

# GUINEA-BISSAU

## TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Guinea-Bissau is a unitary republic divided into eight regions and subdivided into 39 sectors or municipalities, and an autonomous sector – Bissau, the capital city.<sup>1</sup> Guinea-Bissau has never organized local elections to date and local governments are appointed by the central government.<sup>2</sup>



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).<sup>3</sup>

## 1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Guinea-Bissau adopted a **National Strategy** covering the period 2015-2025 to plan its economic and social development. Guinea-Bissau fully subscribes to the SDGs through this long-term strategy. Similarly, the **National Development Plan (PND 2020-2023)** provides for investments in health, education, the productive sectors and infrastructure, which are the levers for development. In this context, the government is working to align the PND with the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's 2063 Agenda. The Nationally Determined Contribution related to the Paris Agreement shows how the country is adopting climate-resilient development. It is aligned with SDGs 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 17.

### 1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Institutional coordination for SDG implementation in the country includes three levels. A **steering committee**, chaired by the Prime Minister, validates the priorities and alignment of the national development plans with the SDGs and Agenda 2063, and guides the implementation of these plans. It works with the **consultative group** which is the platform for dialogue between the government and technical and financial partners. A **technical committee** ensures the technical validation and the coordination of the priority objectives for sustainable development and the communication of information on the progress made.

### 1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For the preparation and drafting of the VNR, a **coordination committee** was set up including representatives of the Ministries of Economy and Planning, and Foreign Affairs, and representatives of the National Institute of Statistics. This committee was supported by representatives of the United Nations System and a team of consultants. A participatory approach was adopted for the VNR process with the involvement of all government actors, the private sector, civil society and technical and financial partners. The team of consultants and the coordination committee collected data and produced the first draft of the report. The review of this draft counted with the participation of additional stakeholders thanks to several consultation workshops. Workshops were held with civil society in the eight regions and the autonomous sector of Bissau.

### 1.3 MONITORING

Within the framework of the **Strategic Development Plan 2015-2020** monitoring system, the ministries monitored, through focal points, the execution of actions related to their areas of expertise. **Regional planning offices** monitored the implementation of actions at the local level.

The government adopted two National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (SNDS) in 2015-2017 and 2018-2020 to improve the availability and quality of public data. The monitoring of progress towards the SDGs has been limited by the lack of data, its quality and the absence of an appropriate institutional framework. Between 2018 and 2019, there was a sharp decline in the production of data to measure progress. For example, in 2021, no information was available on SDGs 4, 10 and 12.

1. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", [https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance\\_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa\\_EN.pdf](https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf)

2. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", [https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance\\_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa\\_EN.pdf](https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf)

3. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Guinea%20Bissau%20Report.pdf> (2022)

## 2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Local authorities are not elected and their role in SDG localization efforts is restricted. However, the VNR of Guinea-Bissau calls for translating the SDGs into local actions and reinforcing local capacities in terms of participatory planning and financing.

### 2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

### 2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2022 VNR acknowledges that local administrative structures are very weak, with limited operational capacity. The dysfunction of public and private institutions, especially at the local level, has undermined the provision of public services to the population, including education, health, drinking water and sanitation. The 2022 VNR also states that SDG implementation requires the mobilization of all, including local and regional levels.

### 2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

Not applicable.

### 2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

### 2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The financing of the development strategy is mainly based on remittances and Official Development Assistance. To strengthen the financing for the achievement of the SDGs, the government will implement a National Integrated Financing Framework to mobilize all public and private, national and international financial resources. The government aims to build capacity in inclusive and participatory finance for local authorities to support local economic development and improve the localization of the SDGs.

## 3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

**General comments:** Since its independence, Guinea-Bissau has suffered political and institutional instability, with coups, attempted coups and repeated armed conflicts, not allowing economic growth or the establishment of coherent social policies. The VNR process took place in a national and international context marked by profound political changes and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

### 3.2 COVID 19

The COVID-19 pandemic severely affected the country's economy, and exacerbated existing economic and social inequalities. The government turned the crisis caused by the pandemic into an opportunity to restructure its economy through industrial transformation. It launched the Strategy for Development, Employment and Industrial Promotion 2020-2024.

## 4. SDG INDICATORS<sup>4</sup>

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		-
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		-
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		-
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		-
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

4. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database>