



UNITED NATIONS
GUINEA-BISSAU



Annual Results Report 2024



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Foreword by the UN Resident Coordinator

It gives me great pleasure to present an overview of the results achieved by the United Nations in Guinea-Bissau – with our partners - in 2024. This report showcases the collective work of the United Nations to support Guinea-Bissau's national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals. The following pages present the progress we have achieved together with the Government and a broad set of civil society and other national and international partners, against our collective commitments outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026.

The Cooperation Framework brings together 19 UN entities members of the UNCT to accompany the country in the consolidation of peacebuilding efforts, overcoming development challenges and laying the foundation for a prosperous and inclusive society that fosters rising living standards and upholds human rights for all based on the sustainable development of the country's exceptional land and marine biodiversity.

Despite a challenging context, some notable achievements were registered this year. Our work in 2024 centered on the three key pillars of the Cooperation Framework: inclusive governance, peace and the rule of law; economic transformation and equitable sustainable green growth; and human capital development through increased equitable access to quality social services. Key achievements include support for the digitalization of government services, steps towards improved enhanced electoral transparency and engagement with human rights treaty bodies, and enhanced capacity to combat organized crime and drug trafficking notably through better cooperation and coordination among national institutions and with

external partners. Investments in the blue economy, agribusiness, and entrepreneurship have created opportunities for smallholder farmers, women, and youth and the bases have been laid for defining the country's strategic approach to food systems transformation including the financing component. Human capital development remained central to our efforts in 2024. Strengthened health systems, improved education access, and an expanded social protection framework for the most vulnerable have led to meaningful progress.

Looking ahead, we are determined to capitalize on these steps to accelerate progress. In 2025, we will focus on fostering participation and peaceful dialogue around inclusive elections and accompanying the conclusion of the first national census since 2009 resulting in more data-driven policymaking and inclusive development. Through a new joint programme, we will mobilize support for rule of law and security institutions in particular to sustain efforts to combat illicit trafficking and promote human rights. We will work with a broad set of partners to transform food systems to improve agricultural productivity, resilience, nutrition and sustainability, improve primary health including through expanding access to quality healthcare for mothers and newborns and accelerate climate action, by supporting adaptation and mitigation efforts. We also will continue our advocacy for increased investments and attention to the crisis in public education and will initiate important technical training programmes at-scale for young people. In 2025, we will conduct an in-depth review of the situation of women and girls in the country and reaffirm our commitment to promoting gender equality through all our initiatives.

Achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs requires renewed commitment and accelerated efforts together with bold and new partnerships, and a focus on becoming more efficient and scaling our impact. On behalf of the UNCT, I extend my deepest appreciation to our partners, our UN colleagues, and the people we serve. The UN in Guinea-Bissau remains steadfast in supporting Guinea-Bissau's development priorities, working alongside national and international partners to build a more peaceful, prosperous, equitable and resilient future.

Geneviève Boutin
UN Resident
Coordinator
in Guinea-Bissau



UN Country Team

19 members

 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	 International Labour Organization
 IOM UN MIGRATION	 UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
 UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE	 UN CDF
 UN DP	 UNDSS
 UNFPA	 unicef for every child
 UNIDO	 UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
 UNOPS	 WFP World Food Programme
 World Health Organization	 IFAD Investing in rural people
 OCHA	 unesco
 UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency	 UNITED NATIONS GUINEA-BISSAU



Key development partners of the UN development system in the country












Multilateral Partners and Foundations

-  Aga Khan Foundation
-  AICS
-  African Development Bank
-  Bloomberg Philanthropies
-  Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
-  ECOWAS
-  European Union
-  Gates Foundation
-  Global Agriculture and Food Security Program

-  Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)
-  Global Environment Facility (GEF)
-  Global Fund
-  Global Partnership for Education
-  Green Climate Fund (GCF)
-  IFAD
-  International Monetary Fund (IMF)
-  Islamic Development Bank
-  Joint SDG Fund

-  The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)
-  Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation
-  UEMOA
-  UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework
-  WAHO - West African Health Organization
-  World Bank

Bilateral donors to the UNDSCF

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Brazil |  Norway |
|  Canada |  Portugal |
|  France |  Republic of Korea |
|  Germany |  Spain |
|  Ireland |  Switzerland |
|  Italy |  United Kingdom |
|  Japan |  United States |

Guinea-Bissau at a Glance



Demographics

2.2
million inhabitants

2.4%
Population growth



Economic Indicators



1,170 USD
GDP per Capita

2.36 billion USD
Total GDP

5%
Economic Growth Rate



Environmental & Geographical Data

36,125 sq. km
of land area



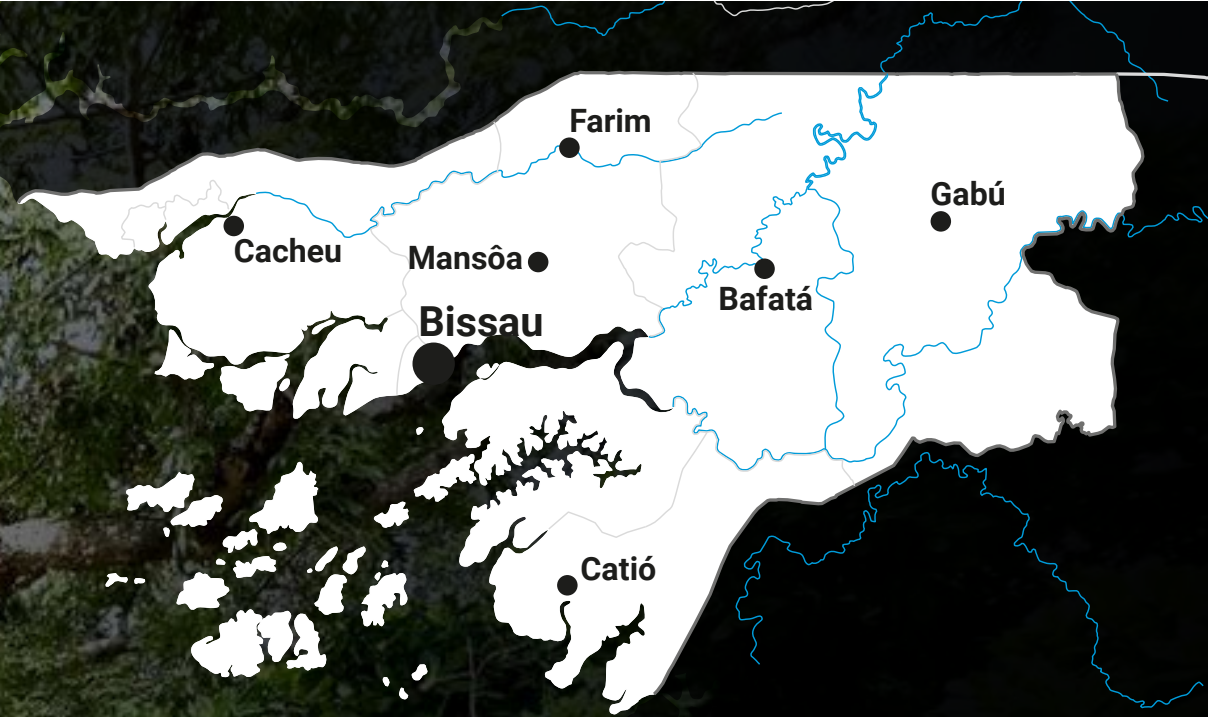
Highest natural wealth per capita in West Africa

SIDS Status



105,000 sq. km
of maritime area

7
times the entire land territory of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

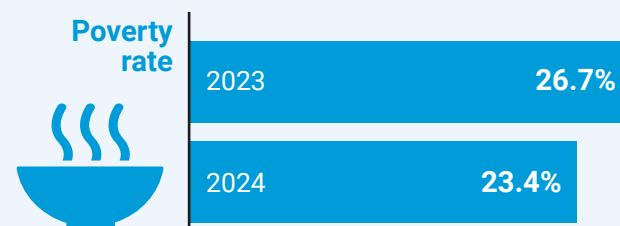
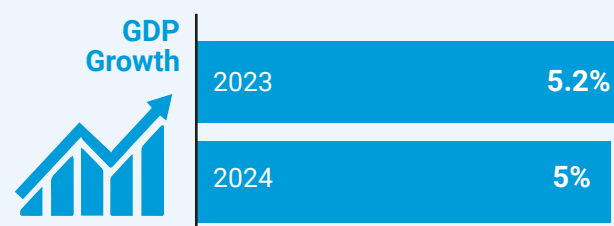


1

Key developments in the country and the regional context

Guinea-Bissau's economy grew by 5% in 2024 (against 5.2% in 2023), despite global and regional challenges. Inflation dropped from 7.2% in 2023 to 4.2%, easing cost-of-living pressures. The ongoing fiscal and structural reforms under the IMF Extended Credit Facility improved economic stability and governance. However, the trade deficit widened, and government spending remained far higher than the country's low tax revenues.

