

Country Brief

GUINEA-BISSAU

2023

A better quality of life for
all in an urbanizing world



A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL IN AN URBANIZING WORLD

We promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.



UN-HABITAT

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Bissau
November 2021
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URBAN CONTEXT

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau is located in the western coast of Africa, bordered in the north by the Republic of Senegal, east and south by the Republic of Guinea and west by the Atlantic Ocean. The Guinea-Bissau is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) that is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. It is on the list of least developed countries, marked by political and governmental instability. In recent years, the country has experienced relative political stability and renewed confidence from the international community.



Urban

Urban population² (2021): 45%

Urban growth rate² (2015-2020): 3.41%

Population living in slums² (2020): 61%



Access of Services

Access to electricity⁸ (2020): 33.3%

Access to safely managed sanitation services⁹ (2020): 12%

People using safely managed drinking water services⁹ (2020): 24%



Socioeconomic

Human Development Index value³ (2021): 0,483 (low)
(177th of 191 countries)

Inequality-adjusted HDI³ (2021): 0,306 (low)

Youth population⁴ (16-30 years old): 50%

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)⁵ (2021): 1.64 billion

GDP⁵ growth (2021): 3.8%

Unemployment rate⁶: 3.7%

Population multidimensionally poor⁷ (2022): 64.4%



Environment

CO2 emission¹⁰ (2019): 0.2 metric tons per capita.

Forest area¹¹ (2020): 70.4 %.

Population threatened by sea level rise¹²: 70%.



1. United Nations Population Division. World Population Prospects: 2022 Revision
2. United Nations Human Settlements Programme - UN-Habitat
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4. UNDP. The COVID-19 Data Futures Platform.
5. World Bank national accounts data, 2021.
6. The World Bank Data, 2021.

7. UNDP. Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022.
8. World Bank Global Electrification Database, 2020.
9. WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene <washdata.org>.
10. Climate Watch. 2020. GHG Emissions. Washington, DC: World.
11. Food and Agriculture Organization – FAO.
12. The World Bank, 2021.



Validation Event in Quicet - Biombo Region
May 2023
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UN HABITAT IN GUINEA BISSAU

Since 2015, UN-Habitat provides technical assistance to national, regional and local governments of Guinea-Bissau, as well as other relevant stakeholders, on policies, plans and strategies, as well as operational activities, related to housing, sustainable urban development, slum upgrading, urban resilience for climate change and demarcation of community lands. To ensure a coordination of efforts with a view to making their implementation feasible, the programme established along with the government, via its main counterpart – the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Urbanism (MOPHU), a Memorandum of Understanding and to be operationalized by a Habitat Country Programme Document entailing three main axes of action:

AXIS I: Support to the strengthening of the legal and institutional framework and preparation of strategic and urbanistic instruments for sustainable urban development.

AXIS 2: Improving informal settlements and promoting more inclusive and equitable urban development through the development of infrastructure and urban basic services.

AXIS 3: Transforming the cities of Guinea-Bissau into green urban centres that are resilient to the effects of climate change and other crises and disasters.



Our Thematic Focus

We contribute to the achievement of sustainable urban development in Guinea Bissau through the following areas:



Urban planning, urban design and land use planning

This topic is about future planning of land use for sustainable development. These policy instruments have contributed to increased coordination between public and private institutions, NGOs, etc. in their implementation.



Urban legislation, land and local governance

This topic involves the development of legislation and capacity building of government representatives. UN-Habitat's actions have contributed to the strengthening of the regulatory legal framework and more efficient, inclusive and secure land governance.



Urban Economics

This topic is about the development of the urban economy. UN-Habitat's actions in the country have contributed to the development of the economy and job creation.



Basic urban services

This topic refers to the development of basic services, especially in sanitation. UN-Habitat's actions have contributed to the improvement of these services in the cities: Sao Domingo, Mansoa, Cacine and Bubaque.

Our Thematic Focus

We contribute to the achievement of sustainable urban development in Guinea Bissau through the following areas:



Risk reduction and rehabilitation

This topic is the development of Local Resilience Plans. The Plans developed in a collaborative way contribute to the strengthening of urban resilience.



Research and capacity building

This topic involves capacity building, both for communities, professionals and governments. UN-Habitat's actions contribute to the joint construction of knowledge and also to changing the behavior of the population, especially in relation to solid waste.

cross-cutting issues: Gender, Youth, Climate Change and Human rights.



Demarcations in Quicet, Biombo Region
March 2023
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About our Projects

CECOME MEDICAL WAREHOUSE

Donor: The Global Fund

Project Duration: 2018 - 2023

Project Value: USD 342,542

Location: Bissau

Partners: UNDP

Technical assistance work provided by UN-Habitat to UNDP for the construction of a medical warehouse as a practical exercise for elaboration of guidelines to Building Code revision. This warehouse is being built inside Hospital 03 de Agosto and covers an estimated area of 2,600 m². This initiative aims to strengthen the Ministry of Public Health medicine supply chain capability in regard to acquisitions, transparency, accountability and distribution quality to the final beneficiaries, for conditions like tuberculosis, malaria and HIV.

PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN THE REGIONS OF OIO, CACHEU AND BIOMBO

Donor: Peace Building Fund (PBF)

Project Duration: 2022-2023

Project Value: USD 1.5 million

Location: Cacheu and Biombo Regions

Partners: FAO

The project focuses on dialogue and inclusive mechanisms for the sustainable use and management of land to minimize the potential for land conflict, strengthening the relationship between citizens and institutions. The experience serves as a reference for the elaboration of policy recommendations and the identification of good practices for the institutionalization of the piloted approaches, tools and methodologies, allowing for replication and scaling. UN-Habitat's role in the project entails participatory planning processes at the community level and the elaboration of normative and strategic frameworks in territorial and urban planning.



2nd participative workshop in Quicet, Biombo Region
February 2023

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About our Projects

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN GUINEA-BISSAU

Donor: The Global Fund
Project Duration: 2022 - 2023
Project Value: EUR 250,000
Location: Bafata, Bissau, Bubaque, Gabu and Mansoa
Partners: UNDP

To support national and international institutions with an evidence-based strategy for action in the most vulnerable communities Guinea-Bissau to minimize the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as underlying issues such as poor sanitation, malaria and tuberculosis. Activities include conduction of more than 1,000 surveys in 5 cities in Guinea-Bissau (Bafata, Bissau, Bubaque, Gabu, Mansoa), which will provide the basis for the elaboration of an action plan; and the implementation of interventions in the target communities based on the main issues identified.

PREVENTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES CONFLICTS RELATED TO PASTORALISM AND TRANSHUMANCE IN BAFATÁ AND GABÚ REGIONS

Donor: Peace Building Fund (PBF)
Project Duration: 2023-2026
Project Value: USD 2.5 million
Location: Gabú and Bafatá Regions
Partners: FAO, UNFPA

The main objective of the project is to reduce and prevent conflicts based on natural resources and transhumance in Bafatá and Gabu regions. In particular, the project intends to respond to conflicts on land between farmers and herders and to marginalization of transhumant herders, which have become more prevalent due to climate change effects. UN-Habitat's role includes the establishment of institutional and strategic and spatial frameworks for improved management of water and land resources, and the installation of infrastructure aimed at reducing conflicts between the different groups trying to access these resources.



Sensibilization Team in Bissau
February 2023
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Demarcations in Pelundo, Cacheu Region
February 2023
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Pipeline Project



Improving urban governance and access to basic services for green and inclusive local development in Guinea-Bissau - Nô Misti Disinvolvimentu Local

Donor: European Union (EU)

Project Duration: 2023-2028

Project Value: EUR 9.85 million

Location: Bissau and 5 other cities (to be determined)

This 5-year programme aims to strengthen urban sector governance and the framework for dialogue on inclusive and climate-resilient urban development. The programme entails an ideal combination of policy and normative measures that aim to provide the framework for urban development in Guinea-Bissau, along with capacity-building activities at different government levels and the opportunity to test these policies and capacities in practice via physical interventions in the targeted cities.

Our Achievements

- 1 National Spatial Development Framework elaborated (2021);
- 4 Regional and Local Spatial and Strategic Development Plans developed and published (Bijagós 2030, Bissau 2030 and Bolama and Bijagós plans);
- 6 Resilience Framework of Action developed and published (Bolama, Bafatá in 2017; Bubaque, Cacine, Mansoa and São Domingos in 2022);
- 2 Territorial Development Plans for Pelundo and Quicet Sections (PBF Project);
- 1 Guide for the Demarcation and Planning of Community Lands (PBF Project);
- 1 Regulation of the Law of Territorial Planning and Urbanism in approval process (PBF Project);
- 1 National Urban Forum held (2021) and yearly Urban October activities including Urban Walk, Neighbourhood Cleaning competitions, amongst others.





KobotoolBox training in Bissau

January 2023

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IMPACT STORY

In Quicet Section, Biombo Region, some tabancas (communities) face, besides the lack of infrastructure of water, paving or even energy, a dispute for a certain land. The dispute over land is currently taking place, mostly motivated by the management and use of natural resources. Because it is a territory that does not have its boundaries duly demarcated, that is, there is no administrative recognition of the limits of the section and the tabancas that compose it, the context of the dispute intensifies even more.

Since the beginning of this year, 2023, UN-Habitat has been present both to mediate the dispute and carry out the demarcation of the land, and to promote development through a Territorial Development Plan for the Section. Through a series of participatory workshops, the representatives of the 14 tabancas in Quicet were able to express their greatest needs and desires for the future of the Section, they also mapped the existing roads and facilities and proposed a zoning for the site.

In an interview with some of these representatives they expressed what they think about the project: "I think that UN-Habitat will bring the development for us. For they have already come and helped us do the limitations [...] I think that later on we will not have land dispute problems [...]" said Adriano Nhamo Nanque. Ananias Belé da Silva also commented "The way I see it [...] the UN-Habitat is trying to change the situation in which we are living [...] they can help us in the improvement of our health, roads, school for our children, in the electric power and also drinking water". The Plan provides important and current information for the national and regional authorities to work with for local development, based on what has been defined by the community itself.

Upcoming Events

- Workshop of validation of the Regulation of the Law of Territorial Planning and Urbanism (May 2023)
- Launch of the "Nô Misti Disinvolvimentu Local" Programme (date to be defined - 2023)
- Workshop of validation of the Territorial Development Plans for Pelundo/Cacheu (date to be defined - 2023)
- Validation Event the Action Plan for COVID Response in informal settlements in Guinea-Bissau (date to be defined - 2023)



DONORS AND PARTNERS



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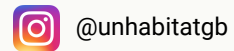
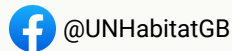
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UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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