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Accelerator Lab Guinea-Bissau

2020 21

Annual Report







Introduction

The Guinea-Bissau (GW) Accelerator Lab team was onboarded in September 2020 and launched on 9th December 2020 with the aim of accelerating development in the country through new and innovative methods.

Our focus revolved around the Frontier Challenge, in which each Lab around the world focused its efforts on solutions. With our Frontier Challenge on the provision of Public Service, most of the work we completed in the first year focused on access to justice and health. Additionally, the Lab has worked with other areas in collaboration with the Country Office (CO), such as communication and digitalization inside the CO, Leadership, Entrepreneurship & Innovation.

Around the world, each Accelerator Labs is composed of the following:

- 1 Solution Mapper
- 1 Experimenter
- 1 Explorer

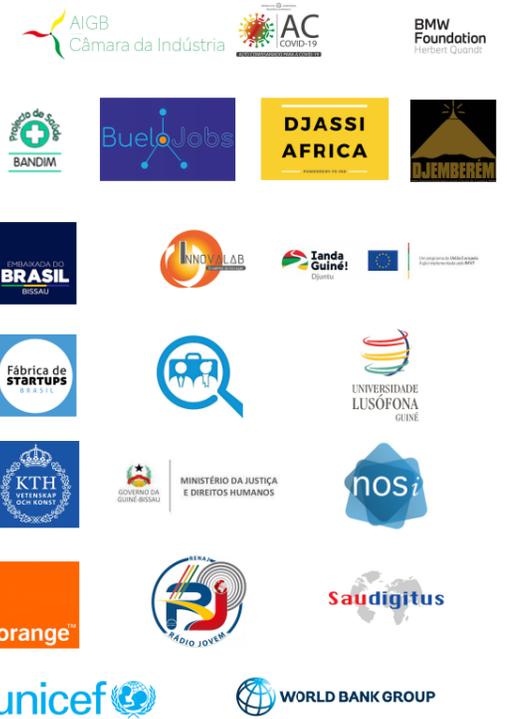
Together we make a trio whose roles are highly dependent on each other. When looking at the role descriptions, it is easy to assume who will be responsible for the execution of tasks, with a theoretical understanding. However, separating tasks is not as simple in practice. In the face of challenges, the roles overlap constantly, and no single person can deal with an issue without the input of the other. For instance, the Solution Mapper cannot map solutions without the explorer's input, who identifies recurring themes in a particular community and how they have been handled in the past. Conversely, the Experimenter cannot first consult with the Solution Mapper before they experiment with possible solutions to be mapped. This is to say, no team member can exist without the other, it is a single body, different organs, but are all important for keeping the body alive.

This report aims to provide an overview of the work we have completed in Guinea-Bissau during our first year, what we have learnt, who we have worked with and what our projections are for the year ahead. The document is backed with pictures we gathered from our cycles, collaborations, and initiatives over the year. If you have any queries, concerns, or areas of collaboration, please contact us via info.acclabgw@undp.org.

Founding investors



Partners



Who are we?

Head of Solutions Mapping



Ana Djú is the Co-founder of Djú&Co, which launched in 2018, a social enterprise that guides and supports the Afro-Lusophone community in the UK. Ana holds a Master's in African Politics from SOAS, University of London, and is an advocate for African self-determination and youth empowerment. Ana is also a One Young World Ambassador, making her part of one of the strongest youth-led networks of change.

As a **Solution Mapper**, Ana's role is to scan the horizon, understand what is being done, and how it can be enhanced to make it sustainable. Ultimately, we, as the Accelerator Lab, want to hand over the baton to the community, the people who understand their limitations and deal with them on a daily basis. The creation of bottom-up solutions is therefore crucial for the sustainability aspect of each cycle. The Solution Mapper not only facilitates communication with the communities and grassroots organizations, but also creates environments where communities feel comfortable to share, create, co-create and lead their own development. The communities are the experts, and they guide us in mapping and revolutionize development through sustainable solutions and innovative ideas.

As a **Solution Mapper**, Ana's role is to scan the horizon, understand what is being done, and how it can be enhanced to make it sustainable. Ultimately, we, as the Accelerator Lab, want to hand over the baton to the community, the people who understand their limitations and deal with them on a daily basis. The creation of bottom-up solutions is therefore crucial for the sustainability aspect of each cycle. The Solution Mapper not only facilitates communication with the communities and grassroots organizations, but also creates environments where communities feel comfortable to share, create, co-create and lead their own development. The communities are the experts, and they guide us in mapping and revolutionize development through sustainable solutions and innovative ideas.

Head of Exploration



Victor Pereira holds a Master's degree in Statistics applied in Health from the University of Lisbon and a Post-graduate in Applied Statistics in Health from the Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Disease. With a background in road

traffic management in a transport and logistics company, his principal assignment was to apply mathematics to determine the most economical route to distribute products.

As the **explorer**, Victor's focus is to use data science to bring scientific evidence that will support decision-making, to continually search for emerging solutions, passing unnoticed and unintuitive,

but also to explore new sources of data on questions of development. By using new sources of data, such as high-precision data-driven map satellites as well as an ethnographic understanding, the explorer will contribute to the development of highly targeted initiatives. But data is just the start, taking decisions and collaborations are the ultimate goals.

