

Limiting the impact of COVID-19 through enhanced healthcare and social protection in Guinea-Bissau



FACTSHEET

MARCH 2021-MARCH 2022

BUDGET:US\$1,186,945

KEY PARTNERS: TO BE INSERTED

Objectives

UNDP intends to support the government of Guinea-Bissau to improve health service provision, including the acquisition of personal protective equipment, oxygen, ventilator supplies; support the COVID-19 call centre and step-up efforts for case tracing through a digital app, as well as utilize the JICA KAIZEN methodology to set up and implement a pilot 3 x 6 scheme.

Project Outputs

Output 1: The health system is equipped with the necessary means to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other health crises in a timely manner.

Output 2: The project, in partnership with the government of Guinea Bissau, local authorities and community leaders, will utilize the JICA KAIZEN methodology to pilot a 3 X 6 scheme targeting vulnerable people, whose livelihoods are impacted by the pandemic and their communities. The scheme will capitalize on UNDP's global experience and lessons learnt in designing and implementing 3 x 6 schemes.

Contribution to SDGs

The project will contribute to SDG 1, 2, 3, 6 and 8



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Development Challenges

On March 25, 2020, the first two COVID-19 cases were officially identified in Guinea-Bissau. The prevalence of many diseases and poor infrastructure make the outbreak of COVID-19 a complex emergency for Guinea-Bissau. Low testing capacities and under-resourced hospitals have quickly pushed the health system to its limits.

A significant number of health staff, including all ICU personnel, have been infected, putting strain on the scarce personnel. The capital city Bissau has been the hardest hit. Economic activity is highly informal and substantially driven by exports of raw cashew nuts. State of emergency and lockdowns have negatively affected the annual cashew campaign.

The very limited existence of social protection schemes and depleted public finances leave the government with little ability to provide a safety net for its population or to deliver a stimulus to the economy. Women are disproportionately affected, and efforts made in the recent past to reduce gender inequality are likely to be reversed, as women work substantially in the hard-hit informal sector and confinement measures may increasingly lead to gender-based violence