



Country card

# Guinea-Bissau (ACO Programme)





# HI's team and where we work

There are 4 staff members on HI's team in Guinea-Bissau.

## Guinea-Bissau





# General country data

## a. General data

Country	Guinea Bissau	Neighbouring country Senegal	France
Population	1,920,922	16,296,364	67,059,887
HDI	0.461	0.514	0.891
IHDI	0.288	0.347	0.809
Maternal mortality	900	430	10
Gender development index	X	0.87	0.98
Population within the UNHCR mandate	4,850	14,359	368,352
INFORM Index	4.8	4.6	2.2
Fragile States Index	92.9	74.6	30.5
GINI Index	50.7	40.3	31.6
Official development assistance received	152.37	991.59	0

## b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Ratified in 1997
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Ratified in 2008
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ratified 2010



### c. Geopolitical analysis

Guinea-Bissau is a West African country on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, bordered to the north by Senegal, and the east and the south by the Republic of Guinea. Guinea-Bissau covers an area of 36,120 sq.km, of which 28,000 sq.km of land and 8,120 sq.km of sea. The main cities are Bissau (the capital), Cacheu, Bafata and Gabu.

José Mario Vaz was elected president on 13 April 2014, marking a gradual return to constitutional order. After a long political crisis between the PAIGC and President Vaz lasting almost three years, José Mario Vaz successfully appointed a new prime minister, Aristide Gomes, in April 2018. The parliamentary elections in March 2019 were won by PAIGC and its allies. The ECOMIB (the armed forces of the CEDEAO) left the country in July 2020.

Trafficking in wood, drugs, weapons and other items is widespread in Guinea-Bissau. This activity has long been a cause of political instability. It has been less visible since 2012. Trafficking is made easier by the proximity of Casamance in southern Senegal, the scene of armed conflict for more than thirty years.

Political instability has had a serious impact on the Guinea-Bissau economy. The primary, tertiary and secondary sectors accounted respectively for 49%, 38% and 13% of GDP in 2013. The country's growth is driven by the food-producing agricultural sector and cashew nut production, which remains the cornerstone of the economy. This economic concentration has a direct impact on the inclusion and food security of the poorest members of the population. The secondary sector suffers from a lack of infrastructure, particularly outside the capital. The tertiary sector is based on trade and public action.

According to the population and housing census (RGPH) conducted in 2009, out of a population of 1,449,230, 13,590 people had a disability, equivalent to 0.94% of the resident population, of whom 53.9% were men and 46.1% were women. This highly conservative estimate is due to a lack of trained census staff. It remains difficult to evaluate the actual percentage of people with disabilities living in the country. Most people with disabilities recorded in the census live in rural areas (59.4%) compared with 40.6% in urban environments.

As a result of past conflicts in Guinea-Bissau, weapons circulate in large numbers and each household owns at least one firearm. Initiatives taken under the “Peace Building Fund” programme, which aims to reduce the number of weapons in circulation, have so far not produced tangible results. A national commission on the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) has struggled to reform the



security sector, especially in the field of coordination, the promotion of SALW best practices, community mobilisation, and advocacy actions targeted at the civilian and military authorities.

Guinea Bissau is at risk from natural disasters caused by floods on low-lying land, which threaten to reduce the amount of land available to grow rice and vegetables. Rising sea levels and the lack of anti-salt dikes also threaten the country's mangrove crops. Cashew nut yields, the country's main source of wealth, could be hit by phytosanitary risks and a reduction in farmland caused by climate change.



# Summary of HI's work in the country

HI worked in Guinea-Bissau from 2000 to 2006. It initially provided functional rehabilitation services and set up an orthopaedic-fitting centre. It also promoted the economic inclusion of people with disabilities and campaigned against mines and explosive remnants of war.

When HI returned to Guinea-Bissau in 2015, its work focused on HIV and disability, strengthening the civil society sector and the promotion of inclusive education. The organisation now implements these activities in the regions of Bissau, Cacheu, Oio, Bafatá and Biombo.



