



Guinea-Bissau

Annual Report | 2024

Snapshot of
key results



CONTENTS

01. Message from the Representative;
02. UNFPA in Guinea-Bissau;
03. Introduction;
04. Country Context;
05. Key achievements per thematic area;
06. Resources for Impact - Financial report;
07. Partnerships for the goals.

Message From the Representative



UNFPA Guinea-Bissau: 2024 Annual Report - A Year of Resilience and Progress, with a Focus on the 2025 Census

It is with immense pride that I present the UNFPA Guinea-Bissau 2024 Annual Report, a testament to our collective resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equality. Despite the complex socio-political landscape and lingering effects of the global situation, UNFPA, in collaboration with the government, civil society partners, and the communities we serve, has made significant strides towards a brighter future for the people of Guinea-Bissau.

This year, our efforts were guided by the transformative vision of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, national development priorities, and the crucial upcoming 2025 Population and Housing Census. We focused on strengthening health systems, expanding access to quality maternal health services, empowering women and girls, addressing gender-based violence, and ensuring the 2025 census is a resounding success.

Some key highlights from this year include:

- **Increased Access to Family Planning:** Through sustained advocacy and community engagement, we witnessed a significant increase in the uptake of modern contraceptive methods, empowering women and couples with greater reproductive autonomy.
- **Improved Maternal Health Outcomes:** By supporting the training of skilled birth attendants and strengthening referral systems, we contributed to a reduction in maternal mortality and morbidity rates.
- **Empowerment of Adolescent Girls:** Our comprehensive programs, including life skills education and SRHR information, equipped adolescent girls with the knowledge and confidence to make informed choices about their lives and futures.

Message From the Representative



- **Addressing Gender-Based Violence:** We are committed to ending gender-based violence, including the harmful practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). We work closely with survivors, communities, and the justice system to prevent violence, provide support, and ensure justice. Communities are taking a stand and saying "no more" to FGM.
- **2025 Census Preparedness:** UNFPA played a critical role in supporting the government in preparing for the 2025 Population and Housing Census. This included technical assistance, capacity building of national staff, advocacy for inclusive census operations, and resource mobilization to ensure a comprehensive and accurate count of the population.

While we celebrate these achievements, we recognize that challenges persist. Deep-rooted inequalities, harmful traditional practices, and limited access to education and economic opportunities hinder the full realization of rights and potential for many in Guinea-Bissau.

In the year ahead, UNFPA Guinea-Bissau will continue to work tirelessly alongside our partners to accelerate progress towards our shared goals. We will:

- **Champion the 2025 Census:** UNFPA will continue to provide technical and financial support to ensure the successful implementation of all census operations, including enumeration, data processing, analysis, and dissemination of results. This data will be vital for evidence-based planning and policy development across all sectors.
- **Strengthen SRHR and Gender Equality:** We will expand access to quality SRHR services, intensify efforts to prevent and address gender-based violence, and empower women and girls to exercise their rights and reach their full potential.
- **Promote Youth Leadership and Engagement:** We will invest in young people, providing them with the skills and opportunities they need to become agents of change and contribute to the development of their communities.

I express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Guinea-Bissau, our donors and partners, and the dedicated staff of UNFPA for their unwavering support and commitment. Together, we can create a brighter future where every individual in Guinea-Bissau can live a life of dignity, opportunity, and well-being.


Zalha Assoumana
Representative

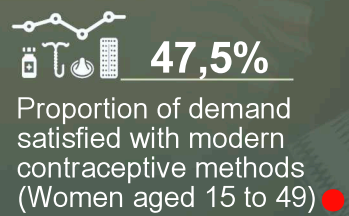
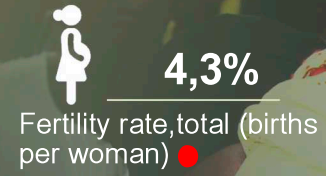
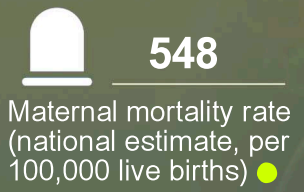
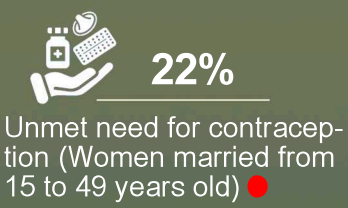


Our interventions had an impact across the entire country, but our focus is where the indicators require special attention.

