



GUINEA-BISSAU

2024 IFRC network mid-year report, January – June

15 April 2025

IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF GUINEA-BISSAU



11

National Society
branches



54

National Society
local units



3,250

National Society
volunteers



17

National Society
staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and
environment



85,000

Disasters
and crises



85,000

Health and
wellbeing



289,000

Migration and
displacement



9,000

Values, power
and inclusion



4,000

Data not available at time of publication

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Country | Funding Requirement | 6.8M |
| IFRC Secretariat | Longer-term Funding Requirement | 4.5M |
| | Funding | Not reported |
| | Expenditure | Not reported |
| Participating National Societies | Funding | 49,000 |
| | Expenditure | 49,000 |
| HNS other funding sources | Funding Requirement | 2.4M |
| | Funding | 308,000 |

Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau

Overview

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Funding | 363,000 |
| Expenditure | Not reported |

Funding Sources

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| IFRC Secretariat | 10,000 |
| Participating National Societies | 45,000 |
| HNS other funding sources | 308,000 |

Appeal number **MAAGW002**

*Information on data scope and limitations is available on the back page

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

| National Society | Bilateral Support | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| | Funding Reported | Climate and environment | Disasters and crises | Health and wellbeing | Migration and displacement | Values, power and inclusion | Enabling Functions |
| Italian Red Cross | 49,000 | | | | | | |

Total Funding Reported **CHF 49,000**

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau, a West African country bordering Senegal, Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean, faces significant political, economic and social challenges. Its geographic makeup, including the Bijagós Archipelago with approximately 90 islands, limits maritime transport, restricting access to essential services such as healthcare and education for island communities.

Politically, Guinea-Bissau has a history of instability, with four successful coups and numerous attempted ones since gaining independence from Portugal in 1974. The country remains one of the most coup-prone in the world, with fragile democratic institutions and ongoing political crises, such as the 2022 episode of political violence.

Economically, Guinea-Bissau is highly dependent on cashew nut exports, which account for over 90 per cent of total exports and about 17 per cent of revenue. Around 80 per cent of the population relies on agriculture for survival, but food producers face limited financial and technical support. The private sector remains weak, dominated by informal activities, and less than 10 per cent of the population has access to banking services. Key barriers to economic growth include a severe lack of infrastructure, unreliable energy and transport networks and weak public sector capacity.

Socially, Guinea-Bissau has a young and growing population, with nearly 50 per cent under the age of 17. However, poverty levels remain high, with 64.7 per cent of the population living below the poverty line and 20 per cent in extreme poverty. The country struggles with providing basic services, and weak governance hinders poverty reduction efforts.

Guinea-Bissau is also highly vulnerable to natural hazards and environmental degradation. Its fragile political state and weak infrastructure complicate humanitarian response efforts, making it difficult to deliver essential aid to affected populations. Overall, the country remains one of the most fragile in the region, facing persistent violence, economic hardship, and social instability.

Key achievements

Climate and Environment

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau, in collaboration with the National Civil Protection Service (SNPC) and ECOWAS funding, advanced flood resilience efforts across key regions. It constructed protective belt dikes, installed water management regulators and reclaimed land to safeguard agriculture. Drainage improvements and the distribution of drainage pipes further protected rice fields in vulnerable communities. Additionally, a primary school in Quinara was rehabilitated to support continued education for flood-affected children.

Disasters and crises

To support communities affected by the 2022 floods, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau assisted affected families through shelter, food and health interventions. Families received building materials to restore homes, while households received essential food aid. To prevent disease outbreaks, families were provided with mosquito nets and mattresses were distributed to improve living conditions for displaced families.

Health and wellbeing

In partnership with PLAN International Guinea-Bissau, the National Society contributed to improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in schools under the SQRIBE project. Water points were identified for rehabilitation, while schools received essential hygiene equipment. Additionally, teachers were trained on managing school infrastructure, and awareness campaigns on WASH were conducted to promote better health practices in targeted schools across Bafatá and Gabú regions.

Migration and displacement

During the reporting period, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau provided support to families of missing migrants in the Bafatá region, specifically in Gabú, Cuntuboel and Tabanane, offering guidance and assistance to affected households.

Values, power and inclusion

By mid-2024, the National Society significantly expanded its volunteer network, recruiting new young volunteers in Bissau and additional volunteers across regional committees in Cacheu, Bafatá and Bolama. To strengthen capacity, training sessions were conducted for volunteers in São Domingos, Cacheu, SAB and Bubaque, covering the Movement's principles, the use of the emblem and the Code of Conduct, ensuring a well-equipped and principled humanitarian workforce.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In collaboration with the National Civil Protection Service (SNPC) and with funding from ECOWAS, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has made significant progress in mitigating flood risks and strengthening community resilience. These efforts follow the devastating 2022 floods and have focused on protecting agricultural land, improving water management and enhancing infrastructure in vulnerable regions.

