in open defecation, aligning with 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 per cent to 42 per cent, 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 1,000 households were surveyed in five key cities: Bissau, Bafatá, Gabú, Mansôa 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 children aged under five, 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 CHWs.

With UN support, 222 metric tons of nutritious food reached over 24,700 children aged under two years, surpassing the previous year's result by 19 per cent. Furthermore, 80 metric tons of specialized nutritious food was distributed, aiding in the recovery of 4,320 children aged between six months and five years, achieving a remarkable recovery rate of 92.2 per cent.



### Output 3.6

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

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

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 Women, Family and Social Solidarity, along with various partners including the UN, have made significant progress 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 in a year 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 dialogue through UN assisted initiatives. With the support of the UN, 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 travelling theater during the 16 days of activism against GBV and celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Human Rights declaration. This aimed to sensitize communities and link 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."

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.

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.

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*, 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, walks 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*





Mafudge Sanhá counting the money received from the social protection cash transfer program with her 11-year-old son by her side.  
Photo: © Credits\_WFP\_Charlotte\_Alves

**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 cash transfer via the mobile operator as the financial service provider present on the ground.

In addition, Mafudge Sanhá says **“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 has to 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.

### ► 2.3. Support to partnerships and financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2023, the Guinea-Bissau Development Partners Group (DPG) emerged as a pivotal platform for fostering strategic dialogue between development partners and the Government. Coordinated and convened by the Resident Coordinator (RC), it has enhanced 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 (EU), the DPG has established its governance framework, defined its operational guidelines and identified priority sectors, including health, education, governance, budget support and agriculture.

A significant achievement over the reporting period was that the 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 given by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Elections Support Project exemplifies partners’ commitment to foster democratic processes and governance in Guinea Bissau. The 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 on joint missions in the country.

Despite these achievements, the UNCT faced challenges related to political and institutional instability, including the dissolution of the National Assembly and frequent staff turnover 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 programme implementation highlighted the need to strengthen local communities and markets. Educational programmes 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 is crucial for the successful implementation of programmes. Emphasizing the need for innovation, resilience and partnership building, the lessons learned are pivotal for navigating sustainable development complexities and effectively financing the 2030 Agenda.



## ► 2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

The UNCT in Guinea-Bissau developed a Business Operations Strategy (BOS) for the 2022-2026 period, in collaboration with resident UN agencies. This strategy signifies the UN's commitment to unified action, aiming to support the UNSDCF through cost-effective and harmonized operations.

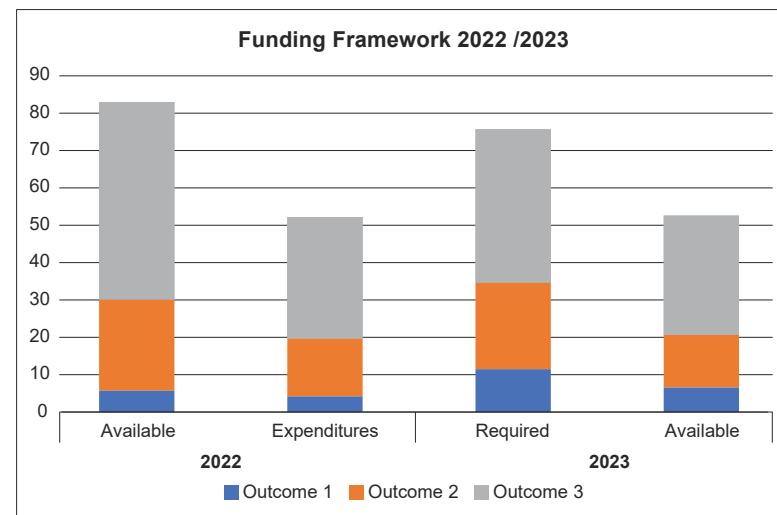
The BOS is a crucial bridge between programming and operations, ensuring timely and efficient delivery of a high-impact UNSDCF. This, in turn, strengthens the UN's position as a preferred partner for the Government of Guinea-Bissau. Participating UN resident agencies include United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS), World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), along with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UN RCO).

