

Project Information



Guinea Bissau

Some of the reasons why Plan works in Guinea Bissau

- Life expectancy is only 45 years
- A quarter of children under five are underweight
- Only 36 percent of girls attend primary school
- Less than a quarter of the rural population have access to adequate sanitation facilities

Overview of the country

Although Guinea Bissau is rapidly recovering from a bitter civil war, President Joao Bernardo Vieira and his government are finding it difficult to meet many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Eighty-five percent of the population live on less than US\$ 2 per day and life expectancy is significantly lower than the sub-Saharan Africa average.

Eight MDGs were agreed at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000. They range from halving global poverty and hunger to protecting the environment, improving health and sanitation and tackling illiteracy and discrimination against women. Guinea Bissau is finding it particularly difficult to meet the health and education goals, along with reducing gender inequalities. The state is rarely able to pay its public service employees. The 32,000 people living with HIV in Guinea Bissau have limited access to treatment, and suffer from a severe shortage of drugs, equipment and health personnel. However, access to treatment for children is slowly increasing. Maternal and infant mortality rates are worryingly high, and malaria, a preventable disease, accounts for 35 percent of all deaths. Guinea Bissau is also struggling to meet its education targets; only 39 percent of children are enrolled in primary school. In rural areas, a quarter of schools can only offer two years of education. Gender imbalances also persist as 83 percent of women are unable to read or write compared to 50 percent of men.

How you can help

Thanks to our supporters, Plan is working with communities in Guinea Bissau on many projects. Field staff and communities in Guinea Bissau have identified the following project as a priority for additional funding this financial year. With your help, this project will be of huge benefit to communities we work with in Guinea Bissau.

Textbooks and school supplies for non-formal education in Bafata

Education is hard won in Guinea Bissau. Schools lack classrooms, equipment and qualified teachers. As a result, the quality of education is so poor that parents have little faith in the value of learning. Non-formal school can help to ease children back into education. It can also offer alternatives, like vocational training in subjects including carpentry and dressmaking. These lessons are integrated with the regular language and mathematics classes and help to provide a more rounded and practical education. Basic supplies – from textbooks to wood and sewing materials – will also be provided to ensure the children can make the most of their education and realise their full potential regardless of their family's financial position.

This project is integrated into our wider programme work, which addresses the specific needs of children living vulnerable lives in Guinea Bissau. The support these programmes provide is thanks to the generosity of our supporters but with your help we can achieve even more. If you have any questions about our work, or your support, please contact us on 020 7482 9777, or visit www.plan-uk.org

Yes, I'd like to help a Plan project in Guinea Bissau

Please complete and return this form to Plan, 5-6 Underhill Street, London NW1 7HS

I would like to give £_____ (please indicate amount) to help supply textbooks and school supplies in Guinea Bissau (GNB0036)

Sometimes projects become fully-funded, and occasionally circumstance dictates that our priorities change and particular projects may have to be postponed or even abandoned. When this happens, funds may be transferred to other projects.

Please indicate how you would like to pay below:

- by cheque/postal order/charity voucher made payable to 'Plan International UK'. (Please write your supporter number, if you have one, on the reverse of the cheque and enclose it with this form.)
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Please tick here if you would like acknowledgement of your donation.

Thank you for all your support

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