Extreme weather remains a major threat. Severe floods in 2024 affected over 137,000 people in eight regions, damaging 3,000 hectares of farmland and disrupting water access for 59% of affected households. These events threaten food security and livelihoods. Accelerating climate adaptation, including better water management and flood prevention, is urgent. Despite these risks, Guinea-Bissau has valuable natural resources.



The cashew sector, the backbone of the economy, had mixed results. Farmers benefited from higher prices in 2024, providing much-needed relief after devastating campaign seasons in 2022 and 2023. However, rising domestic prices for raw cashew nuts made it harder for local processing factories to stay open, leading to some job losses. Export volumes also fell short of expectations due in part to logistical challenges.

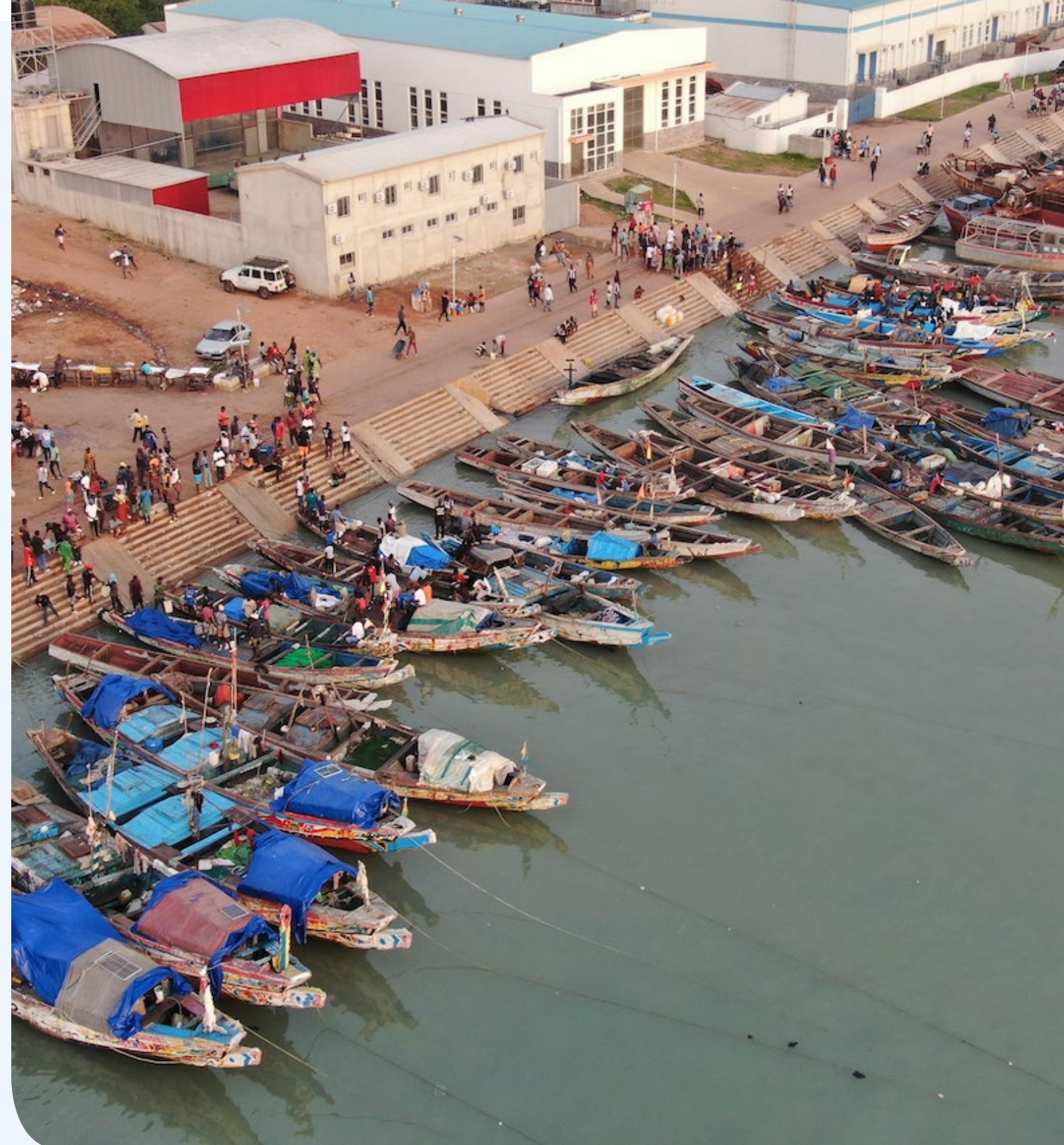
It has the highest natural capital per capita in West Africa. If managed well, these assets can support sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth.

The country made a major shift in its energy sector in 2024. It now relies entirely on hydroelectric power from the "Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Gambie (OMVG)", the regional power pool, reducing dependence on costly and polluting heavy fuel-based electricity. This transition has the potential to lower costs, improve energy security, and support environmental sustainability. Plans to expand solar power will further diversify the energy mix.

The legislative elections initially planned for November 2024 and postponed are now set to take place on 23 November 2025, together with presidential elections. The continued dissolution of the National People's Assembly's throughout 2024 hindered the country's ability to pass key legislation. Criticisms by the opposition about the legitimacy

of key institutions continued. Guinea-Bissau engaged with UN Human Rights mechanisms through the submission of a number of key reports and welcoming the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, in particular women and girls. Guinea-Bissau made strides in combatting drug trafficking. The September 2024 seizure of

2.6 tons of cocaine marked a historic milestone in combating transnational crime and demonstrated the Government's commitment to addressing organized illicit networks. Security sector reform, focusing on restructuring, recruitment, training, and modernization, remains a priority to ensure neutrality and professionalism within the forces.



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

2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

In 2024, the United Nations in Guinea-Bissau continued working alongside the government and people to strengthen governance and institutions, accelerate economic transformation to promote inclusive growth, and realise basic rights for all communities across the country. By leveraging technical expertise, financial resources, and innovative solutions, the UN is supporting impactful change across multiple sectors in Guinea-Bissau.

The UN's support has evolved in response to changing needs and emerging priorities in Guinea-Bissau ensuring that investments in governance reforms, economic empowerment, and social services continue to deliver real benefits for the people. Initiatives to expand digital services, strengthen the justice system, and enhance transparency are contributing to accountability, while targeted efforts in education, health, and food security are providing communities with the tools they need to thrive. The UN has also worked closely with partners to advance gender equality, create jobs, and strengthen Guinea-Bissau's role in regional markets. These actions align with the broader vision of the Pact of the Future, aiming to support Guinea-Bissau in continuing to move forward with resilience and ambition.