Head of Experimentation



Isa da Costa is an architect focused on social and environmental issues in relation to the built environment. She works with participatory methods, co-creation and uses local craft skills and materials-

to design and build in collaboration with local communities. She holds a Master of Architecture and a Masters of Science from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm.

As the **experimenter**, Isa's focus is on building a broad portfolio by exploring and iterating multiple solutions simultaneously, as well as designing tests and prototypes that can teach us whether solutions can work and grow in weeks or months rather than in years. Examples of experiments conducted include; mobile justice, re-modulation of the Notary in the Ministry of Justice, development of an internal general service app, internal communication in the Country Office (Djumbai, What's up Clusters, Sway, Department Directory) among others.





Our Frontier Challenge

Defining the Frontier Challenge

The Frontier Challenge is the major focus of our work during the past year has been defined by the provision of sufficient, affordable, and quality basic services in Guinea-Bissau.

How it came about

The Frontier Challenge can be described as one of the most pressing areas of work in the country. Access to sufficient, affordable, and quality basic services is extremely limited in Guinea-Bissau. It is further impaired due to lack of proper information about processes and mechanisms for those services. Some main drivers are the weak governance systems and political instability, limiting the State's capacity to deliver services. Poor service delivery and lack of an effective and efficient system affects most of the population, and urban and rural communities alike. However, rural inhabitants, especially women and children, are the ones suffering the most. One of the few data sources available is the MICS report from 2018-2019 that indicates that the country does not have a functioning civil registry. The share of population with access to electricity is 46.2% and access to safe drinking water being 66.2%.

How it was applied

In the past year, we worked by joining hands with those who lived and operated closest to the problem, using new and innovative approaches. Some of these methods included: System Mapping, Design Thinking and Collective Intelligence workshops, to co-create solutions for improved access to public service delivery.

By using methods such as participatory interventions to remodulate the notary office in the Ministry of Justice (Moj), experimenting with "Mobile Justice" as a solution for bringing justice services closer to the population, we explored existing solutions for digitization of services at the Moj as well as organizing an entrepreneurship contest to allow Bissau Guinean youth to submit solutions for improved access to public service delivery. Additionally, working in collaboration with the Health and Social Protection Cluster allowed us to develop a cycle, based on improving the number of vaccinations in COVID-19 campaigns.

The Launch



Pre-Launch stakeholder workshop

Spreading the word about the Lab and the upcoming launch event became an opportunity for personal meetings, endless discussions and glimpses of future synergies and collaborations. The dynamic that was built up grew into two stakeholder workshops; one physical and one virtual – as we understood the importance of stakeholder workshop, not just at local level. The physical stakeholder workshop took place on the 25th of November 2020 at the Brazilian Cultural Center in Bissau with a limited number of attendees due to COVID-19 restrictions. The event was opened by the Resident Representative of UNDP Guinea-Bissau, Mr. Tjark Egenhoff, who dove into the background of the Global Lab network, pointing out why there is an urgent need to rethink development for the 21st century. After the presentations, a workshop consisting of a mapping exercise followed, which was attended by local innovators, public institutions, grassroots, and civil society institutions among others. The dynamics of the group led to collective insights about interesting ways people tackle their everyday challenges, as well as ideas on how to improve and create solutions for the future.

The virtual stakeholder workshop was structured in a manner that saw attendance of diasporic organizations, international civil organizations,

UN agencies, innovation hubs and potential future partners. Our colleagues from UNDP as well as social media, LinkedIn and Twitter played a crucial role in reaching out and connecting with unusual partners. We were lucky to have the Accelerator Lab Angola present, sharing their experience from their first year of work as an example of what the Lab can look like when it is in action. The event was interactive, and the mapping exercise was carried out through the online application Mural, a tool that allowed us to gather our thoughts and reflect on them collectively.



Launch event

The Accelerator Lab launch took place on December 9th, 2020, led by the Bissau-Guinean band, Tabanka Djaz at the Hotel CEIBA in Bissau with a limited number of participants due to COVID-19 restrictions. The event had a hybrid structure, both physical and virtual, to reach the widest possible audience. With a wide range of influence in the country and the diaspora, it was imperative to have them open the event and attract their audience to increase the visibility of the Lab.

The launch of the Accelerator Lab was important to introduce the initiative to Guinea-Bissau. It also presented an opportunity to have face-to-face interactions, build synergies with future partners and involve local innovators and grassroots initiatives for future functioning of the Lab. The event was recorded and broadcast live to those interested, including to those in the diaspora as well as those in the country that were unable to physically attend due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The event has had over 564 streams on Facebook, broadcasting the full event here.





100-day challenge: Bias di Soluson

As part of integration of each Accelerator Lab, the Global Team encouraged all teams to conduct a 100-day challenge. This challenge was necessary to implement the methodologies learned during the month-long Bootcamp. Through this Solution Safari, referred to in this document as Bias di Soluson, we traveled the country with the aim of scanning the horizon for areas of intervention by the Lab. Our partner for this trip was the Guinean Association for Promotion of Inventors and Innovators (AGPI) who possess experience in identifying talent in different sectors.

What we did

The Bias di Soluson had two components, namely:

1. Solution mapping
2. Institutional

The trip took place between 8th February and the 31st of March 2021. As we were accompanied by AGPI the first component was more straightforward when it came to finding inventors and innovators and subsequently mapping their solutions.