As part of the project, 9,390 linear metres of belt dikes were constructed to protect the lagoon across three key intervention areas: the Cuntum/Bandim agricultural camp in the Bissau region, the agricultural camp in Quinhamel (village center) and Quissete in the Biombo region and the Nan Balanta-Tite agricultural camp in the Quinara region. Additionally, water management regulators were installed in the agricultural camps of Cuntum/Bandim (Bissau) and Nan Balanta-Tite (Quinara), contributing to better flood control and irrigation efficiency.

Nearly 550 hectares of land have been reclaimed and protected, ensuring more sustainable agricultural production for local communities. In the Tombali region, eight communities received 100 drainage pipes to protect their rice fields and floodplains, minimizing the risk of crop loss due to excessive water accumulation. Further efforts in flood prevention and infrastructure improvement included the unclogging and rehabilitation of 1,500 metres of drainage gutters in two districts within the Bissau region.

Beyond flood protection, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau also invested in community resilience by rehabilitating a primary school in the village of Diabada Porto, located in the Tite Sector of the Quinara region. This initiative aims to restore access to education for children in flood-affected communities, ensuring that environmental challenges do not hinder their learning opportunities.

Through these targeted interventions, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau continues to strengthen the adaptive capacity of communities, safeguard agricultural livelihoods, and improve local infrastructure, contributing to long-term climate resilience in Guinea-Bissau.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided support to the National Society in designing programmes that have contributed to the Pan-African [Tree Planting and Care Initiative](#).



For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Guinea-Bissau](#).

Progress by the National Society against objectives

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen community resilience and mitigate the impact of flooding, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau provided targeted assistance to families affected by the 2022 floods in the capital, Bissau. A total of 374 families, comprising 2,618 individuals, were identified and registered as beneficiaries of the intervention.

To support families in rebuilding their homes, 47 households received construction materials, including 8,400 sheets of zinc for roof repairs. This initiative aimed to restore safe living conditions for those whose homes were severely damaged by the floods. Additionally, 1,000 families received food aid, consisting of 1,000 kilograms of rice and 2,000 litres of cooking oil, ensuring immediate food security for affected households.

Recognizing the increased health risks following flooding, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau also prioritized disease prevention and improved living conditions for vulnerable families. A total of 400 households received long-lasting impregnated mosquito nets to reduce the risk of malaria, along with 840 foam mattresses to improve sleeping conditions in affected communities.



Volunteers from the Red Cross Society of Guinea Bissau assisted families affected by floods through provision of shelter materials and essential household items (Photo: Red Cross Society of Guinea Bissau)



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Communities have improved access to affordable, appropriate and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services

In partnership with PLAN International Guinea-Bissau, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has been actively involved in the implementation of the Resilient and Inclusive Quality Education Project (SQRIBE) in the regions of Bafatá and Gabú. This initiative focuses on improving WASH conditions in schools to enhance students' health and overall wellbeing.

As part of the project, a three-day field mission was conducted with two project consultants to identify 10 accessible water points in schools—five in Gabú and five in Bafatá—that will later be reactivated to provide clean and safe water for students. In addition, 56 schools (30 in Bafatá and 26 in Gabú) received essential water collection and conservation equipment, including buckets, bathing racks and faucets, to improve hygiene standards and access to safe water.

To ensure the sustainability of these improvements, 10 teachers (five from each region) received specialized training on the management of school infrastructure and the creation of school management committees. These committees will oversee the proper use and maintenance of water facilities, ensuring long-term benefits for students and staff.

Additionally, an awareness campaign on water and sanitation was conducted in the 10 targeted schools across the two regions, educating students and school communities on the importance of proper hygiene practices.



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points of migration as well as access to durable solutions where appropriate

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has been engaging with the families of missing migrants in the Bafatá region of eastern Guinea-Bissau, specifically in the communities of Gabú, Cuntuboel, and Tabanane to assist affected families more effectively.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC offered technical support to the National Society through the regional migration platform, enhancing its capacity to address migration-related challenges.

The ICRC provided both technical and financial support for Restoring Family Links (RFL) services, enabling the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau to strengthen its interventions.