The Operations Management Team (OMT) prioritizes implementing the BOS to achieve the Secretary-General's efficiency agenda. To ensure efficient UNSDCF delivery, the OMT established five working groups focused on common service lines to identify areas for cost savings. The 2023 BOS annual review revealed a successful cost avoidance of \$184,592. As of the end of 2023, the total cost avoidance related to the BOS for Guinea-Bissau stands at \$811,942, with realized savings exceeding the estimated \$686,149 by 85%. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the BOS in achieving cost efficiency within the UNCT's operations.

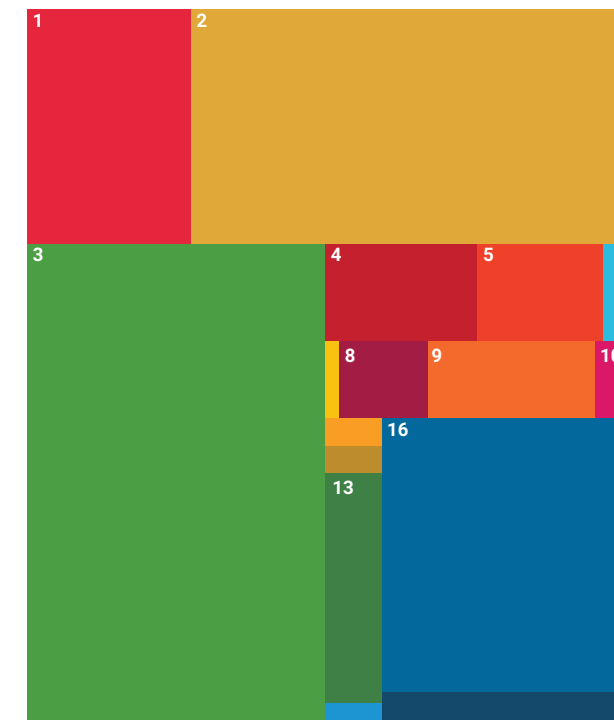
A breakdown of cost avoidance across various areas revealed significant savings. UNDP achieved the highest at \$297,612, exceeding their target by 54 per cent. UNICEF also surpassed expectations, achieving 110 per cent of their target with \$98,571 saved. UNFPA's impressive results reached \$241,449, exceeding estimated savings by 130 per cent. FAO contributed \$11,320, representing 18 per cent of the estimated target. Substantial savings were achieved in ICT services (\$164,204, 50 per cent of the estimated amount) and Finance (\$301,676, exceeding the target by 207 per cent). Even Human Resources and WFP contributed, saving 91 per cent and 43 per cent of their estimated targets, respectively, with \$10,000 and \$18,439 saved.

## ► 2.5 Financial overview

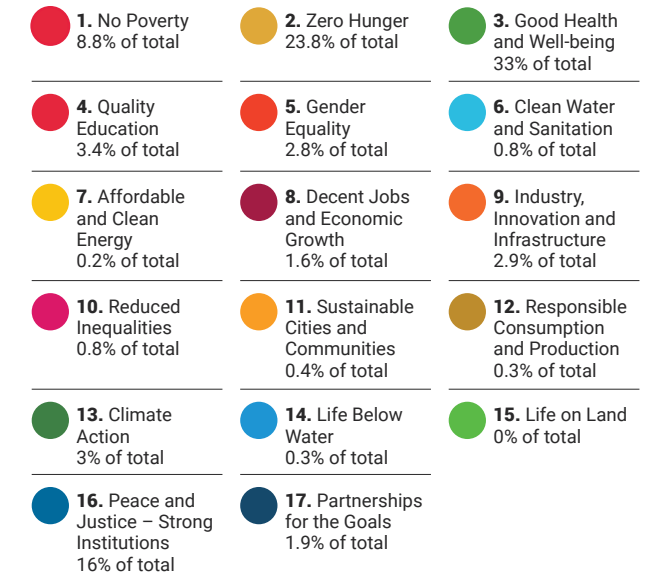
In 2023, the UNCT was able to mobilize \$76 million and incurred \$52 million in expenses.