The second component of this trip focused on working with institutions that provide public services, understanding their challenges, and how the Accelerator Lab could support them to improve the services being provided. Some of the areas we explored with the institutions were focused on health, education, sanitation, energy, transport, infrastructure, waste management, **security** and **access to justice**.

The two areas highlighted security and access to justice as recurring themes during the exploration phase, but also two areas of great concern to the Country Office (CO). They later influenced and informed the cycles on Mobile

Justice, House of Justice and physical changes to the Notary Office.

Additionally, this trip was important to raise awareness on the methodology of the Accelerator Lab, by transmitting its aims, objectives, and bottom-up approaches to local organizations, institutional bodies, and communities outside the capital city.

Where we went

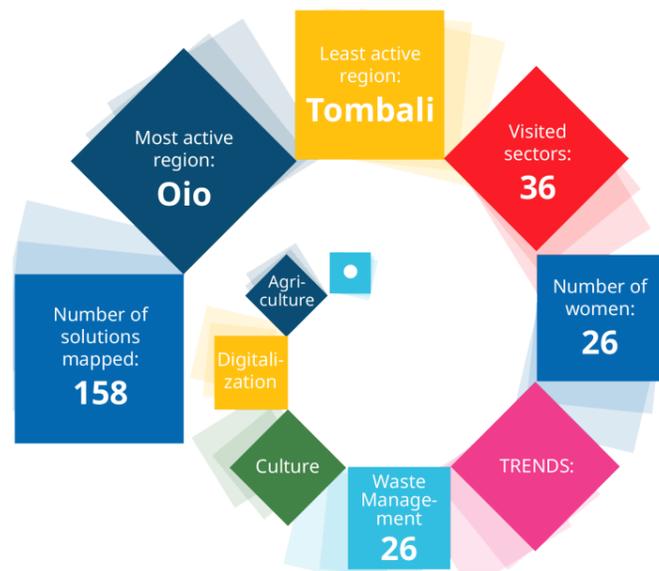
The map below depicts the areas the Accelerator Lab went and the order in which they were visited during the Bias di Soluson.

What we learnt

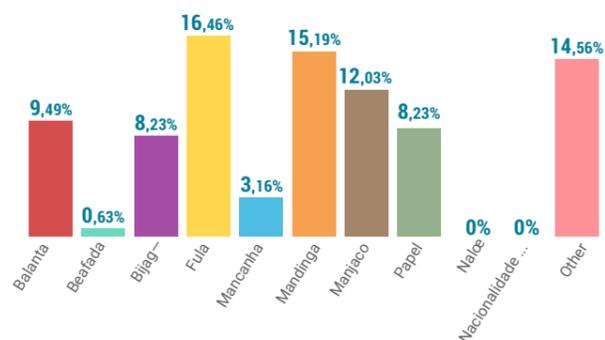
- The size of the country does not allow easy access due to lack of infrastructure to get around.
- The trip should have been divided into smaller periods to allow the Lab to digest information and have some good rest because the trip was physically strenuous on the body and mind.
- Access to justice is available, but is extremely limited across the country, and is influenced by colonial legacies with an advanced state of degradation.
- There is a huge discrepancy in gender representation within the administrative governance across the country, with women in only two of the nine regions.
- Culture (customary law) dictates the way people make their decisions. However, it does not align with the judicial system in place.