Strategic and operational coordination

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, agree on common priorities and jointly develop common strategies. This includes addressing issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian acceptance and access, mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging, and monitoring progress. It also entails ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action while linking with development assistance and contribute to reinforcing National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau is part of the four [IFRC Pan-African initiatives](#) focusing on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready and National Society Development. These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau is part of the Red Cross Red Crescent Sahel+ Migration Technical Group, a network comprising the National Societies of Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal, as well as the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as observer members. The purpose of the technical group is to offer a framework for reflection, research, sharing experiences and information to better cooperate on migration issues. The group's main objective is to reduce the vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced persons in the Sahel region, mitigate the risks they are exposed to, address discrimination, and facilitate their inclusion and access to services – in view of building overall resilience.

The National Society cooperates with the IFRC network through different working and sub-working groups, such as the Sahel+ group, the Abidjan commitments for the Association des Sociétés Croix-Rouge Croissant Rouge Francophones, Hispanophones, Lusophones d'Afrique (ACROFA), the National Societies of the African region and as a member of the Community of the Portuguese Speaking Countries.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has established partnerships with, and receives support from the following participating National Societies:

The **Belgian Red Cross** supports the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau in capacity building for disaster response and [cash and voucher assistance](#). Volunteer training in disaster risk reduction and climate change will continue until 2025.

The **British Red Cross** supports recruitment and training of new volunteers, and risk communication and community engagement on disease prevention and potential epidemics. It also supports the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau with training in good hand washing and sanitation practices in local schools and supports the planning of the cash transfer programme.

The **Italian Red Cross** has been supporting a climate mitigation tree planting project until the end of 2022, with prospects for further activities. Other support to the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau may include setting up a volunteer database, management system and related training.

The **Portuguese Red Cross** supports the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau with first aid training.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supports the inclusion of the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles into the education curriculum at primary school level. With Spanish Red Cross support, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has started building water tanks and digging wells to improve access to water in remote communities and schools. Proposals will be presented for the continuation of this project in 2023–2025.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** supports institutional strengthening through the purchase of computers and office equipment for the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau.

Movement coordination

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly-adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC supports the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau through its delegation in Dakar by promoting international humanitarian law ([IHL](#)) and encouraging its implementation as well as in [RFL](#) services.

External Coordination

In line with its [auxiliary role](#), the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau belongs to and participates in different national and regional emergency coordination structures, including the National Civil Protection Service and the Operational Health Emergency Centre. The National Society has been an advisory member of the National Civil Protection since 2011 and actively participates in disaster preparedness and response mechanisms at national level.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau works with various UN agencies (UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO, UNFRA, UN-HABITAT), as well as national and international NGOs operating in the country, as part of its humanitarian mission. A partnership with UNICEF to run an awareness programme on disease prevention and vaccines is currently underway, and Plan-GB is supporting student and teacher training as part of the good school governance programme on risks and disasters.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2024, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau made significant progress in strengthening volunteer engagement. A total of 92 volunteers (41 women and 51 men) were recruited in the Cacheu Regional Committee (Canchungo Local Committee), while 98 volunteers (76 women and 22 men) joined the Bafatá Regional Committee. Additionally, the Bolama Regional Committee welcomed 11 new volunteers (4 women and 7 men).

In the autonomous sector of Bissau, 211 young individuals aged 18 transitioned to the status of young volunteers, further strengthening the National Society's volunteer base.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical support to the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau during its interventions.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress of the National Society against objectives

To enhance understanding of the Movement's values and principles, several capacity-building sessions were conducted. In March 2024, 32 volunteers from the regional committees of São Domingos, Cacheu and SAB received training on the use of the emblem, the seven fundamental principles of the Movement and the Code of Conduct. Additionally, volunteers from four local committees in Bissau participated in a two-day training covering the Code of Conduct, the history of the Movement and the rights and responsibilities of Red Cross members and volunteers.

Further reinforcing volunteer knowledge, 30 volunteers from the Bubaque Regional Committee underwent training on the Code of Conduct and the history of the Movement, ensuring that they are well-equipped to uphold the principles and humanitarian mission of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical support to the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau during its interventions.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2024. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Financial overview:** This overview consolidates data reported by the National Society and its IFRC network partners, as well as data extracted from IFRC's financial systems. All reported figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities. The financial data with a light grey background is solely reported by the National Society, including the funding sources. Financial reporting is often times estimated depending on availability of financial figures, closing of financial periods, and may be incomplete. "Not reported" could sometimes mean "not applicable".
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Guinea Bissau mid-year 2024 financial report](#)
- [IFRC network country plan](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [IFRC Evaluation and Research Databank](#)

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