As we look ahead, the UN remains committed to supporting Guinea-Bissau's leadership in building a more inclusive, secure, and sustainable future. By continuing to invest in strong institutions, economic opportunities, and essential services, the UN is proud to stand with the government and people of Guinea-Bissau in achieving shared national goals. Through this partnership, the country is better positioned to overcome challenges, seize new opportunities, and create lasting progress for all.

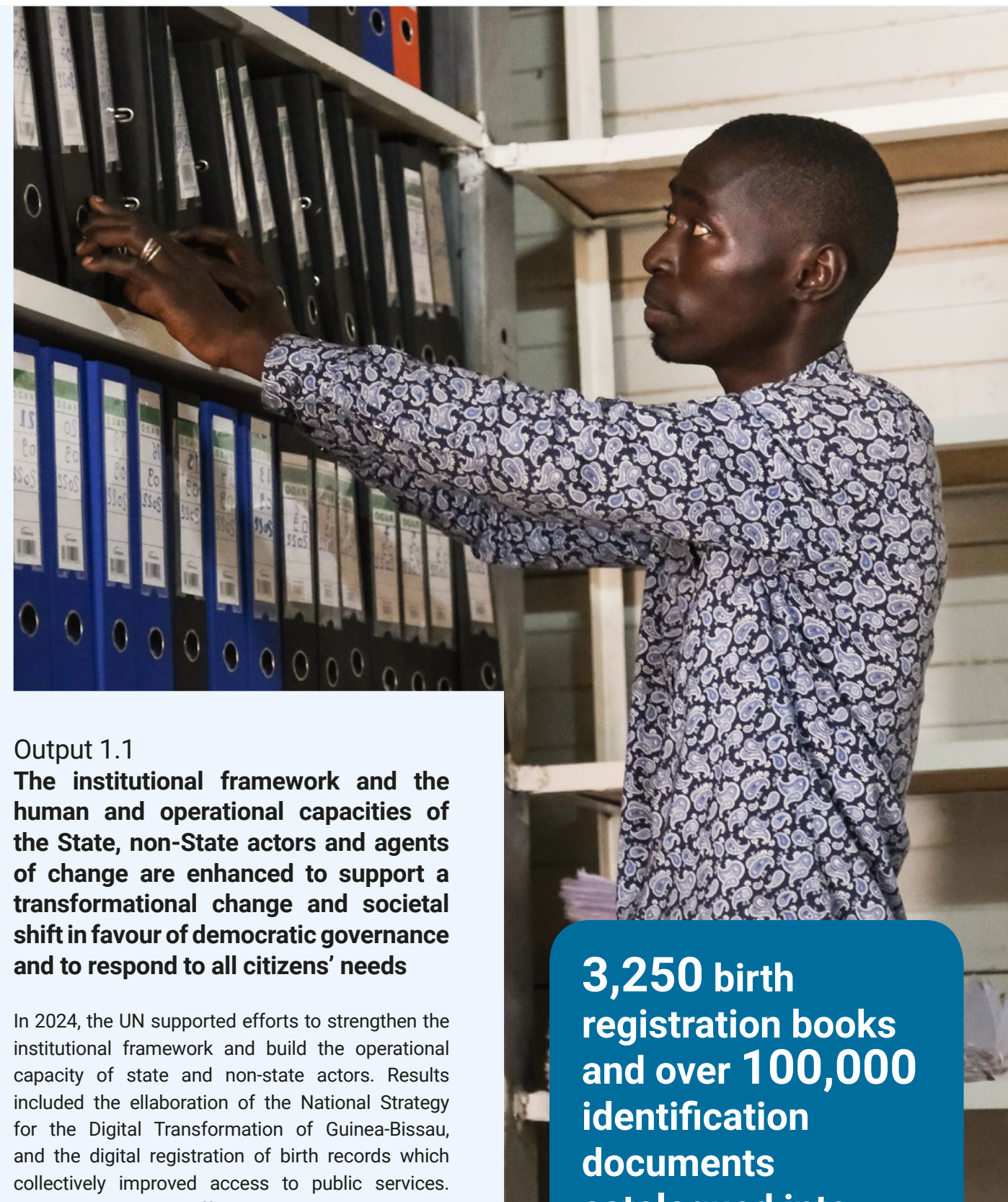
Outcome 1

2.2 Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs

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

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES
USD 5.4M**

In 2024, UN agencies in Guinea-Bissau supported key initiatives to strengthen national and local institutions, improve the legal framework, and ensure inclusivity in political processes. The achievements in 2024 were focused on strengthening key institutions, and providing citizens, particularly those from marginalized groups, with opportunities to engage in political processes. By fostering dialogue, enhancing the judiciary's integrity, and promoting human rights, these initiatives are laying the groundwork for a more peaceful, democratic, and resilient Guinea-Bissau.



Output 1.1

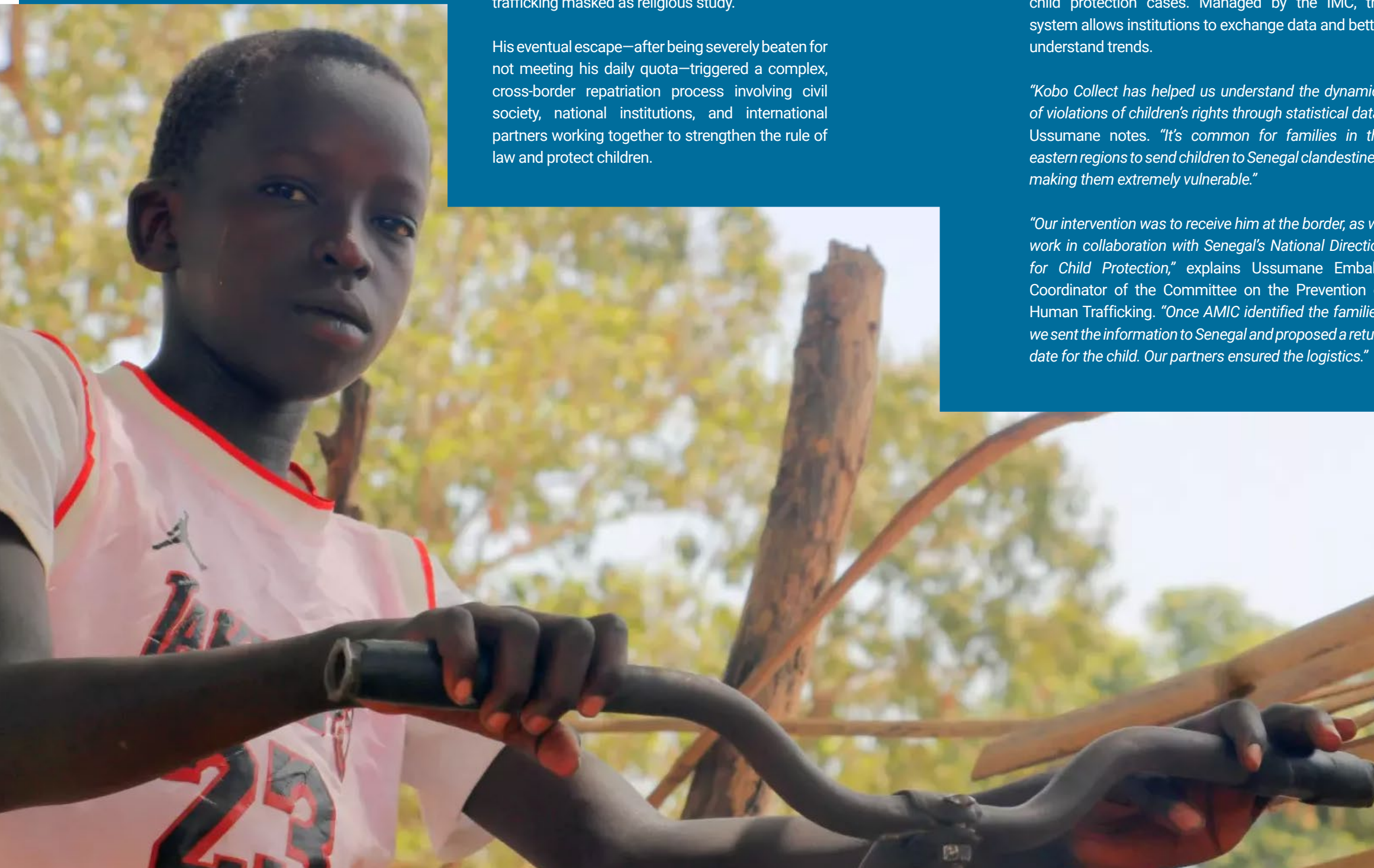
The institutional framework and the human and operational capacities of the State, non-State actors and agents of change are enhanced to support a transformational change and societal shift in favour of democratic governance and to respond to all citizens' needs