Key statistics



Solutions by ethnic group



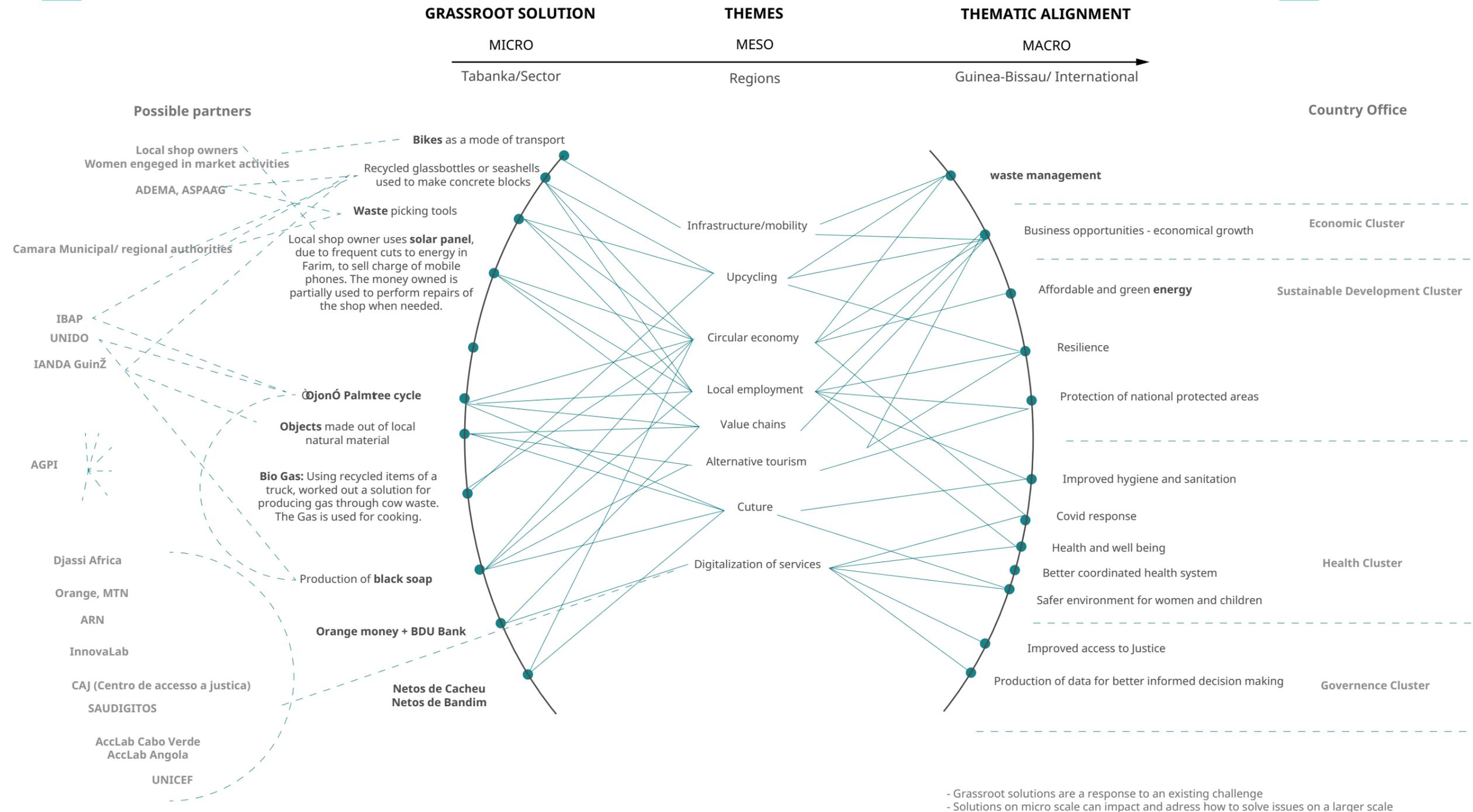
Solutions by education



Solution by sector



Scaling of Grassroot Solutions





Collaboration with Global Team

Winning blog of the month

In December 2020, we were awarded a prize for blog of the month. A blog that focused on the innovation ecosystem on micro and macro scale.



Video presentation of work compilation

In April 2021, we were highlighted in conversation with 13 other Accelerator Labs from Egypt, Georgia, Thailand, Mongolia, Mozambique, Bolivia, Panama, Senegal, El Salvador, Guinea, Indonesia and Belarus. The focus of the conversation surrounded the success of the initiative and various ways forward. The full article can be accessed here: <https://lnkd.in/d/TaftP8> and the video conversation here: [UNDP Accelerator Lab welcomes 93 new talents to the largest learning network in development](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



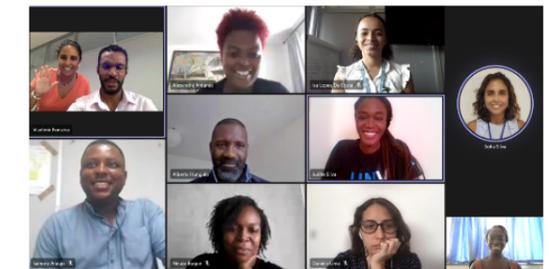
SIDS Bulletin 43

In July 2021, we were invited to present our work during the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) call alongside the Samoa Accelerator Lab, to discuss our interventions at the Ministry of Justice. The full session can be viewed here, read about the session in the SIDS bulletin 43: <https://mailchi.mp/1031a2527366/undp-sids-bulletin-issue-10396445>

PALOP monthly meetings

We took the initiative to bring together all the Portuguese-speaking African Countries (PALOP) Accelerator Labs (Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique) for monthly meetings whereby each Lab discusses the lessons learnt and ways to improve as well as give each other support and share best practices in a safe space.

In October 2021, one of the winners of an entrepreneurship competition led by our Lab in collaboration with Radio Jovem, was featured in a UNCTA publication related to youth entrepreneurship in times of COVID-19. The full publication can be accessed here: <https://unctad15.org/external/news/youth-entrepreneurship-solution-job-creation-guinea-bissau>.



UNCTA Competition

Our Learning Cycles 2020-21

Internal Challenge

Upon onboarding, we were challenged by the Resident Representative (RR) Tjark Egenhoff to use the Accelerator Lab methodology to decipher the main challenges within the Country Office (CO). Many of the challenges were more of perception as opposed to factual, related to the relationships between National and International Staff as well as that of Operations and Programme Staff.

This exploration was essential to our integration in the CO, as we were onboarded during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many colleagues were not in the office and so this was an opportunity for us to meet all our colleagues despite pandemic barriers.

Our main objective was, therefore, to interview as many staff members as possible, to understand how they felt about the different challenges if any, and suggest ways to mitigate them, through creation of solutions. In the end, we designed a qualitative questionnaire with 24 questions where we interviewed 42 out of 95 staff and got to understand their perspectives, likes and dislikes, and whether they believed their opinion mattered in the CO.

Once we concluded the sense stage of analyzing all the information gathered, we proceeded to action a few of the proposed solutions. Below is the summary.

Djumbai

Djumbai is a commonly used Guinea-Bissau term meaning: "to have an informal discussion or a chat."

