



# GUINEA BISSAU

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

23 October 2024

## IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF GUINEA BISSAU



11

National Society branches



54

National Society local units



3,000

National Society volunteers



16

National Society staff

## PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



30,550

Disasters and crises



295

Health and wellbeing



100

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement	635,000
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	
	Funding	116,000
	Expenditure	114,000
	Longer-term	
	Funding Requirement	585,000
	Funding	53,000
	Expenditure	53,000
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement	50,000
	Funding	741,000

### Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau

Overview

Funding 892,000

Expenditure *Not reported*

Funding Sources

IFRC Secretariat 147,000


Participating National Societies 3,000

HNS other funding sources 741,000






Appeal number **MAAGW002**

In addition to: CHF 116,000 DREF Funding

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	People reached with activities to address environmental problems		31,000
Disasters and crises	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	295	
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	250	
	People reached with livelihoods support	295	
	People reached with shelter support	130	
Health and wellbeing	People donating blood	80	
	People trained by National Societies in first aid	100	

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Bilateral Support						Multilateral Support
		Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Through IFRC
Belgian Red Cross								
British Red Cross								
Italian Red Cross								
Portuguese Red Cross								

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

[Guinea-Bissau](#) is among the world's poorest and most fragile countries, bordered by Senegal to the north and Guinea to the south. Its Atlantic coast features the Bijagós Archipelago, comprising approximately 88 islands. With a population of about 1.9 million, the country is marked by diverse ethnic groups, languages and religions, reflecting a rich cultural landscape despite its small size.

The political landscape of Guinea-Bissau has been unstable since gaining independence from Portugal in 1974, witnessing four coups and numerous attempts at political upheaval. Economically, Guinea-Bissau's growth slowed to [3.5 per cent](#) in 2022 due to supply chain disruptions and reduced demand stemming from pandemic containment measures. Inflation rose to 7.8 per cent, while public debt reached 80.2 per cent of GDP. Projections for 2023 forecast a further decline in growth to 2.8 per cent, driven by weak cashew demand and exports. The country faces significant risks, including inflationary pressures, political instability, and climate shocks.

Socially, the country grapples with high poverty levels, particularly in rural areas, high unemployment rates among youth and severe food insecurity. The educational system suffers from inadequate facilities and high illiteracy rates, especially among women. Health indicators remain below the sub-Saharan African average, with infant mortality rates at 145 per thousand births, exacerbated by a deteriorated healthcare system and limited access to clean drinking water.

In January 2023, a fire broke out in Menegue village close to Canhabaque. The incident directly affected 413 people without food, shelter, and livelihood, underscoring the need for immediate support. A further 1,652 people (236 households) are indirectly affected by the fire incident; currently providing shelter, food, and basic amenities to affected families.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau collaborated with the national civil protection service and ECOWAS to launch a flood mitigation and community resilience project in response to the 2022 floods. The initiative targeted three communities across different regions, focusing on rehabilitating 60 hectares of rice fields and supporting flood-affected families.

### Disasters and crises

For the period January to December 2023, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau strengthened its partnership with the national civil protection service, government agencies, NGOs and other partners to establish a national [early warning system](#) for disaster prevention. This collaboration aimed to improve preparedness and response capabilities to reduce disaster risks nationwide.

### Health and wellbeing

During the reporting period, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau addressed evolving health challenges. The National Society continued promoting vaccination through the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention initiative. It collaborated with UNICEF to manage public health challenges, including cholera and COVID-19, while strengthening its partnership with the Ministry of Health for technical expertise, logistical assistance and support for health initiatives.

### Migration and displacement

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau enhanced its partnership with the International Organization for Migration by establishing [humanitarian service points](#) along key migration routes and expanding services in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. The National Society raised awareness about migration and its impacts through active advocacy and strengthened its capacity to address migration-related challenges effectively.

## Values, power and inclusion

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau prioritized dignity, access, participation and safety in its programmes, integrating [minimum standards on protection, gender and inclusion](#) during emergencies. It collected and analyzed disaggregated data to ensure inclusivity for people with disabilities. The National Society intensified efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence, promoted women's involvement in response teams and strengthened [community engagement and accountability](#) by involving communities in decision-making processes.

## Enabling local actors

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau held its VIII General Assembly in 2023, electing a new President and governing body members while approving revised statutes to align with its current context. The National Society focused on training newly elected officials in leadership and good governance and provided staff and volunteers with training in protection, security measures and gender issues. It enhanced visibility through a weekly radio programme and a biannual newspaper, raising public and partner awareness. The National Society also conducted high-level advocacy meetings with government officials and the presidency to reinforce its auxiliary role. Efforts to improve management and transparency included implementing a financial management programme. It also advanced [digital transformation](#) through IT infrastructure upgrades, enabling online meetings and boosting overall capabilities.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau partnered with the national civil protection service and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to launch a project aimed at mitigating flood impacts and strengthening community resilience. This initiative, following the 2022 floods, focused on three communities across three regions, where the National Society worked to rehabilitate 60 hectares of rice cultivation and provide assistance to families affected by the floods.

#### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in the implementation of interventions in response to the floods in Guinea-Bissau.