In 2024, the UN supported efforts to strengthen the institutional framework and build the operational capacity of state and non-state actors. Results included the elaboration of the National Strategy for the Digital Transformation of Guinea-Bissau, and the digital registration of birth records which collectively improved access to public services. The digitalization efforts, in particular, made significant strides, particularly with the registration of birth records and the cataloguing of over 100,000 identification documents into the National Database, thereby enhancing access to public services. The initiative has digitized more than 1 million entries—approximately 5,500 books—and catalogued over 200,000 records. Furthermore, the National Human Rights Strategy was a crucial step towards alignment with international human rights standards and ensuring greater accessibility to justice for all.

3,250 birth registration books and over 100,000 identification documents catalogued into National Database



Strengthening Rule of Law to Protect the Most Vulnerable in Guinea-Bissau



"He was not like this when he left," says Bubacar Balde, his voice trembling with anger as he points to the scars on his son's face, arms, and hands. "He came back with nothing but torn clothes and worn-out sneakers."

At just eight years old, Abulai Balde left his home in Pitche, in Guinea-Bissau's Gabu region, to study at a Koranic school in Senegal. Instead of receiving an education, he was forced to beg on the streets for three years—an all-too-common form of human trafficking masked as religious study.

His eventual escape—after being severely beaten for not meeting his daily quota—triggered a complex, cross-border repatriation process involving civil society, national institutions, and international partners working together to strengthen the rule of law and protect children.

The journey home began when a shelter in Dakar contacted Associação dos Amigos da Criança (AMIC), which located Abulai's family in rural Gabu. The Institute for Women and Children (IMC), under the Ministry of Women, Family, and Social Solidarity, then coordinated his return.

Upon return, Abulai stayed briefly at AMIC's shelter in Gabu, where children receive medical care and psychological support. His case was documented using Kobo Collect, a digital platform for tracking child protection cases. Managed by the IMC, the system allows institutions to exchange data and better understand trends.

"Kobo Collect has helped us understand the dynamics of violations of children's rights through statistical data," Ussumane notes. "It's common for families in the eastern regions to send children to Senegal clandestinely, making them extremely vulnerable."

"Our intervention was to receive him at the border, as we work in collaboration with Senegal's National Direction for Child Protection," explains Ussumane Embalo, Coordinator of the Committee on the Prevention of Human Trafficking. "Once AMIC identified the families, we sent the information to Senegal and proposed a return date for the child. Our partners ensured the logistics."

Key partners included UNICEF, the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), who support the government through the Peacebuilding Fund-backed project Enhancing the Human Rights Protection System in Guinea-Bissau.

This initiative is part of a broader push to reinforce rule of law and security institutions. A related project, also funded by the Peacebuilding Fund and jointly implemented by UNDP and UNODC, focuses on boosting the justice and security sector's ability to respond to drug trafficking and organized crime.

In 2024, UN support helped national institutions advance the implementation of the National Strategy to Prevent Human Trafficking, through the III National Plan for Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking in March 2024. *"This document represents an important milestone in combining the efforts of all partners in the fight against trafficking in persons, with a special focus on the protection of children,"* said Maria Inácia Có Mendes, Minister of Women, Family and Solidarity, during the validation of the plan in March 2024. *"This also translates the active participation of all national partners and will be a common reference framework for all those who intervene in this area."*

"The contribution received from the UN and PBF project at key transit points has significantly improved our operational capabilities," added Senghor Oliveira Cá, Head of the Joint Anti-Trafficking and Immigration Task Force (JAITF). *"With better tools, performance, and coordination of our officers, we are now intercepting threats more effectively and safeguarding our borders against cross-border crime."*

Law enforcement has also improved its coordination with health services. *"If a child appears to be the victim of physical aggression or sexual abuse, we issue a medical request to the hospital for treatment,"* says Officer Amadu Uri. *"Once they return with the medical report, we investigate and pursue the suspect, sending them to the public prosecutor's office."*

There is still much to do to prevent the gravest violations of women's and children's rights. But progress is visible. In 2025, the UN will launch a new joint programme to scale these efforts. Additional PBF funding will also allow UNICEF and UNESCO to support the Ministry of Education in regulating religious schools and ensuring safe learning environments.

Output 1.2

The UN supported efforts to create a more enabling environment for political and inter-party dialogue, the key reforms’ agenda, and citizen engagement involving youth, women, and vulnerable groups, to sustain peace is created

The UN contributed to the creation of a more enabling environment for political dialogue, particularly among youth, women, and other vulnerable groups. Ensuring that everyone’s voices are heard on issues affecting governance and policy, 1722 community members (men, women, LGBTQAI+ representatives, PWDs and persons with albinism) were involved through political dialogue platforms, including the National Citizen Convention Network.

This platform also facilitated dialogue on critical issues such as electoral reforms and national priorities.

The effort to create an independent and transparent media environment took shape with the launch of a fact-checking platform developed with collaborative efforts of the UN. This initiative helped curb misinformation and promote the spread of verified, independent information, reinforcing a democratic and transparent space for political discourse. This aligns with the principles outlined in the Global Digital Compact within the Pact for the Future, which advocates for an open, free, and secure digital environment that upholds human rights and fosters inclusive and accountable information ecosystems.”



1,722
community members
were involved through
political dialogue
platforms



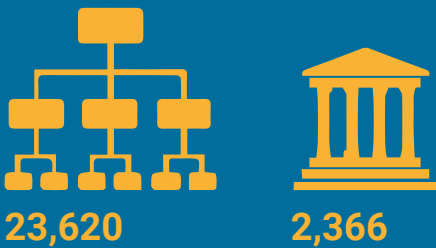
Output 1.3

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

Through the Mobile Justice initiative, over 23,620 children were registered for legal identity, and more than 2,366 individuals from underserved areas gained access to legal services. The initiative not only provided legal documentation but also helped raise public awareness about citizens’ rights, particularly in the context of gender equality. The UN strengthened access to civil registration services, enabling 69,262 children to receive birth certificates, including 25,948 through health services and 20,620 vulnerable children from remote areas. Through the Mobile Justice initiative, and community outreach initiatives over 23,620 children were registered for legal identity, and more than 2,366 individuals from underserved areas gained access to legal services. The initiative not only provided legal documentation but also helped raise public awareness about citizens’ rights, particularly in the context of gender equality.

Moreover, gender inclusion in the legal profession was promoted with the training of 20 new female lawyers. This increase in women’s participation within the legal landscape is an essential step toward ensuring a more inclusive judicial system. These were steps towards making the political and judicial processes more transparent and accessible, particularly to marginalized groups.

Over **23,620** children were
registered for legal identity
and 2,366 individuals from
underserved areas accessed
legal services





Output 1.4
Access to quality justice services, especially for vulnerable people, and the promotion of human rights and gender equality are enhanced

Through a range of justice focused initiatives, including the Mobile Justice initiative, progress was made in ensuring that citizens, particularly those in rural areas, had access to legal services. In 2024, almost 27,000 citizens benefited from UN supported services through the Access to Justice Centers (CAJ) linked to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. During this period, 7000 people participated in awareness campaigns that focused on human rights and women's rights. By enhancing legal awareness and expanding access to justice, these efforts contributed to a deeper understanding and stronger protection of human rights across the country.