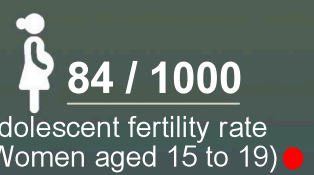
Country Context



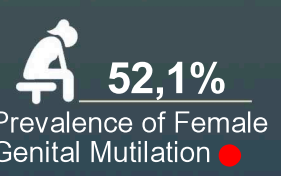
Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights



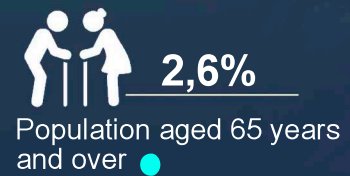
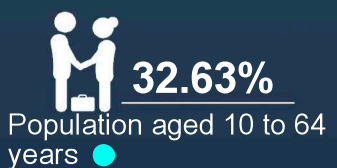
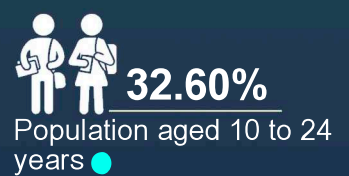
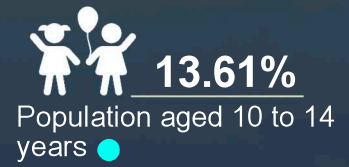
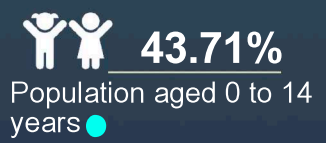
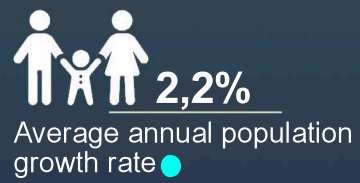
Adolescents and Youth



Gender Equality and Women Empowerment



Population Demographic Change



Source:

- MICS 6 (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018-2019)
- INASA 2022 (National Institute of Public Health)
- INE (National Institute of Statistics) Demographic Projection of the population



1

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH





Progress and transforming lives in Sexual and Reproductive Health

Improving maternal health continues to be a priority of the Government of Guinea-Bissau and one of key commitments made at the ICPD@25 Nairobi Summit. UNFPA continues to support the Government of Guinea-Bissau to strengthen the national health system and One of the key interventions supported during the year was the review and update of the 2019-2024 Integrated Strategic Plan for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and development of the new Integrated Strategic Plan for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) 2025-2030, with a view to capitalizing on technical and financial assistance for implementation.


UNFPA is investing in several key areas to strengthen the national health system, by providing training and support for midwives and nurses, ensuring essential medicines and supplies are available, and strengthening the healthcare supply chain to reach even the most remote communities. UNFPA is also working to improve the policy environment for reproductive health, advocating for strong strategies and legal frameworks.

Key Results

 **1,624** Health professionals, including 400 midwives were trained by the National Health School of Guinea-Bissau with support from UNFPA.

 **3,431** Safe caesarean sections performed nationwide with UNFPA support in providing essential surgical care for pregnant women.

 **33,335** Assisted deliveries ensured with UNFPA support represented a significant impact on maternal health.


 **2** Mobile clinics were handed over to the Government of Guinea-Bissau for the regions of Bafatá and Gabú. These clinics have provided: 257 antenatal care visits (ANC), 248 ultrasounds, 689 vaccinations, 87 intermittent preventive treatments (IPT) for malaria in pregnancy, 63 mosquito net distributions), and 85 nutritional screenings.


Key Results


 **09** Laparotomies were performed for gynecological emergencies, including 6 cases of ectopic pregnancy and 2 cases of hysterectomy for polymyomatous uterus, at the Buba health center.

 **1,557** Births attended (an increase from 312 in 2018), 1,299 of which were vaginal births (84%), including cases of twin pregnancies, and 255 were cesarean deliveries (16%).


 **2,078** Prenatal consultations carried out at the Buba health center. An increase from 58 in 2021.


 **18** Health professional (6 medical doctor's obstetrician-gynecologist, 6 anesthetists and 6 instruments) were recruited under the UNFPA-Global Fund maternal and newborn health project contributing to strengthening the health system in Gabu, Bafata and Quinara regions.

 **1** Blood bank assessment mission and the creation of an equipment needs assessment and associated database were undertaken in collaboration with the European School of Transfusion Medicine.