Djumbai's were formerly used in the office to allow Senior Management (SM) to communicate valuable information or details to all staff. The Djumbai's were formal and counted on extraordinarily little staff collaboration. From the internal challenge, we understood that communication was a huge barrier to overall productivity of the office. Therefore, we leveraged the existing Djumbai's to optimize the way we worked.

Through this intervention, changes to the Djumbai structure were made to allow the following:

1. Creation of room for staff to present the work of their cluster or units

2. Creation of break-out rooms to allow inter-cluster interactions
3. Creation of room for Q&A's
4. Creation of a team building opportunity to allow staff to feel like part of a team
5. Additional of musical components at the beginning of each session

Additionally, the Djumbai removed:

1. Centralization of SM information dissemination
2. Sole representation of programme leading on presentations

Department Directory



The department directory was another initiative born from the internal challenge, now that communication was a major issue in the CO. The aim of the Department Directory was to create a visual apparatus to address COVID-19 barriers, where staff would be able to quickly find and recognize CO colleagues through a single document. The Directory includes:

1. Picture
2. Title
3. Number
4. Email
5. Location (I.e. room number)

Before COVID-19, new staff could be taken to every office by the HR, to get to know everyone that worked in the building. However, since the COVID-19 pandemic, many colleagues have been working remotely, making it difficult for them to identify each other. The Directory has been well received, with all staff members involved in its development. They have participated in giving frequent feedback for updates (ideation) to make the initiative as user led as possible.





The success of the Directory means the Communication and Partnerships teams have taken over alongside HR who will be responsible for making sure all new staff complete the form, ready for Directory update.

What's Up Clusters

A big challenge encountered when synthesizing our findings of the internal challenge were the internal divisions in the CO that were also externally evident to partners. To address this concern, we discussed and brainstormed on ways in which the divisions could be addressed, not only to make it clear to colleagues of what each cluster is up to, but also who they are working with.

Through an exploration stage, we were able to identify several initiatives already in the CO that focused on the dissemination of information and initiatives being carried out, but many did not embrace them.

Eventually, we developed 'What's Up Clusters', a monthly bulletin, whereby a representative from each cluster was appointed as a focal point to ensure information from their respective clusters was included in the bulletin.

We worked very closely with each of the clusters' focal points in the first three months to ideate and make changes so that the bulletin would make sense to everyone. Changes to the structure were made after each meeting to reflect what was discussed.

The bulletin has on average 200 internal monthly views. This is a great way to understand the following:

- a) What each cluster is working on
- b) Who is leading the project
- c) How long the project will last
- d) Who the partners are
- e) Any upcoming events that need facilitation by the communications team"

Handover of Internal Challenge

Ultimately, all the work carried out by the Accelerator Lab within the parameters of the Internal Challenge were tied to a deadline by which they needed to be handed over to the Communications team for action. All the work was handed over to the Communications team in stages. The team worked well in facilitating

conversations, breaking the ice and releasing tension between staff members.

General Services (GS) Application

In 2021, we were approached by the General Services team to support in developing an internal application which would be used to digitize all services provided by the GS in the CO.

The services that were to be digitalized included:

- Room bookings
- Vehicle Bookings
- Field Trip Bookings
- Petrol Usage

This cycle was developed in collaboration with Saudigitos and began with an initial exploration of what the issues were, how they were being addressed, including exploiting any existing solutions. The team showed us an application prototype they had developed, even though there were several issues with the solution, its user unfriendliness being the main bottleneck.

Once the issues were identified, we proceeded to develop an application in collaboration with those who manage the GS in order to develop something that is suitable for their day-to-day interactions, and most important of all, sustainable. Through trial and error for two months, we managed to develop an application that responded to their needs. The application itself is currently in the testing stages, but will ultimately be managed by the GS management team. The app is currently being tested for bug fixes and sustainability in the CO.

Remodelation of Notary

In June 2021, we embarked on a journey with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the High Commission for COVID-19, to explore how Design Thinking can be used as a tool to improve public service delivery. The Notary Office was chosen as a focus area, as it is the busiest service provider for the Ministry of Justice in Bissau.

We used a Design Thinking process, interviewing 255 users and 40 staff. Out of the respondents, 60 percent did not consider the space adequate for its use and 90 percent felt there were no measures in place to protect the spread of COVID-19. Working closely with key stakeholders such as the High Commission for COVID-19 and the student association of Lusófona University, a common understanding was reached, with

challenges and root causes identified through a collective intelligence workshop. Once the main challenge was identified as inadequate physical space and the barriers it caused to meeting the needs of users and staff, possible solutions were co-created alongside staff, users of the Ministry of Justice, representatives from the High Commission for COVID-19, UNICEF (United Nations Children Fund), and the student Association of Lusófona University among other stakeholders.

In addition, to better understand the COVID-19 measures in place at the Notary Office of Bissau, we inquired through two surveys, one completed by employees and another by the users. 90% of users unanimously said there were no COVID-19 preventive measures in place at the Notary Office. Consequently, the Lab contacted the High Commissioner for COVID-19, which was already a UNDP partner in the fight against the pandemic.



Before the remodeling of the notary, 90 percent of the users felt there were insufficient covid measures taken in the space.