Nearly
27,000
people accessed
legal services
and 7,000 joined
rights awareness
campaigns

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 security sector and law enforcement authorities are supported to reduce impunity and fight against drug trafficking, transnational organised crime and prevent violent extremism

The focus on strengthening the independence and integrity of Guinea-Bissau's judicial system saw notable achievements in 2024. Through the digitalization of the National Assembly and Court of Auditors, public sector transparency and accountability were greatly enhanced. These reforms contributed to a more efficient and accountable governance system, ensuring that citizens' rights were protected. It is also worth highlighting the UN's support in holding the first national dialogue on corruption in Guinea Bissau involving government sectors, academia, the judiciary, civil society, the private sector. This first dialogue made proposals that judicial system, government, and civil society organizations should implement to effectively address the scourge of corruption at the national level. The participants recognized that the national dialogue represents a major annual platform that formulates recommendations and strategies to strengthen the fight against corruption in Guinea Bissau. The visit of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls, has also resulted in important related recommendations that the country will implement in 2025.

Community policing initiatives further reinforced trust between law enforcement and the public, especially in regions where the physical presence of law enforcement officers is limited. These efforts were complemented by strengthening the capacities of criminal justice institutions in the investigation of illicit trafficking and organized crime, including the reinforcement of inter-regional and international cooperation. On September 7, 2024, the national authorities seized 2.6 tons of drugs at Bissau airport, underscoring the impact of improved collaboration and information sharing in tackling illicit activities. Also, between January and June 2024, ten drug

10 drug trafficking cases were prosecuted, reflecting strengthened judicial and law enforcement capacity

trafficking cases investigated were prosecuted and referred to the courts, highlighting the increased capacity of the judicial and law enforcement agencies to handle serious crimes.

In addition, the UN continued to support critical reforms in the judicial and security sectors, ensuring that the rule of law was upheld, and that impunity was reduced. The integration of international cooperation and support in this area is helping Guinea-Bissau to better address challenges related to crime and security, while promoting greater transparency and justice for its citizens.



Outcome 2

The year witnessed a series of initiatives aimed at building resilience, diversifying economic growth, and addressing environmental challenges with a focus on vulnerable groups. Through innovative programs that supported vulnerable communities, smallholder farmers, youth, and women, the UN worked closely with government bodies, local stakeholders, and international partners to drive green growth, improve livelihoods, and safeguard the environment. With a clear focus on inclusivity, these efforts helped to enhance Guinea-Bissau's capacity to build a more resilient economy while protecting its natural resources for future generations. From the advancement of the National Blue Economy Strategy to supporting local food systems and renewable energy solutions, the UN's initiatives in 2024 lay the foundation for a greener, more equitable future for all citizens of Guinea-Bissau.

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

TOTAL
EXPENDITURES
USD 11.8M



47,000
smallholder
farmers—54%
women—received UN
support, including
5,000 metric tons of
agricultural inputs to
boost food security
and livelihoods.

Output 2.1

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

The year 2024 saw continued progress in strengthening the capacity to foster resilient and diversified economic growth in Guinea-Bissau. The UN's support for the National Blue Economy Strategy laid the groundwork for leveraging the country's marine resources in a sustainable and impactful manner. This strategy provides a clear roadmap for long-term investments in the blue economy, ensuring

that the country's marine resources are utilized responsibly to drive economic growth, create jobs, and protect coastal ecosystems.

Additionally, 47,000 smallholder farmers (54% of whom were women) were supported through emergency food security assistance, which included the distribution of 5,000 metric tons of seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. This assistance had a transformative impact on rural communities, increasing agricultural productivity and creating opportunities for farmers to diversify their income sources. Further, six hectares of cashew orchards were rehabilitated, improving productivity and diversifying sources of income for families in Biombo, Oio and Cacheu.

Listening Clubs: An Innovative Approach to Community Engagement in Boé, Pitche, and Quebo, Eastern and Southern Guinea-Bissau

An engaged, cooperative, and more inclusive community — that's what the village of Ndjaren in the Pitche Sector has become, following the introduction of Listening Clubs. These clubs are part of the "Peaceful Management of Natural Resources in the Corubal River Basin" project implemented by UN-HABITAT, in partnership with FAO and UNCDF, funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) in Guinea-Bissau, and supported by the NGOs REMPSECAO, ECAS-D, and ANCOPF-GB.

The Listening Clubs encourage self-management and cooperation among community members by creating a local development fund through the practice of "ABOTA," or weekly group savings. Each member makes a fixed weekly contribution, and the collected amount is given to one of the 20 members to start a small business.

The initiative has also raised awareness about the importance of efficiently using natural resources and has strengthened social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. It has promoted teamwork, as emphasized by club member Idjatu Bari:

"We meet weekly to analyze conflict situations related to natural resources and to manage the club's money. This alone shows how seriously we take this initiative. For us, it has been a wake-up call that made us believe we can change our lives even with a small amount of money and preserve our community's natural resources. In the past, we had few economic activities during the dry season, which forced young people from the village to leave for neighboring countries to find work while waiting for the rains to return for farming. Thanks to the project's support, we discovered we can do other activities without leaving the community, while preserving our natural resources."

The project's efforts have also contributed to a reduction in community conflicts, while empowering women through training and involving them actively in conflict mediation and decision-making processes. Idjatu Bari noted that the clubs have helped break women's isolation and recognize their important role in conflict resolution.

Economically, the clubs have increased women's autonomy, allowing them to contribute to their children's education and family meals while reducing domestic violence linked to financial dependence. Other members have used their funds to develop small businesses, purchase donkeys and carts, install solar panels, and acquire food processing machines, all of which have improved living conditions for families and communities.

These stories are just a glimpse of the social and economic transformation driven by the Listening Club methodology. Since August 2024, 55 Listening Clubs have been formed in 30 communities, engaging 1,100 young people — 600 women and 500 men. The clubs have already mobilized about 22 million CFA francs (roughly 33,000 euros), and an additional 35 million CFA francs is expected to be invested by the PBF.

The project has also built the capacity of some club members to manage and maintain water infrastructure being constructed or rehabilitated in their communities, ensuring the sustainability and long-term impact of these investments while also helping to prevent future conflicts.

The results show that active participation of women in natural resource management, combined with training, infrastructure, and community involvement, strengthens social cohesion and sustainability. These efforts contribute directly to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) all essential for a more inclusive and resilient future.



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 2024, the private sector in Guinea-Bissau was supported with initiatives aimed at micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). KAU CRIAR, an entrepreneurship program, empowered 200 entrepreneurs by providing access to business management training and microfinance opportunities, enabling them to scale their businesses and create jobs. This initiative has

been particularly impactful for women, providing them with the tools needed to succeed in the marketplace.

Moreover, the UN purchased 78 metric tons of beans from farmers' cooperatives within the framework of the school feeding program, enabling small farmers to gain access to markets and increase their income.

The UN further supported 6000 farmers (65% women) from 9 communities with community gardens covering approximately totaling 7.0 hectares. They also received training and agricultural inputs in the localities of Cussana, Gã Turé, Ndjassane Balanta, Tebe, Djufungo, Catão, Varela Madina, Ancadjedja, and Caravela.