 **1** Review and update of the 2019-2024 Integrated Strategic Plan for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and development of the new RMNCAH strategic plan (2025-2030), to capitalizing on technical and financial assistance for implementation.

 **25,753** New users of modern Family Planning methods in two rounds of community-based campaigns.

 **64** Service providers were trained in human rights-based Family Planning management and care, to reduce unmet needs of Family Planning, increase contraceptive prevalence and reduce maternal deaths in Guinea-Bissau.

 **501,265** Condoms were districted nationwide. Of these, 28,000 condoms were distributed through the dispensers placed in different locations in Bissau.

A Beacon of Hope for Remote Communities in Guinea-Bissau: Mobile Clinics Launch a New Era of Accessibility

In Guinea-Bissau, where access to healthcare can be a daunting experiment, the dusty roads winding through the remote villages of Guinea-Bissau have long been a barrier to healthcare access. For generations, the journey to a distant clinic, often requiring long hours or even days of travel, meant that many were forced to choose between their health and their livelihoods. But now, a beacon of hope is shining brightly across the landscape: mobile clinics have arrived, ushering in a new era of accessibility.

On September 21st and 22nd, 2024, the Ministry of Public Health, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), delivered two state-of-the-art Mobile Clinics destined for the Bafatá and Gabu regions, to ensure that healthcare is no longer a privilege, but a fundamental right for all its citizens.

"Health is not merely an absence of disease, but a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being," said the Minister of Public Health, echoing the sentiment of the nation. "In Guinea-Bissau, we are dedicated to bridging the gaps in our healthcare system, particularly in our remote and underserved areas. The launch of these Mobile Clinics is a significant step towards ensuring that every citizen, regardless of their location, has access to the quality healthcare they deserve."

These clinics, a testament to UNFPA's commitment to improving healthcare access in Guinea-Bissau, are a part of the groundbreaking project "Prevention of conflicts over natural resources related to pastoralism and transhumance in the regions of Bafatá and Gabu".

Mariama, a pregnant woman from Bafata, visibly moved by the initiative, addressed the Minister of Public Health and UNFPA representative, "Today marks a turning point for our region. These Mobile Clinics will be instrumental in breaking down the barriers that have long prevented our communities from accessing proper healthcare. We are grateful for the support of the Ministry of Public Health and UNFPA in making this dream a reality."

READ FULL STORY




2 GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT





Advancing Gender Equality

In the pursuit of a just and equitable society, advancing gender equality remains a cornerstone of development efforts in Guinea-Bissau. From tackling deeply ingrained practices like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) to empowering young women and strengthening community commitments to human rights, significant strides are being made. This section highlights key achievements and ongoing initiatives that are paving the way for a future where women and girls can thrive free from violence, inequality, and harmful traditions.

Key Results


 **63** Communities in the Bafatá and Gabu regions unanimously declared their commitment to upholding human rights and abandoning harmful practices that endanger the health of women and children, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). These communities pledged to continue raising awareness and ensure these commitments translate into tangible change in their daily lives. In a powerful display of collective action.


 **81** Justice sector personnel, including magistrates, police officers, and lawyers, strengthened their skills on applying the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Law and the Domestic Violence Law in their work.

 **26** Technicians from protection service institutions strengthened their skills in Gender-Based Violence (GBV) case management and referral methods for GBV survivors.



Key Results

 **100** Young girls from the National Network of Young Women Leaders (RENJAELF) strengthened their skills in Female Leadership.

 **30** Young women from different youth networks and universities strengthened their skills and abilities in various combined topics through mentoring sessions focused on aspects of personal and professional growth, including participation and development of individual plans.

 **4** Inter-community meetings brought together 24 communities from Bafata and Gabu to share best practices in addressing human rights violations, specifically excision, child marriage, and gender-based violence. This exchange fostered collaboration and strengthened community-led efforts to protect women and girls.



A Ripple of Change: 63 Communities in Guinea-Bissau Stand Against FGM

In the heart of Guinea-Bissau, a profound transformation is taking place. Across the regions of Gabu and Bafata, a powerful movement is gaining momentum, as communities are publicly declaring their abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). In just two sessions, an astounding 63 communities have bravely stood up to say "no more" to this harmful practice.

This wave of change is not just a statistic; it's a testament to the courage and resilience of the people of Guinea-Bissau. Each declaration represents a victory for women's rights and a beacon of hope for the future. It signifies a shift in mindset, a rejection of outdated traditions, and a commitment to protecting the health and well-being of girls and women.