### Disasters and crises

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

In 2023, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Funds ([IFRC-DREF](#)) was approved for one emergency

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	Guinea-Bissau Fire incident Menegue
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	<a href="#">MDRGW004</a>
<b>DURATION</b>	4 months (1 January 2023 to 31 May 2023)

<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 116,357
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	2,065
<b>LATEST OPERATION UPDATE</b>	<a href="#">DREF Final Report</a>

The DREF allocation of CHF 116,357 in January 2023 supported the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau in aiding 2,065 people affected by a fire resulting from an explosion of an overloaded solar battery. Communities provision of immediate basic assistance to address the needs of people. Assistance also consisted of cash for construction and reconstruction of homes, cash for livelihoods as well as unconditional cash transfers. Support also included first aid service as well as psychosocial support services.

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau reinforced its partnership with the national civil protection service, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and United Nations partners to establish a national early warning system as a disaster prevention mechanism. This collaboration aimed to enhance preparedness and response capacity to reduce disaster risks across the country.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau in strengthening its partnerships with various agencies with various agencies to establish a national early warning system.



## Health and wellbeing

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau continued to address evolving health challenges with support from various partners. As COVID-19 infection rates decreased, support for response efforts also declined. However, it aimed to boost vaccination efforts across Africa through the implementation of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention initiative. The National Society collaborated with the UNICEF to manage public health challenges such as cholera and COVID-19. The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau also strengthened its partnership with the Ministry of Health, which offered technical expertise, logistical assistance and financial support for its health initiatives.



Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau conducting a session on good hygiene practice with community members (Photo: IFRC)



## Migration and displacement

### Progress by National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau strengthened its partnership with the IOM. It established humanitarian service points at key locations along migration routes and expanded the range of services offered in partnership with relevant stakeholders. The National Society also worked to raise awareness about migration and its impacts among local communities through active advocacy efforts. Additionally, it made efforts to strengthen its capacity to address migration-related issues effectively.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau with support to establish humanitarian service points at key locations.



## Values, power and inclusion

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau prioritized the dignity, access, participation and safety of all affected individuals in its programmes. The National Society integrated the minimum standards on protection, gender and inclusion during emergencies. It collected and analyzed disaggregated data to ensure inclusivity for individuals with disabilities.

The National Society intensified efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence and promoted women's involvement in response teams. It also made efforts to strengthen community engagement and accountability by engaging communities in decision-making processes.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion and community engagement and accountability across its operations.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

#### IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has established partnerships with, and receives support from, the **Belgian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Portuguese Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross** and **Turkish Red Crescent Society**.

## Movement coordination

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross 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 by promoting international humanitarian law and encouraging its implementation.

## External coordination

At the national level, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau engages in various emergency coordination structures, including the National Civil Protection Service and the Health Emergency Operations Centre. It has established a centralized and regional coordination structure, supported by a dedicated operational technical team.

Cooperation within the Red Cross Movement is essential and occurs through groups such as Cluster Sahel + in Dakar, ACROFA and the National Societies of the African region and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP). The National Society plays an active role in upholding humanitarian principles and implementing key actions aligned with Movement and national priorities.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau collaborates with various local partners, including United Nations agencies (UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO, UNFRA, and UN-HABITAT) and national and international NGOs. These partnerships are formalized through specific agreements while maintaining adherence to the Movement's independence and principles.



## National Society development

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau held its VIII General Assembly, where it elected a new President and members of various governing bodies. During the assembly, the National Society approved revised statutes to better align with its current context. It focused on training the newly elected officials in leadership and good governance. The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau also trained its staff and volunteers in protection and security measures, as well as gender issues.

### IFRC network joint support

**The IFRC** provided the National Society with technical assistance to the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau during its VIII General Assembly and the subsequent training of newly elected officials in leadership and good governance.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau enhanced its visibility by broadcasting a weekly radio programme highlighting its activities, ensuring greater public and partner awareness. Additionally, it published a biannual newspaper that reached a wide audience. The National Society also conducted high-level meetings with government officials and the presidency to promote advocacy efforts and reinforce its auxiliary role within public authority.

### IFRC network joint support

**The IFRC** provided technical and financial support to the National Society to strengthen its auxiliary role.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau made efforts to improve management and transparency through the implementation of a programme for financial management. Additionally, the National Society worked on digital transformation by upgrading its IT infrastructure by acquiring advanced equipment and materials, facilitating online meetings and enhancing its overall IT capabilities.



## 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

- **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 2023 Financial Report](#)

**Note:** For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRGW004](#)

- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [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](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

### Contact information

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#### Francisco Jose Mendes

Secretary General  
The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau  
T +245 5803991  
[franciscojosemendes@ymail.com](mailto:franciscojosemendes@ymail.com)

#### Louise Daintrey

Head of Strategic Engagement  
& Partnerships  
IFRC Regional Office for Africa, Nairobi  
T +254 110 843978  
[louise.daintrey@ifrc.org](mailto:louise.daintrey@ifrc.org)

#### Ghulam Muhammad Awan

Head of Delegation  
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Guinea,  
Guinea Bissau, Liberia & Sierra Leone,  
based in Freetown  
T +232 78811 584  
[ghulam.awan@ifrc.org](mailto:ghulam.awan@ifrc.org)

#### Sumitha Martin

Lead  
IFRC Global Strategic Planning & Reporting Centre  
New Delhi  
[sumitha.martin@ifrc.org](mailto:sumitha.martin@ifrc.org)