The remodeling was carried out through a participatory process using prototyping and iteration promoted by the UNDP Accelerator Lab in partnership with technicians and users of the Ministry of Justice and the Covid-19 High Commission. The new space aims to improve public service delivery to the population, with a consideration of effective service provision and measures to mitigate COVID-19.

On the 13th of December 2021, the Ministry of Justice and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) inaugurated the remodeled Notary Office, aimed at providing better services

to the citizens of Bissau. The inauguration was held in the presence of the Manager of the German Embassy in Guinea-Bissau and the Director-General of the Civil Registry and Notary. The ribbon-cutting event began with a visit to the remodeled space, followed by speeches made by the UNDP Resident Representative, Tjark Egenhoff, and the Minister of Justice, Iaiá Djaló.

The House of Justice: Behavioral study

The Ministry of Justice's (MOJ) new strategy on access to justice is piloting the concept of a new model of House of Justice (HoJ) regrouping all services related to justice: court, civil status, identification as well as legal aid to be set up across the country. This structure aims to facilitate access to services related to justice by all citizens under one single house and strengthen the presence of state institutions in the regions.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Guinea-Bissau supported the development of the prototype for the HoJ to be constructed in districts throughout the country and the construction of the HoJ in Gabu which stood ready in 2019. This infrastructure gathers the Sectoral Court, the Legal Aid Centre, the Civil Registration, and ID emission services with the sole aim of bringing justice closer to the population.

Following this experience, UNDP mobilized funds from the Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to build a HoJ in Buba, in the southern province, that includes all the services (Court, Legal Advice, Civil registry and ID centre) as well as their equipment. This includes five services, that is regional court (not yet open), sectorial court, civil registration, ID services, and Legal Aid Centre. Approximately 30 staff (judges, lawyers, clerks, notary, etc) are working in the building.

The behavioral aspect of this study is the first of its kind in the country and was carried out to measure the effect of the HoJ and the associated behavioral change in users, as well as observe the functionality of the physical and programmatic aspects of the building. For this study, a total of 150 responses were collected using a survey. Similarly, to gather insights on whether the building has generated any impact on staff, 10 Key Informant interviews were carried out with staff from the different justice services provided in the HoJ. Descriptive statistics such as averages, percentages, and outlier analysis changes were used to analyze the data collected.





The study relied on the perception of the behavior of the users of the HoJ in Gabu in relation to a possible replica in Buba. The perception of the users towards the building was mainly positive, but the functionality of the spaces, as well as management, showed room for improvement. Overall, the study demonstrated three main findings:

1. The HoJ users in Gabu reside in urban areas within a seven kilometer radius of the building. A need to reach inhabitants living further than seven kilometers was established, including a similar one for Buba.
2. Conversely, female users only represent 33% of the users in HoJ Gabu (19% in Buba), showing a clear discrepancy and a need to improve the access for women. A similar finding was established for Buba.
3. Those using the HoJ in Gabu have an 88% literacy rate (86% in Buba). Given the context of Guinea-Bissau, these findings show that the other part of the population that is illiterate are not seeking the service.

Mobile Justice

One of UNDP's goals is to facilitate citizens' access to the justice sector. More recently, people travel more than 50 km to the nearest regions in search of some of these services. One of the main findings in the behavioral study on the HoJ in Buba was the need to bring justice closer to the population. In collaboration with its Governance Unit, we embarked on a Mobile Justice learning cycle with a focus on decentralizing service provision to the rural population, as well as facilitating the management of its resources to improve its performance.

In an attempt to minimize the distance between the most vulnerable population and basic justice services, we set up a multi-sectoral team, including the head of Ministry of Justice, director of Legal Information and Consultation Office (GICJU), administrative and technical personnel from Saudigitus, technicians from the Saude Bandim Project (PSB), conservator of CRS Gabu, conservator of CRS BUBA, legal assistance technicians and assistants from CAJ Gabu and CAJ Buba, representative of civil society (Quinara and Tombali), to test Mobile Justice as an innovative solution, and measure the relevance of a mobile unit providing justice services, through data and interviews.

A vehicle (minibus) was used to travel to the most remote and difficult-to-access locations in the regions of Gabu and Quinará, taking on board the Civil Registry and CAJ services.

The test was designed to measure the effect and relevance of mobile justice by comparing flows at fixed and mobile points for the civil registry and the CAJ. In total, 451 people used the civil registration mobile service while 503 people used the CAJ mobile service. In addition, 20 Key Informant Interviews were carried out with mobile service users to collect information on their perception of seeking justice services through the mobile unit.

Test A

Civil Registration had a daily average of six people per day at the fixed point, compared to 65 people per day at the mobile station.

Test B

CAJ had an average weekly attendance of 2 people per week at the fixed service, compared to 488 people per week at the mobile service. It is important to highlight that the CAJ has a service where the population can make complaints; this supports the population in understanding their rights and how to defend them.

The initiative of a mobile unit was well received by the people; there was significant influx from the inhabitants of the villages where the vehicle was parked, as well as the inhabitants of neighboring villages. One of the observations made was that, between the interviews and the number of populations that used the mobile service, there was great interest in gaining access to justice services and that the mobile unit initiative was successful. Most users said they had not registered or used the services before due to the time and resources they would have spent on travel. Due to the economic downturn and lack of justice services, it is essential to have mobile technical teams that make scheduled trips to the geographically isolated population groups to cover the national territory. This test also allowed for a closer relationship between the civil registry services and the CAJs.

