# ANNUAL 2022 REPORT 2022

Delivering on our promise for the people of Guinea-Bissau





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### **Editorial**

The year 2022 was marked by significant changes for UNFPA in Guinea-Bissau, with the joint launch in January 2022 of UNFPA's Strategic Plan 2022-2025, the 7th Country Programme covering the period 2022-2026, and the UN Common Strategic Framework 2022-2026, and the transition to a new country office management team.

UNFPA's strategic plan is a call to action to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. UNFPA's strategic plan seeks to ensure that no one is left behind, and calls for the protection and promotion of human rights for all, particularly those furthest behind. It also recognizes the need to transform unequal gender power structures in societies in order to accelerate the realization of the ICPD Programme of Action.

The 2022-2026 Country Programme aims to operationalise UNFPA's Strategic Plan and accelerate the achievement of the 3 Transformative Results in Guinea-Bissau. The Country Programme is fully aligned with Guinea-Bissau's National Development Programme, and the UN Common Strategic Framework 2022-2026. The programme takes into account the Government's commitments made at the Nairobi Summit on the three transformative results for the realisation of the 2030 Agenda in Guinea Bissau.

In 2022, a new management team joined UNFPA's office in Guinea-Bissau. The new Representative, together with the Assistant Representative,



Jocelyn Fenard - Resident Representative

started a new dynamic that translates into innovative leadership and partnership approaches towards more ambitious results for the synergistic reduction of maternal mortality, unmet need for family planning, and gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation and early marriage, by 2026.

In 2022, UNFPA accompanied the Government in the planning of preparatory activities for the in Guinea-Bissau.

Together with the government, UNFPA plays a key role in human capital development as a priority in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, increasing health service delivery for women and girls and engaging in policy dialogues to advocate for increased government funding for the health and social services sectors to ensure that no one is left behind.

### UNFPA in Guinea-Bissau



### **Country Context**

Sexual and reproductive Health

Prevalence of modern contraceptives methods (Women aged 15 to 49years) \*\*



4.3%

Fertility rate,total (births per woman) **6**0

22%

Met need of contraception (Women married aged 15 to 49)

Births assisted by

qualified Health professionals \*\*



47 5%

Decision making about sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights \*\*

**Maternal Mortality rate** 

(estimate) national, per

100,000 live births)



Propotion of demand satisfied by modern contraceptives methods, (Women of 15 to 49 years old) \*\*\*

Youth and adolescents

Gender equality and women empowerment

Demographic Change of the Population



84 / 1000

fertility rate in adolescence (Women 15 to 19 years old) \*\*



52.1%

Prevalence of female genital mutilation



**52.1**%

Women who got married for the first time to 15 years old (Women20 to 24 years old) \*\*



8.1

Women who got married for the first time to 18 years old (Women 20 to 24 years old) \*\*



- \* MICS 5
- \*\* MISC 6
- \*\*\* INASA
- \*\*\*\* INS (Guinea-Bissau Demographics Projections)



2 2%

Average annual rate of population variation \*\*\*\*



31.9%

Population from 10 to 24 years old \*\*\*\*\*



Population from 0 to 14 years old \*\*\*\*



Population from 10 to 64 years old \*\*\*\*\*



Population from 10 to 14 years old \*\*\*\*



Population aged 65 or more years \*\*\*\*\*



Population from 10 to 19 years old \*\*\*\*\*



| |1.690.313

**Total population** 

\*\*\*\*

### **Partners**





































### Main Results in 2022



17,505 new users of modern FP methods in rural and peri-urban areas enrolled at national level were recruited, i.e. (16 238 INASA 2022+ 1267 for AGUIPEF data).



61% of births were attended by skilled health personnel (doctor, nurse, midwife, or auxiliary midwife), an increase of 19% compared to 2021.



42 women with obstetric fistula (65% new case) received fistula repair, during the campaign and routine treatment in 2022.



Improved the Family Planning/RH commodity supply system through the quantification exercise and the elaboration of the Guinea-Bissau Family Planning/RH commodity procurement plan for the period 2023- 2025, which was validated and made available.



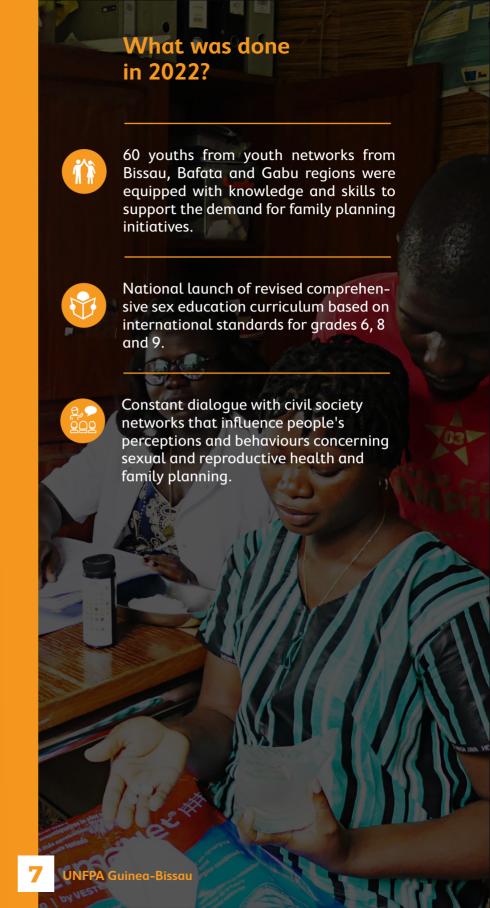
Signed the commitment pact between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and UNFPA (for the first time), for the State's contribution for the purchase of Family Planning and RH products.