200
entrepreneurs
joined the KAU
CRIAR program
and 6,000 farmers
received UN
support through
community
gardens and
training



Output 2.3

Stakeholders' capacities in terms of disaster and climate risk informed development are enhanced sustainable

The efforts to build resilience to climate change and improve disaster risk management in 2024 have had a profound impact on communities across Guinea-Bissau. 2,500 community members were trained in climate risk management, and 9,000 hectares of rice fields were rehabilitated, significantly improving local capacity to withstand floods and droughts. This includes hydro-agricultural works that not only protect

With UN support, 25 technicians from the Ministry of Environment and partner institutions were equipped with advanced skills in drone technology, including operation, data collection, and processing. This transformative training enhanced their ability to conduct high-precision monitoring of coastal landscapes and track critical land use changes. By leveraging cutting-edge technology, these efforts are strengthening environmental governance, improving disaster preparedness, and enabling data-driven decision-making for sustainable coastal management.

2,500
people were trained
in climate risk
management and
9,000 hectares
of rice fields
rehabilitated

The UN also facilitated the creation of community gardens that reached 5,945 individuals, providing families with access to fresh produce and sustainable agricultural practices. These gardens are central to efforts to adapt to climate change and provide food security for vulnerable populations. The training in sustainable resource management ensures that communities are better equipped to handle future climate challenges while improving their livelihoods.



21
km of rural roads
were rehabilitated
and 60 ha of
mangroves restored

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 valuation of natural capital and its integration into local development plans has been central to ensuring that Guinea-Bissau's natural resources are sustainably managed. In 2024, the Spatial Development Framework was applied to Gabú and Bafatá for the development of the livestock value chain. The framework, which is developed through a

participatory process is helping to prevent conflicts between farmers and herders by ensuring access to basic services to both groups. Improving resilience to climate, Coastal areas were protected through UN supported rehabilitation of rural road infrastructures: 1km in the Cussana-Cussentche and 20 km (Bubatumbo-Ndjassane-Gã Turé-Tébé) totalling 21km of rural roads rehabilitated. Further, 370 ha of low-land rice cultivation has been protected through the improvement of hydro agricultural systems in rice fields (construction of aqueducts, rehabilitation of dykes), in various localities in the Buba-Mansoa, and Bijagós zones. In addition, 60 ha of mangroves in the Cacheu natural mangrove park restored and protected from degradation.

Output 2.5: Sustainable governance and management of environmental and natural resources, including biodiversity protection, and renewable energy are strengthened

In 2024, significant strides were made in strengthening the sustainable governance and management of environmental resources, particularly in renewable energy. UN agencies supported the construction of solar-powered water systems in Lagoa and Cufada, significantly

improving access to clean water and reducing the reliance on traditional energy sources to 20,000 families.

The UN's support to protected areas and conservation efforts also contributed to enhancing the resilience of ecosystems, ensuring that future generations can benefit from these vital resources. Enhanced irrigation and construction of aqueducts with water gates and dikes, contributed to recovery of abandoned rice fields and increase in productivity, covering 134 hectares in Uno, 331 hectares in Catão & Varela, and 250 hectares in Tebe localities.



Solar-powered water
systems improved access for
20,000 families, and irrigation
works boosted rice productivity
across 715 hectares

Outcome 3

Human capital
development

TOTAL
EXPENDITURES
USD 28.4M

In 2024, UN agencies in Guinea-Bissau made strides in advancing human capital development, focusing on enhancing the quality and accessibility of essential services in health, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and protection. These efforts aimed to address the country's most pressing challenges, including poor health outcomes, low school enrollment rates, malnutrition, limited access to WASH, social and child protection services and gender-based violence, ensuring that no one is left behind in the country's development.

Output 3.1

Guinea-Bissau's health system has the capacity to provide high-quality, with high-impact integrated services, 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

In 2024, the UN continued to focus efforts in in strengthening Guinea-Bissau's health system, with an emphasis on primary healthcare (PHC) to improve access to quality, people-centered healthcare services. A key achievement was the increase in immunization coverage, with DPT3 vaccine coverage rising to 80 per cent in 2024, reflecting substantial efforts to restore routine immunization services combined with outreach and vaccination campaigns. With UN support, a successful integrated measles and rubella campaign reached 91 per cent of the 880,000 targeted children between 6 months and 14 years old in December. During this campaign, Vitamin A supplements were distributed to over 250,000 children aged 6-59 months. Further, 98 per cent of confirmed malaria cases in children were treated by December 2024, while the annual seasonal malaria prevention campaign reached 250,000 children.

The combined efforts to combat malaria over the past years have led to a decrease in malaria prevalence from 6.4 to 3.1 per cent between 2020 and 2023. In 2024, the UN continued playing a critical role in the country's malaria response, testing 395,000 and treating 98,000 cases. In 2024, 99 per cent of suspected malaria cases were tested and 99 per cent of confirmed cases received treatment.

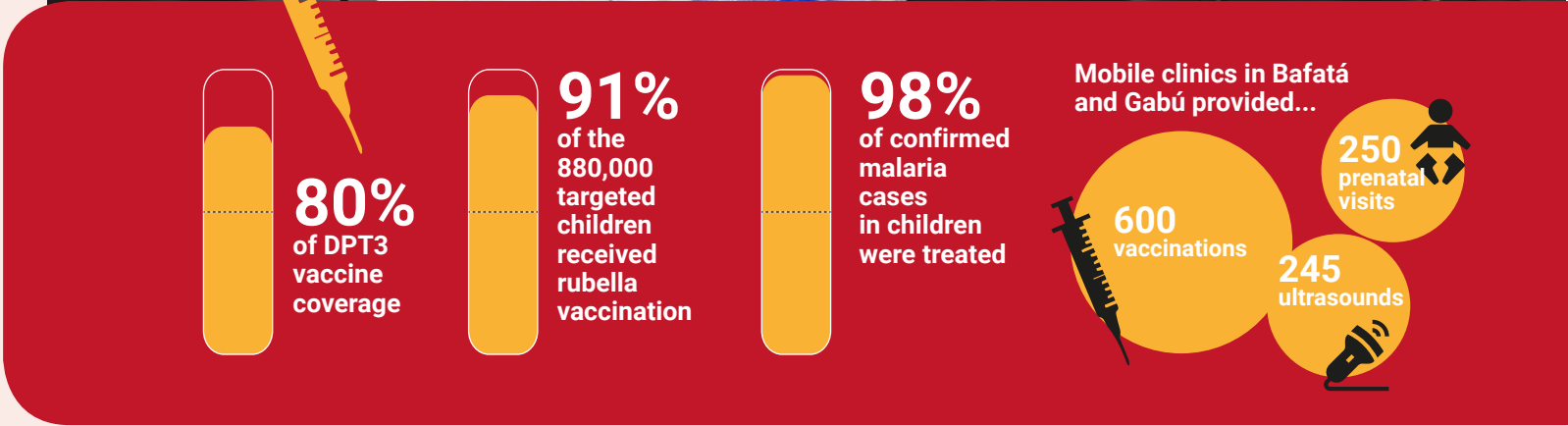
UN agencies continued to actively support the national network of over 3,000 community health workers, who are providing essential services in communities by managing their monthly incentives,

equipment, drugs and trainings. In 2024, community health workers (CHWs) played a critical role in strengthening health services, reaching 85 per cent of households across the country by September 2024, ensuring that 65 per cent of pregnant women received malaria prophylaxis during antenatal visits, and early diagnosis and treatment of diseases like diarrhea and malaria.

Meanwhile, mobile clinics in Bafatá and Gabú brought essential maternal and child health services to remote communities, providing 250 prenatal visits, 245 ultrasounds consultations, and 600 people vaccinated.

The improvement of health infrastructure was also crucial, with new storage facilities for vaccines and essential medicines and an expansion of cold storage capabilities in Bafatá and Buba to ensure vaccine sustained quality. These efforts were complemented by recruitment and training of obstetricians, anesthetists, and technicians in key regions, bolstering the capacity to address maternal and neonatal health issues

The UN has also engaged with government and civil society partners at central and regional level to strengthen health systems and to provide access to quality health care services, through the procurement, distribution and storage of drugs and medical equipment throughout the country. In 2024 construction of the national medical warehouse in Bissau was completed, and the roll out of a logistics management information system for the tracking of health commodities in all 150 health facilities in the country with UN support. In parallel, a comprehensive risk assessment involving 52 stakeholders—including government ministries, UN agencies, and NGOs—identified 26 public health risks, with 10 categorized as high or very high. This exercise underscored the urgency of bolstering emergency preparedness and response capacities. The process laid the groundwork for the planned development of a multi-risk contingency plan, to strengthen Guinea-Bissau's ability to manage health emergencies through a One Health approach.