Entrepreneurship, Leadership & Innovation

In Guinea-Bissau there is clear evidence of multiple bodies, institutions, groups, and initiatives focusing on the area of innovation, entrepreneurship, and leadership. However,

there is a lack of connection and communication to create a homogenous body with a clear direction. This challenge has been about creating a shared physical and virtual space where stakeholders can come together to create an atmosphere for youth and entrepreneurial development.

We have several partners working in this area and hope to be able to join dots to create the above-mentioned ecosystem. By exploring our Frontier Challenge “lack of basic public services” it became clear to us that the population, and especially the youth, are not able to access information and networks that can support them in exploring and creating activities and job opportunities in entrepreneurship, leadership, and innovation. Furthermore, there are few financial or investment opportunities, platforms (physical or virtual) to encourage these areas which are crucial for sustainable development of the country. To explore further this challenge, we mainly focused on two activities: the Youth in Synergy interchange and the Radio Jovem Contest, as highlighted below.

Youth in Synergy

We organized a five-day interchange called “Youth in Synergy: Entrepreneurship, leadership and change making” in collaboration with our partner European Union through Ianda Guiné Djuntu, bringing together 18 youth (9 girls and 9 boys) from all the regions of the country to curate a space for dialogues, presentations, collective intelligence workshops and co-creation of ideas for a sustainable future.

The activity took place between 21st and 25th June 2021 at the Brazilian Cultural Center in Bissau and aimed to foster and develop entrepreneurial and leadership skills for community action by young Bissau-Guineans, providing a network of partners for the exchange of good practices and learning in fundamental issues for a conscious and sustainable entrepreneurship and community activism. The five-day interchange allowed for mapping of challenges and possible solutions within the area. The 18 youth who participated have now developed small projects to initiate change in their communities.

Radio Jovem Competition

In our exploration of curating a virtual (and eventually physical) space for entrepreneurs, innovators, and inventors in the country, we hosted a competition in June 2021 with a focus on service provision in collaboration with the youth

radio “Radio Jovem”. Three winners presented impressive solutions and received a monetary prize followed by three months mentorship by our partners Djassi Africa, InnovaLab, Fábrica de Start-Ups, Industrial Association of Guinea-Bissau (AIGB), National Association of Youth Entrepreneurship (ANEJ), Buelojobs and Djemberem. The winning solutions were:

- 1) Nailde Lopes - Cantina Nutribem - 2 Million XOF

A hospital canteen, created with the intention to provide food accessibility through food of nutritional quality, based on natural and local products. The Nutribem Canteen will provide services to patients at the National Hospital, Simão Mendes.

- 2) Iero Cande - Technical Centre of Information and Communications (CETIC) - 1.5 Million XOF

CETIC is a professional training centre created in 2018, with the objective of providing computer courses to youth and professionals in the Bafatá Region to reduce computer illiteracy levels and increase youth employment, entrepreneurship, and self-employment.

- 3) Jackline dos Reis - Ambiental Multicolor - 1 Million XOF

A Recycled cartridge company, providing services to public and private companies, schools and universities, that prints documents daily in an ecological way.

We closed this learning cycle by organizing an event, fomenting a space for the growing network of entrepreneurs, innovators, and inventors, to map challenges in the area as well as present possible solutions to the difficulties faced in the Bissau Guinean context. Leveraging the UNDP Na No Mon platform, those in attendance were able to join a community room where they will be able to communicate virtually and raise synergies today or in the near future.





Accelerator Lab Indicators

Guinea Bissau Accelerator Lab Indicators	
Expected Outputs: Year 1	Achieved Results for Guinea Bissau Accelerator Lab
2 new sources of data per year	2 new sources of data used
3 different type of data sources per year	4 Different type of data sources used
20 new potential solutions per lab per year	165 mapped solutions
2 innovation methods per Action Plan	Yes
3 blogs, or other (substantial) media posts published per year	7 blogs
At least 50% of our learning challenges have the public sector or other partner as counterparts	100% of learning challenges have the public sector or another partner
At least one government entity or partner has learned about Accelerator lab methods	At least 20 government entities and partners have learnt about the Accelerator Lab methods
At least 50% of our learning challenges are providing actionable knowledge to ongoing CO projects.	Yes
The lab interacts at least once a week with another lab in the network. 48 interaction per year	Yes
5% of information shared across the network should be methodology, or sustainable development issue and opportunity related.	Yes
The Accelerator Lab Network's work is featured at least 2 times per month in Country Office Social Media channels and tag UNDP Accelerator Labs accounts.	No
The Lab team engages at least once a month across any social media conversation related to the work of the Accelerator Lab Network, from either personal or CO account.	
Connect the Accelerator Lab's publications to local development ecosystem through social media.	Yes
Identify and engage with 2 new relevant local social media profiles of the broader Development Ecosystem.	Yes

Conclusion and way forward

Lessons learnt

Our focus has been around the public service provision of basic services. The first year has helped us understand that these basic services represent the master key to any citizen's entry into integral structures of the society. However, building that bridge has not been an easy task, but the collaboration and commitment of grassroots innovators, bodies and institutions has given us infallible insights into sustainable development in the country.