One of the communities leading this charge is Nhapo Sintcha, a small village in Gabu. For generations, FGM had been deeply ingrained in their culture. But through education and awareness-raising efforts, the community began to understand the devastating physical and psychological consequences of FGM. Women who had undergone the procedure shared their stories of pain and suffering, while community leaders spoke out against the practice.

"Today, we stand together as a community to protect our daughters and secure their future. We are here to abandon the practice of female genital mutilation because it harms our girls and brings no benefit. Our faith, Islam, guides us towards compassion and care. FGM contradicts these values. It causes immense pain and suffering, and can lead to severe health problems that can last a lifetime." Said Sumaila Embaló, Nhapo Sintchan community Iman, before continuing "Let us choose the path of knowledge and understanding. Let us choose to protect our daughters and empower them to live healthy, fulfilling lives. Today, we declare our commitment to end FGM in our community. We owe this to our daughters, and we owe it to ourselves."

The public declaration ceremony, which took place on 10th December 2024, was a momentous occasion.

READ FULL STORY



The background image shows a call center environment. Several young people, both men and women, are seated at desks with computer monitors. They are wearing headsets and appear to be working. The lighting is dim, with the primary light source being the computer screens. The overall atmosphere is professional and focused.


3 YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS


Empowering young people to attain their full potential


Young people hold the key to shaping a brighter and more inclusive future, yet unlocking their full potential requires strategic investments in education, health, and leadership. Through impactful initiatives, UNFPA has been at the forefront of creating opportunities for youth to thrive. From youth summer camps promoting peacebuilding and inclusive societies to cutting-edge resource centers fostering digital literacy, these efforts are not just interventions—they are pathways to empowerment, innovation, and long-term community transformation.



Key Results

 **1,513** Young people (724 girls and 789 boys, including 120 with disabilities) participated in holiday camps focused on peacebuilding and an inclusive society. Supported by UNFPA, these camps empowered participants through training in leadership, entrepreneurship, GBV prevention, sexual and reproductive health, and other key areas.

 **3,681** Units of medical equipment and supplies were distributed to 15 health centers in the regions of Bafata, Gabu and Bissau, significantly strengthening health-care delivery in these regions. This provision has notably enhanced the quality of youth-friendly health services in these regions.

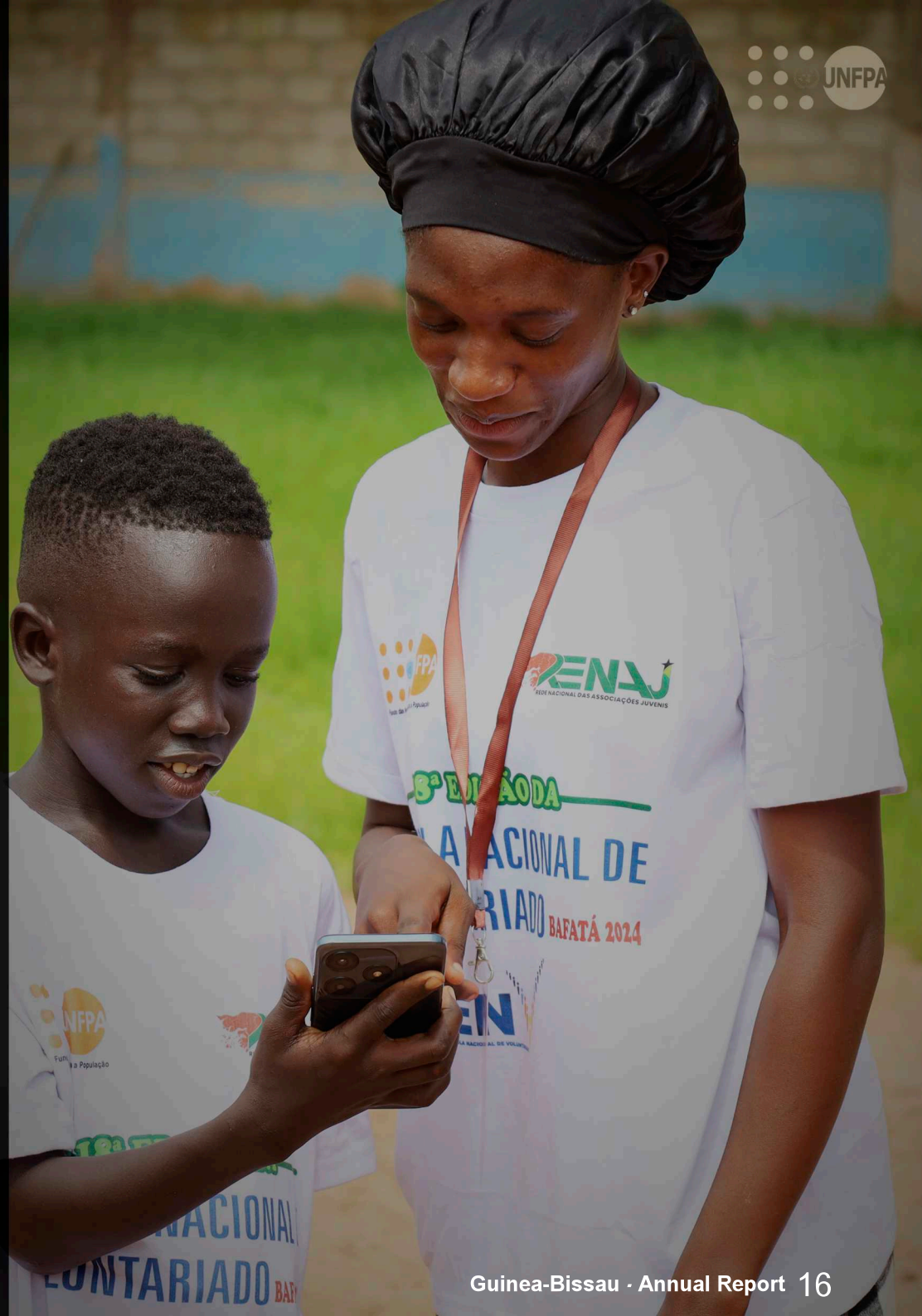
 **8** Health centers—three in Bafata, three in Gabu, and two in Bissau—were equipped with 50 wooden benches were supplied to improving the comfort and functionality of these facilities for patients and healthcare providers alike.