4,000 new teachers were hired and 180,000 children received school meals

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, to acquire a basic level of literacy, adequate learning outcomes, transversal skills, and lifelong learning opportunities

The UN contributed to the advancement of education outcomes focusing on school enrollment, teacher management, and the quality of education. The UN supported the development and validation of the National Teacher Policy, which has reinforced the Government's ability to manage and deploy the teaching workforce effectively. This resulted in 4,000 new teachers being hired to fill vacancies

in schools, improving access to education for tens of thousands of children, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Supporting enrollment and retention, in 2024, 180,000 children in 850 schools received nutritious meals from the UN led school feeding program. Additionally, the UN supported the introduction of the National Accelerated Formal Education Programme (PEFA), enrolling 492 children, including 256 girls, to accelerate the learning of at-risk youth.

To support a path for education transformation, the UN supported MENESIC in deploying innovative technologies to improve the quality of the preschool sub-sector. Building on the successful piloting of the Brief Early Childhood Quality Inventory (BEQI), in 2024, the new early childhood education curriculum for 5-year-old children in 114 centres, benefitted 4,000 children.

The UN's partnership with the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) resulted in the development of the Partnership Compact, aligning educational priorities and securing funding to further improve Guinea-Bissau's education system. The integration of Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) initiatives, including radio campaigns and community mobilization, played a key role in reducing dropout rates and promoting school attendance.

One Shot, Two Vaccines: Protecting Guinea-Bissau's Children Through Immunization

Vaccination campaign against Measles and Rubella is reaching every child in Guinea-Bissau thanks to mass social mobilization in 10 days

"Mothers, don't let your children fall sick. Vaccinate them", says Salimatu Mara. The 51-year-old mother delivers a heartfelt speech during the launch of the national vaccination campaign against measles and rubella, sharing an important message to all parents.

The vaccination campaign against Measles and Rubella in Guinea-Bissau aims to protect nearly 900,000 children through a 10-day nationwide effort that includes social mobilization, music, dancing, and theater performances.

Achieving this requires a collaborative effort involving several partners: GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, as the main donor, Plan International, the World Health Organization and UNICEF, which was responsible for the delivery of more than one million doses of Measles-Rubella vaccines to the country, through UNICEF Supply Division. Together, the partners are working alongside the government, through the Ministry of Public Health, to effectively protect every child in Guinea Bissau against preventable diseases.

The last national measles vaccination campaign was in 2019. Since then, the country has faced two measles outbreaks, in 2021 and 2022. Measles is one of the most contagious diseases, with the potential to cause severe complications such as pneumonia, blindness, or even death, particularly among under 5 children. The vaccination campaign against Measles and Rubella in Guinea-Bissau aims to protect nearly 900,000 children through a 10-day nationwide effort that includes advocacy social mobilization, music, dancing, and theater performances.



Salimatu proudly lines up her children to be the first to get immunized. Her youngest daughters, Katia and Aissatu, aged three and four, took Vitamin A drops and Albendazole tablets without hesitation. With a single shot, her daughters are now protected from two life-threatening illnesses. One shot, two vaccines.

Building trust within the community is a vital part of the campaign, explains 49-year-old nurse Segunda Indjucan. She has observed that communities are far more receptive when they recognize and trust the vaccination teams. Segunda believes including community health workers as mobilizers in vaccination campaigns has been a game-changer.

By providing accurate information and raising awareness about the severe effects of measles and rubella, as well as the benefits of vaccination, these community health workers help to dispel myths and counter rumors. *"One of the most common rumors in communities is that girls who are vaccinated become infertile",* which is not true, explains Maria de Jesus Vieira, a 59-year-old nurse. She emphasizes the importance of communication, including explaining the potential side effects of vaccines, to prevent the spread of misinformation.

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 emergencies

The development of a resilient social protection system took a significant step forward in 2024 with the successful validation and adoption

of the National Social Protection Policy, costing and funding mechanism and the development of roadmap for the establishment of the national social registry approved by the council of ministers led by the president of the republic. This policy provides a robust legal framework for expanding non-contributory and contributory social protection programs, with a focus on the most vulnerable populations. In collaboration with key stakeholders including UN agencies, 10,500 individuals received three rounds of cash transfers through the mobile money delivery mechanism, targeting families facing extreme poverty.



10,500
individuals in
extreme poverty
received three
rounds of cash
transfers via mobile
money under Guinea-
Bissau's new Social
Protection Policy



7 solar-powered
water systems
served over 5,000
people

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 (ODF) status, via scalable service delivery models linked to markets

In 2024, efforts to improve housing and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services in Guinea-Bissau focused on building resilient infrastructure. An important achievement was the completion of 7 solar-powered water systems that provided clean water to over 5,000 people. Additionally, 13 schools

received new sanitation facilities, including gender-transformative latrines, which improved hygiene conditions and increased school attendance, particularly for girls. The UN's Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiatives reached 49,800 individuals, out of whom 15,500 lived in communities declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, thus contributing to better hygiene practices and overall public health.

Output 3.5

National institutions have 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

Addressing malnutrition remained a critical focus, with the UN and its partners providing nutrition support to 52 health facilities across Guinea-Bissau. In 2024, 1,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were treated. Efforts to prevent chronic malnutrition were also significant, with 44,600 children receiving 450 tons of nutritious food during the food scarcity period through nutrition support approach. A strategic partnership between the UN and the Ministry of Health helped integrated nutrition services with broader health and WASH services, ensuring that nutrition interventions were supported by improved water and sanitation infrastructure.

1,000 children with severe acute malnutrition were treated and 44,600 received 450 tons of nutritious food



59,000 people were mobilized to end FGM and child marriage, and over 700 child protection cases were managed

Output 3.6

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

Child protection and gender equality initiatives emphasized system strengthening and social mobilization. Through innovative social behavior change programs, and other interventions, the UN supported the mobilization of 59,000 people to end FGM and child marriage, resulting in 127 communities from high prevalence regions publicly declaring the progressively abandonment of female genital mutilation, child marriage and other gender-based violence practices.

Additionally, the National Child Protection Case Management System was strengthened, resulting in seventy-two child protection service providers, including 32 from the health social services reporting and managing over 700 child protection incidents. This system will continue to be a critical tool for improving the welfare and safety of children across Guinea-Bissau.



2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2024, partnerships drove Guinea-Bissau's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UN worked closely with the government, civil society, academia, think tanks, parliaments, the private sector, international financial institutions, and bilateral and multilateral partners. These partnerships helped to deliver results—advances in governance, expanding economic opportunities, strengthening climate resilience, and improving access to justice, health, and education.

The UN worked with the government and civil society to promote inclusive governance. Citizen engagement increased, especially among women, youth, and marginalized groups.

The One SDG
Tabanca at a Time
project helped over
2,700
people gain access
to sustainable
energy



The UN partnered with the private sector and development agencies to drive economic growth. The KAU CRIAR entrepreneurship program trained 201 entrepreneurs, providing business skills and access to microfinance. The One SDG Tabanca at a Time project helped over 2,700 people gain access to sustainable energy and training in agriculture and small businesses, strengthening local economies. Key partnerships were forged with local and international organizations for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

Through coordinated efforts with the government and donors, the UN helped implement a National Social Protection Policy, expanding support for the most vulnerable. The UN further supported the government to mobilize funding from the African Development Bank to implement priority interventions for a shock-responsive social protection system in Guinea Bissau.