# Current projects

Sectors where HI implements projects, focusing on beneficiaries and partners

Main sectors	Project goals in the sector	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries at the end of the project	Partners	Location	Project start and end date and donors
<p><b>Social &amp; Inclusion</b></p> <p>Removing obstacles to education: Promote inclusion through school canteens</p> <p>Educação Sem Barreiras: Educar para incluir, Incluir para educar</p>	<p>Improve conditions for care-managing children with disabilities through school canteens. Raise awareness of disability, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, inclusive education and Covid-19 prevention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce and broadcast radio messages in different languages and sign language material on disability, inclusive education and Covid-19 prevention; a video to raise awareness of disability, international conventions and the right to education.</li> <li>• Assess the situation in school canteens and their accessibility practices and the needs of children with disabilities identified</li> <li>• Provide actors with recommendations and suggest specific improvements in eight school canteens assessed</li> <li>• Train the Office of the Director-General for Inclusive Education in inclusive education</li> </ul>	<p>Personalised support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Director-General and 3 Technicians from the Office of the Director-General for Inclusive Education (training and international study visit)</li> <li>• students in 23 project schools (some 7,000 children)</li> <li>• 150 children with disabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23 communities</li> <li>• Population of national regions</li> <li>• 150 communities of children with disabilities</li> <li>• 7,000 students</li> <li>• 23 schools in the regions of Cachéu and Oio (improving access to school canteens)</li> <li>• 150 children who have benefited from school support</li> <li>• 50 children who have benefited from personalised support adapted to their disability or challenges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of National Education - Office of the Director-General for Inclusive Education</li> <li>• Office of the Director-General for School Canteens</li> <li>• Disabled people's organisations</li> </ul>	<p>Community of Cachéu, Oio and national coverage</p>	<p>06.2021 – 04.2022</p> <p><b>World Food Programme (WFP)</b></p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify children with disabilities and parents and guardians with disabilities based on vulnerability screening preparatory to direct assistance actions</li> <li>• Ensure the continuous follow-up of children with special education needs in conjunction with parents, educators and communities through a system of scoring and individual support</li> </ul>					
<p><b>Social &amp; Inclusion</b></p> <p>Removing obstacles to education: Promote national inclusive education</p> <p>Educação sem Barreiras: Promoção Nacional da Educação inclusive</p>	Develop and align the inclusive education strategy with national education plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform an assessment with actors on the cross-disciplinary integration of inclusive education into the national education system</li> <li>• Drive the development of a national inclusive education strategy and a budgeted action plan approved by the Local Education Group</li> <li>• Train the team from the Office of the Director-General for Inclusive Education and transfer their skills to all regional education directors</li> <li>• Prepare a project on each inclusive and quality education stage by analysing its adaption process</li> <li>• Present a concept paper on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 officers from the Office of the Director-General for Inclusive Education</li> <li>• 9 regional directors of education</li> <li>• Indirect/long-term: national level (students, including children with disabilities, education teams and education actors)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 officers from the Office of the Director-General for Inclusive Education</li> <li>• 9 regional directors of education</li> <li>• Indirect/long-term: national level (students, including children with disabilities, education teams and education actors)</li> </ul>	Ministry of National Education - Office of the Director-General for Inclusive Education	Technical assistance to the government - national coverage	06.2021 – 01.2022 <b>UNICEF</b>





		<p>inclusive and quality primary education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compile and analyse data on inclusion in target schools at each of the three project stages and share a report with key education actors</li></ul>					
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# Donors

<p><b>World Food Programme (WFP)</b></p>  The logo for the World Food Programme (WFP) features a blue laurel wreath. Inside the wreath, a hand is shown holding a bundle of agricultural products, including a corn cob and wheat stalks. The letters 'WFP' are positioned above the hand.	<p><b>UNICEF</b></p>  The UNICEF logo consists of the word 'unicef' in a lowercase, blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a circular emblem featuring a globe with a mother and child in front of it, all enclosed within a laurel wreath.
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