Key Results

1 State-of-the-art youths' Resource Center established in Bafata region. The center is equipped with 21 computers, 12 solar batteries, 26 solar panels, and 4 air conditioners, creating a sustainable and technology-driven environment. Currently, the center serves 60 youth daily, offering IT classes and fostering digital literacy and innovation among the young population in the region.

39 Healthcare professionals, including medical doctors, nurses, and midwives, were trained on delivering youth-friendly health services. This capacity-building initiative directly supports the improvement of healthcare access and responsiveness for young people in Bissau, Bafata, and Gabu, contributing to better health outcomes in these communities.

100 Youth leaders in Bafata, Gabu, and Bissau were trained in negotiation, conflict resolution, and non-violent communication to foster peaceful participation in the electoral process.



A Summer of Empowerment: How Youth Camps in Guinea-Bissau Are Shaping a Brighter Future

Nestled along the West African coast, Guinea-Bissau is a country brimming with vibrant culture and youthful energy. Yet, beneath its lively exterior lies a stark reality: limited access to sexual and reproductive health information, coupled with deeply ingrained social norms, often hinders the potential of its young people.

There is recognition that addressing the plight of young people is vital to the achievement of long-term sustainable development. The critical role that young people are playing in economic development is fully demonstrated. However, the well-being and positive development of young people requires policies and programs that address the “whole person”, take the entire life-course of the young person into account and pay close attention both to the context in which young people live and to respect, protect and promote their rights.

But every summer, a transformation takes place. As schools close their doors, a wave of excitement sweeps through the nation as youth organizations, supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), prepare for their annual summer camps. These aren't typical summer getaways filled with swimming and campfires; they are safe havens where young people discover their voices, challenge harmful traditions, and build a brighter future.

For Mariama, a timid 15-year-old girl, the camp was a revelation. "Before, I was so scared," she confessed, her voice barely above a whisper. "I didn't know anything about my own body." Like many girls in her community, Mariama was shrouded in unawareness about sexual and reproductive health, a taboo subject rarely discussed openly.

At the camp, Mariama found a supportive community where she could finally ask questions and learn without shame. Through interactive workshops and open dialogues, she gained knowledge about Human rights, pregnancy, Sexually Transmissible Diseases and her rights as a young woman. "Now I feel empowered," she declared, her eyes sparkling with newfound confidence.