By bringing together governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector, Guinea-Bissau made significant progress toward achieving the SDGs. These efforts demonstrate that when stakeholders work together, mobilize resources, and align strategies, transformative change is possible.



2.4

UN coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency

In 2024, the UN Country Team in Guinea-Bissau continued to take concrete steps to operationalize the UN development system reform. Progress was gradual but noticeable, particularly in fostering a more joined-up approach to delivering on the Cooperation Framework. While challenges remain in harmonizing planning and operations, the tailored configuration of the UNCT—with a mix of resident, hybrid, and non-resident entities—allowed the UN to maintain a presence across priority areas without overstretching resources.

The extension of the 2022–2023 joint workplans into 2024 ensured continuity and provided a common framework for coordination across the three Outcome Groups. While meetings were not held monthly, Outcome Groups convened regularly enough to allow for joint planning, updates, and adjustments throughout the year. These platforms strengthened information sharing and helped agencies identify complementary entry points, though documentation and follow-up remain areas for improvement. A key milestone was the joint performance review held with national counterparts in December, which provided an opportunity to reflect collectively on progress and identify gaps in implementation.

Collaboration on communications also gained traction, particularly through joint efforts around the International Day of Peace. Videos were produced with Bissau-Guineans from across the country sharing what peace means to them. A coordinated campaign involving multiple UN entities, national partners, and civil society drew attention to local peacebuilding efforts and highlighted the UN's support to national dialogue and inclusion. Joint initiatives like this one helped raise visibility of the UNCT's collective identity.

Operational integration remains an area with potential for further development. Although discussions on shared services—particularly in ICT and procurement—continued, progress has been made as UN agencies were able together to achieve USD 157,295 in cost avoidance, surpassing the annual estimate of USD 103,976. Nonetheless, some ad-hoc cooperation around facilities and logistical support hinted at opportunities for future efficiency gains under the Business Operations Strategy.

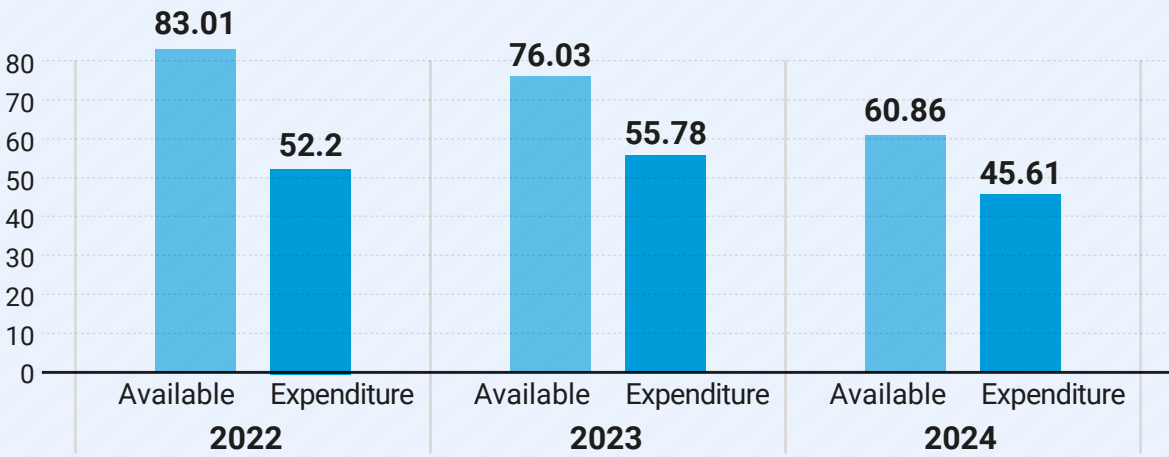


2.5

Financial overview

In 2024, the UNCT was able to mobilize \$61 million and incurred \$46 million in expenses.

Funding Framework 2022 - 2024 USD million



How the UN Contributes to the SDGs %



3 UNCT Key Focus for 2025

In 2025, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Guinea-Bissau will prioritize several key strategic initiatives aligned with national priorities, emphasizing support for major national processes and high-impact interventions. A key area of support will be the successful completion of the national census, a critical activity that will significantly inform the development of the next National Development Plan (PND) and underpin evidence-based policymaking for years to come. The UNCT will continue to provide substantial technical, logistical, and capacity-building assistance to ensure comprehensive and reliable data collection and integrated planning with support to the preparation of the next National Development Plan.

The UNCT will also prioritize support to rule of law and security, notably to combat illicit trafficking and promote human rights, recognizing these as foundational elements for sustainable peace and development. The UN will build on existing momentum and partnerships. Key actions will focus

on strengthening institutions of justice, expanding access to legal services in underserved regions, addressing trafficking and human rights violations, and supporting the development of community-based security initiatives that are inclusive and gender-sensitive.

The UNCT will intensify efforts to significantly improve maternal and child health and education outcomes, emphasizing expanded access to primary healthcare, strengthened health system capacities, and increased vaccination coverage across the country. Ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare and education services will remain at the forefront of our commitment to leave no one behind. Key results will include the expansion and quality enhancement of health services, routine immunization coverage, and nutrition interventions. Educational initiatives will emphasize equitable access and quality improvements, bolstered by policy alignment. Efforts to scale up WASH infrastructure, nutrition support, and protection against GBV and

harmful practices such as FGM will continue, driving transformative improvements in community well-being.

A significant focus will also be placed on transforming food systems to enhance agricultural productivity, resilience, and sustainability. Efforts will target smallholder farmers, women, and youth, with initiatives aimed at promoting climate-smart agricultural practices, diversifying rural economies, and improving food and nutrition security nationwide. The UNCT will focus on delivering tangible results through strategic support for the private sector, especially smallholder farmers and micro-enterprises through business incubation, capacity building, and climate-smart technologies, will remain crucial for inclusive economic growth and resilience.

To enhance effectiveness, the UNCT will intensify efforts to ensure improved inter-sectoral coordination, strengthen joint monitoring frameworks, and leverage the census and other upcoming data collection exercises to drive evidence-based policymaking. Resource mobilization strategies will focus on broadening and deepening partnerships, especially with international financial institutions and private sector actors, to secure sustainable funding for priority programs.

In terms of operational efficiencies, the UNCT will continue to act on the recommendations of the December 2024 UNCT Retreat, where operational improvement was a central focus. Guided by a collective commitment to “Deliver as One”, the UNCT agreed to pursue a more cohesive, cost-effective and sustainable operational model. This includes steps toward a One UN House by 2030, the adoption of shared services such as internet, strengthened facility management, car-pooling and energy-efficient infrastructure. These actions, coupled with harmonized communications with the Government and joint planning systems, are expected to reduce overheads and channel more resources toward impactful programming.

Finally, recognizing 2025 as the penultimate year of the current UNSDCF cycle, the UNCT will focus strategically on consolidating results achieved thus far while preparing critical foundations for the next programming cycle. This pivotal year will involve drafting a new Common Country Analysis (CCA) strongly informed by an assessment of the situation of women and girls and an updated conflict analysis, conducting the evaluation of the ongoing UNSDCF, and setting the roadmap for the next UNSDCF. These processes will be significantly informed by the national census, and next NDP. This strategic focus will ensure continuity and sustainable impact as we collectively advance Guinea-Bissau’s national development vision, with a focus on leaving no one behind.



List of Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
BEQI	Early Childhood Quality Inventory
CAJ	Access to Justice Centers
CHW	community health work
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GASP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GPE	Global Partnership for Education
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MSME	micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODF	Open Defecation Free
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMVG	Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Gambie
OMVG	Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Gambie
PEFA	National Accelerated Formal Education Programme
PND	National Development Plan
SBC	Social and Behaviour
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCT	United Nation Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSDCF	United Nation Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNPFB	United Nations Peacebuilding Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization



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