By continuing to develop our understanding and testing the application of methodologies such as Design Thinking, Collective Intelligence, Prototyping and System Mapping amongst others, will allow us to better integrate our methodologies into the epicenter of development in Guinea-Bissau. Furthermore, handing the baton to those who deal with the problems on a daily basis has taught us not only how to make a project sustainable, but also how much more innovative and creative a solution can become.

Looking Ahead

Over the course of the first year, we have faced challenges that range from COVID-19 pandemic to structural resistance to its methodology. Key aspects of looking ahead in the coming years are:

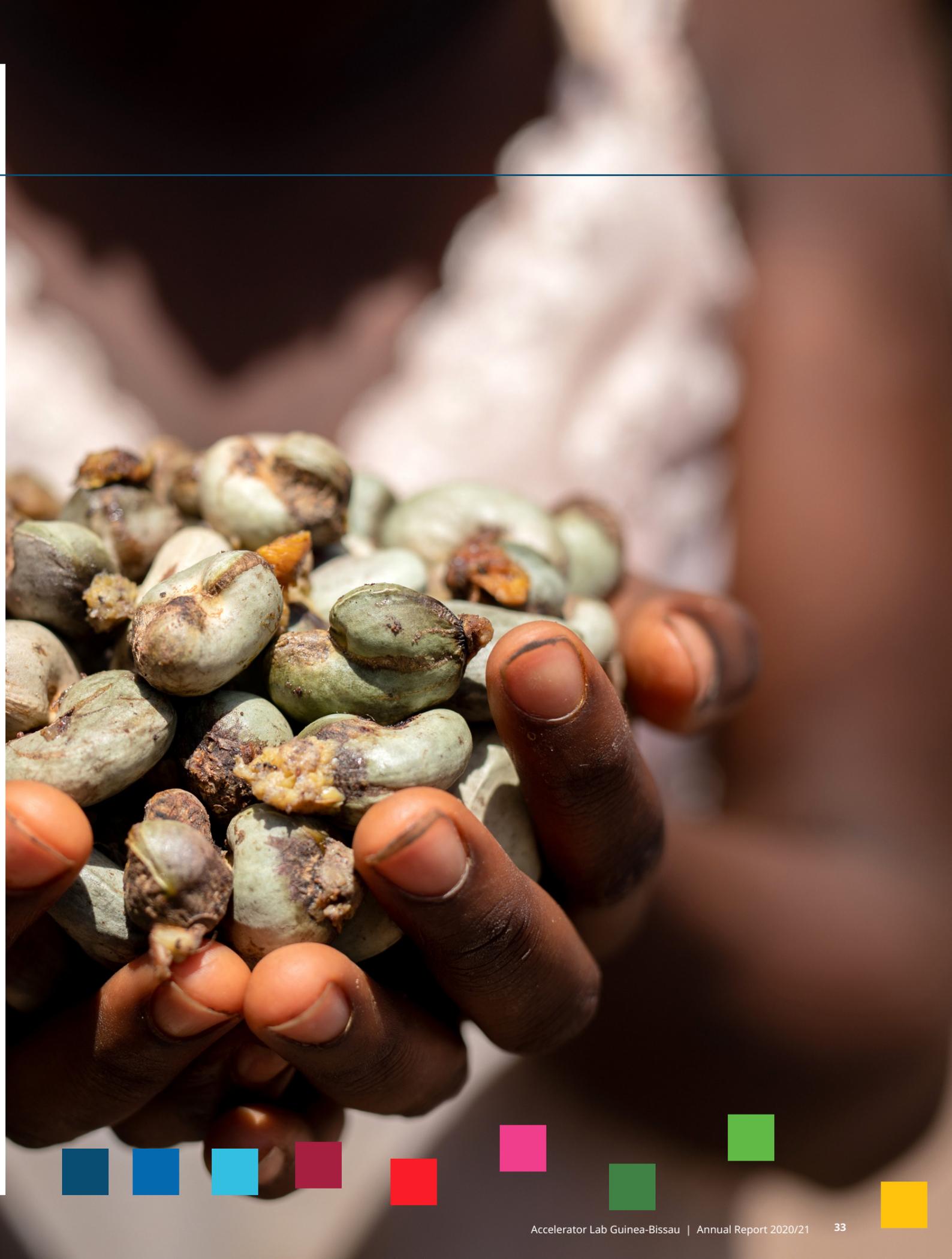
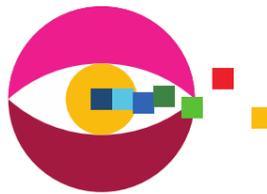
- Collaborating more with grassroots institutions
- Focusing on upscaling and utilizing the private sector
- Create more quick tests and iterations to tailor different contexts
- Documenting our work more through blogs rather than reports
- Creating opportunities for collaborations outside of Bissau
- Keeping an eye out on projects led by CO clusters where the Accelerator Lab methodology can be applied

The main areas of interest for the GW Accelerator Lab this year is on:

1. Analyzing the shortcomings of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, in collaboration with the Health and Social Protection Cluster.
2. Digitalization of services provided at the Ministry of Justice.

3. Understanding how innovation can support the integration of women in society.
4. Working with GEF to understand how sustainability can be created in environmental NGOs

As always, the GW Accelerator Lab looks to find new partners, working with new sources of data and testing new solutions which may come about as a result of explorations that take place during each cycle.







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