READ FULL STORY





4 DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE OF THE POPULATION

Harnessing Data for Development

UNFPA is spearheading the 5th Population and Housing Census in Guinea-Bissau. With the crucial preparatory phase now complete, the nation is poised to embark on the enumeration process in 2025. This milestone follows the successful completion of digital cartography, tabulation and analysis plans, and finalized questionnaires, all achieved with UNFPA's steadfast technical and financial support.


Through the Project for the Harmonisation and Improvement of Statistics in West and Central Africa, and with funding from the World Bank, UNFPA collaborated with the National Institute of Statistics (INE) to strengthen its technical and institutional capacities. This included recruiting three expert consultants – a Senior Technical Advisor, a Cartographer, and a CAPI Specialist – who worked closely with INE's technical directorate. Together, they defined methodologies, established timetables, developed training manuals, and provided comprehensive training to ICT agents, cartographers, survey agents, and field team leaders.


This collaborative effort ensured the technical quality of the pre-tests and the cartography and enumeration stages, laying a strong foundation for a successful census.


The national census team, now fully equipped and trained, stands ready to conduct the enumeration. UNFPA remains committed to diligently monitoring this critical final phase, advocating for its successful completion in 2025 to ensure a comprehensive and accurate population count for Guinea-Bissau.





Key Results


-  **8** Vehicles acquired and delivered to the National Institute of Statistics to support the 4th General Population and Housing Census operations;


-  **15** Motorbikes, acquired and delivered to the National Institute of Statistics to support the 4th General Population and Housing Census operations;


-  **300** IT equipment (including tablets, printers, plotters, notebooks) delivered to the National Institute of Statistics to support the 4th General Population and Housing Census operations.


-  **244** diverse IT equipment's (including printers, plotters, notebooks) delivered to the National Institute of Statistics to support the 4th General Population and Housing Census operations.


-  **1** Pre-test for cartography was carried out on the questionnaires for census enumeration and pilot mapping in Bissau and regions of the country, and an evaluation was made by an international consultant;

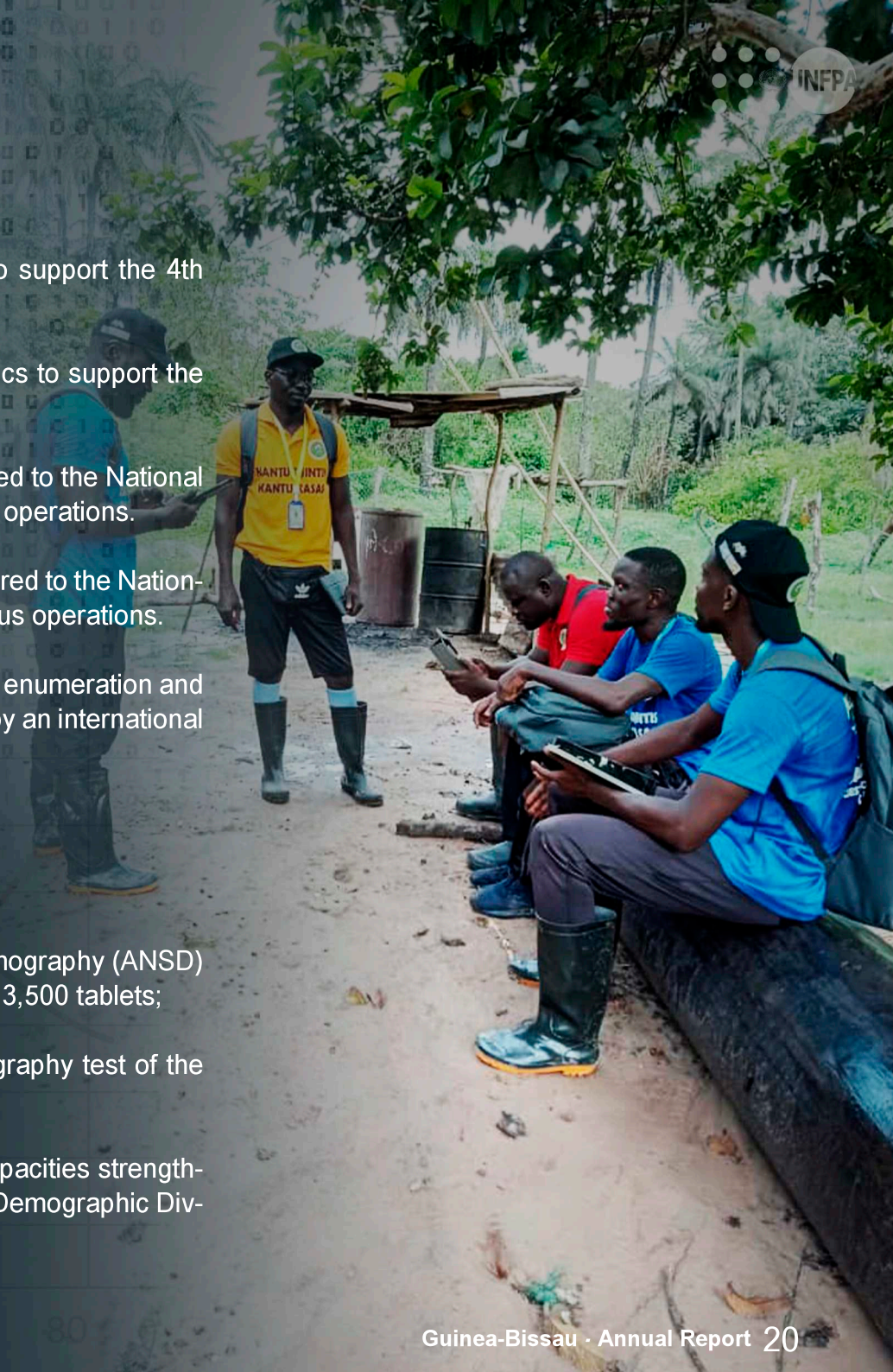
-  **300** agents were trained in cartography;