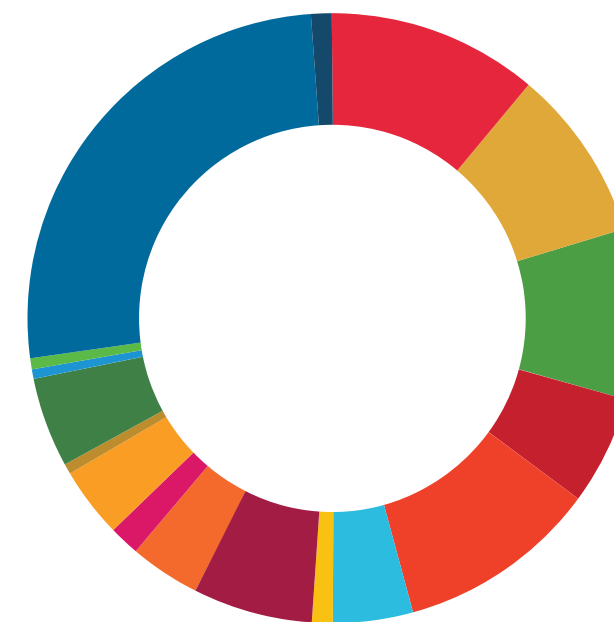
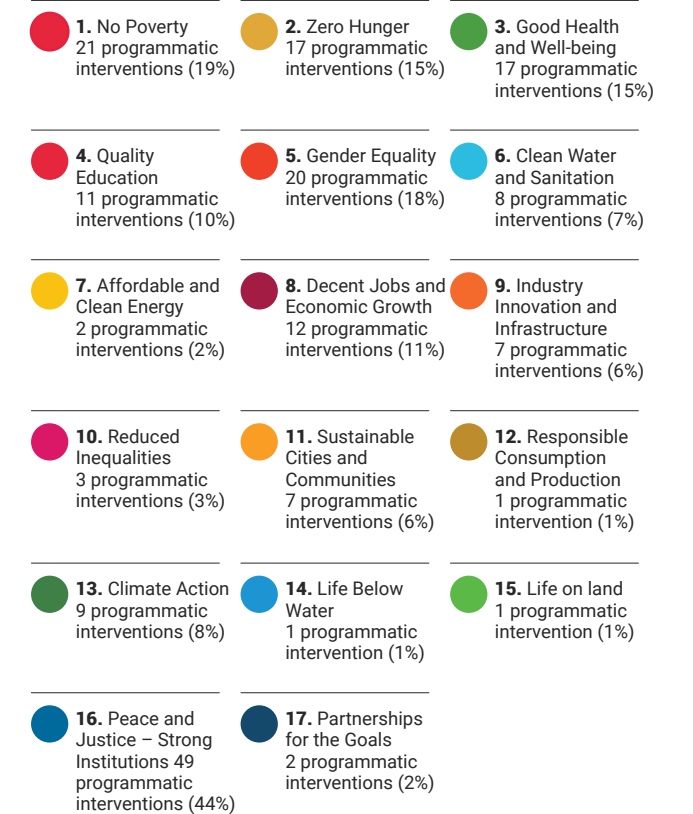
## Where is the money going? How the UN contributes to the SDGs?



### Available Resources \$73.1 million



### 111 Programmatic Interventions in Joint Workplan







# CHAPTER



## UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2024

As we reach the halfway point of implementing the UNSDCF for 2002–2026, we remain committed to learning 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 2024 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's three outcomes.

### Governance and human rights

The UN will support the electoral process in Guinea-Bissau. 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, 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 Universal Periodic Review 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 SDGs. Specific support will be provided to formulate and implement a new National Development Plan, which is country-driven, inclusive and aligned with national development priorities and the achievement of the SDGs. 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 and the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

### 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. The 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. This will include organizing the national census and implementing the RGAE.

### Accelerating the SDGs

The UN will strengthen integrated policy support for the acceleration of the SDGs. The UN will prioritize accelerator programmes 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 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

The UN will also support work to 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 DPG as a pivotal platform for fostering strategic dialogue 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
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
BR	Birth Registration
CAJ	Centre of Access to Justice
CENFOJ	Judicial Training Centre
CHW	Community Health Workers
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DPG	Development Partners Group
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IMAM	Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition
IMC	Institute for Women and Children
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LGBT	Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OGDT	Guinean Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addiction
PADES	Economic Development Project for the Southern Regions
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office

REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RGAE	General Census of Agriculture and Livestock
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SERP	Socioeconomic Response Plan
SGP	Small Grant Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
TiP	Trafficking in Persons
TTT	Transhumance Tracking Tool
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDS	United Nations Development System
UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nation's Children's Fund
UNIOGBIS	United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea Bissau
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization





**UNITED NATIONS**  
**GUINEA-BISSAU**