-  **20** Enumerators were trained in census data collection;

-  **10** Tablets obtained from Senegal's National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD) for testing. The test was conclusive, so the country is in the process of receiving 3,500 tablets;

-  **70** Cartographers and IT agents were trained to work on the Pilot Cartography test of the RGPH4 Cartographic Update.

-  **22** National technicians from different government ministries, had their capacities strengthened in terms of drawing up concept notes for projects to capture and utilize the Demographic Dividend in the country, ICPD+25 agenda, Nairobi commitments.



Counting on the Future: Guinea-Bissau Prepares for its First Digital Census

Guinea-Bissau is on the cusp of a historic moment. For the first time, the nation is preparing to conduct a fully digital census, a groundbreaking initiative that promises to revolutionize data collection and inform critical development strategies for years to come. This ambitious undertaking, spearheaded by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) with support from UNFPA and the World Bank, is poised to paint a comprehensive and accurate portrait of the nation.

Jussário, a young cartographer from Bissau, embodies the spirit of this transformation. Meticulously tracing the lines of his neighborhood on a digital map, his eyes reflect the profound significance of his work. He is part of a dedicated team of cartography agents who saw in this project an opportunity to contribute to the development of the country, and have undergone rigorous training in cartography, data digitization, and the use of cutting-edge technologies.

"This census is about more than just numbers," Jussário explains, his voice filled with pride. "It's about understanding who we are as a nation, where we need to invest in schools and hospitals, and how we can create a better future for our children."

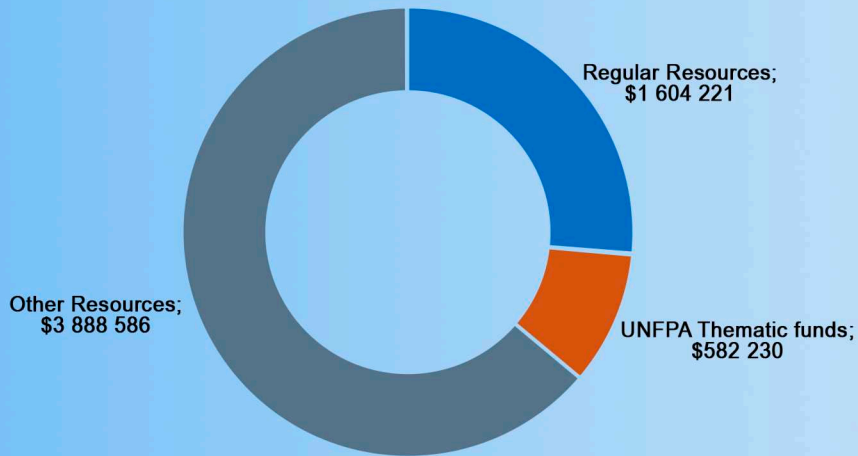
The first stage was the training. Jussário learned about cartography, data digitization, and the use of new technologies. He marveled at the practicality of the CAPI application, which replaced the notebooks and pens of the past. Jussário is part of a dedicated team preparing for the country's first-ever digital census, a massive undertaking spearheaded by UNFPA. With support from the World Bank, expert consultants have trained the INE team, and the INE team trained Jussário and his colleagues in cutting-edge techniques, equipping them with tablets and software to ensure every person in Guinea-Bissau is counted.

READ FULL STORY

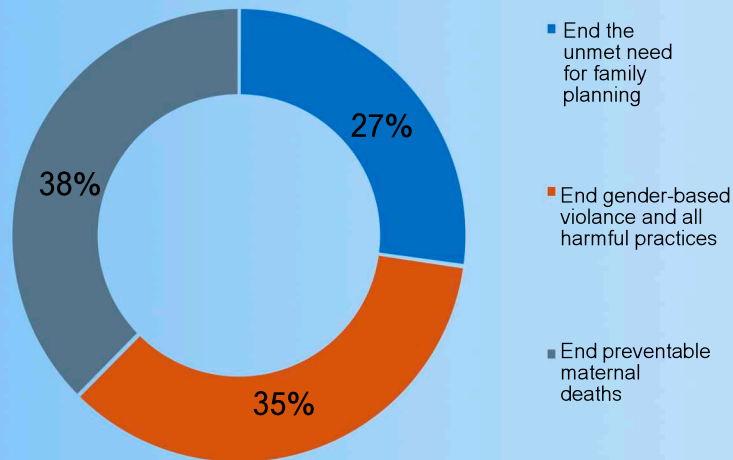


Resources for Impact

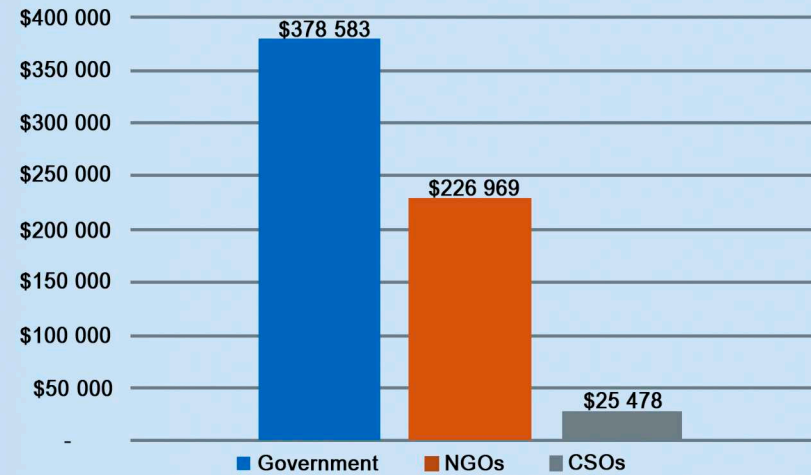
Resources



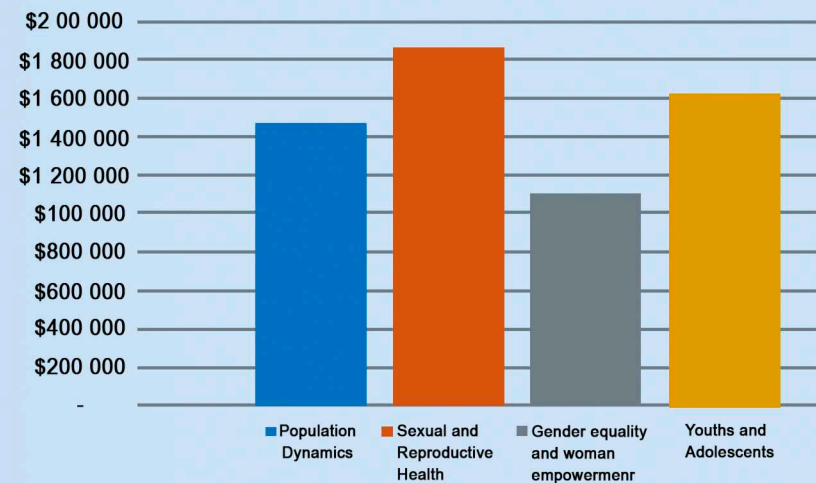
Investments made for each Transformative Result



Distribution of Funds per type of Partners



Distribution of funds for each program area



Donors & Partners





UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund
UN Building, Rui Djassi street, P.O. Box N. 1011
Bissau, Guinea-Bissau
Tel: (+245) 966 427 251
Email: guinea-bissau.office@unfpa.org