## Output 1

Strengthened national capacity to promote quality demand of family planning for men, women, adolescents, and young people, including the most vulnerable, disabled, and marginalized people, to claim their rights to access sexual and reproductive health and rights services, and wellbeing, including in humanitarian settings.

This output contributed to the quality of care and services as well as the outcomes of the Strategic Plan for Adolescents and Young People, 2022-2025.



# Output 2

Strengthened capacity of health facilities to provide quality gender-responsive integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights services that include comprehensive family planning and sexually transmitted infections/HIV services to men, women, adolescents, and youth, \especially the marginalized and furthest behind, including in humanitarian settings.

This outcome addressed sexually transmitted infections among young people by raising awareness and strengthening the skills of service providers in prevention and treatment.

### What was done in 2022?



66% of delivery rooms in Bafatá, Gabu, Quinara and Tombali regions, 4 of the 6 target regions of the programme, offer an integrated package of services, according to the integrated service package analysis report.



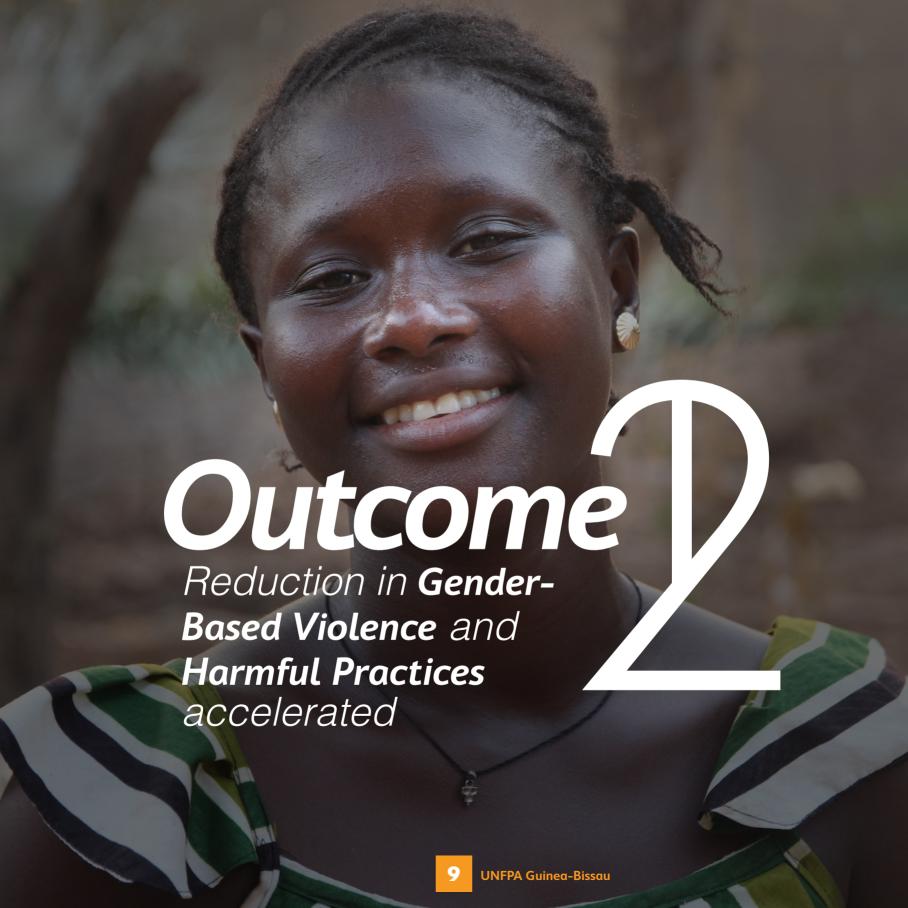
Trening of 150 health professionals in the 11 health regions on the information and logistics management system (SIGL) for reproductive health products.



117 health workers (44 midwives and 44 hospital management team members) were trained on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) and 29 health workers were trained on integrated services: SRMNIA/STI/HIV/TB/HV/immunisation and community health in the 6 target regions.



150 community leaders (105 men and 45 women) were sensitised to address socio-cultural barriers to men's participation in integrated SRMNIA and STI/HIV/BT/malaria services in the 5 priority health regions (Bafatá, Gabu, Quinara, Tombali, SAB).



# Output 3

Strengthening national capacity to stimulate and induce human rights and gender equality, prevent and respond to gender-based violence and harmful practices, and promote the empowerment of women and girls, especially those most vulnerable and left behind, including in humanitarian contexts.

This output contributed to changes in social and gender norms, population change and data. It focused on advancing gender equality and human rights to empower women and girls and marginalized and excluded populations to exercise their reproductive rights free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

### What was done in 2022?



141 young people (120 girls and 21 boys) from the National Network of Girls Leaders (RENAJELF), were trained on the legal aspects, the law and existing provisions in the country against domestic violence and FGM.



4 men's club structures were created and equipped in the new approach for behaviour change, the fight against gender based violence and the abandonment of FGM, in the regions of Cacheu, Biombo, Bolama and Bijagós.



90 members of these 4 structures (28 women, 62 men, youth, traditional and religious leaders) are equipped as trainers.



4 communities benefited from improving their understanding of the consequences of FGM on women's and girls' health and raising awareness of their rights through the radio awareness campaign against FGM and GBV in Guinea-Bissau organised for the RENAJ, the National Committee for the Abandonment of Harmful Practices (CNAPN) and the National Network of Girls' Leaders (RENAJELF).



#### Advocacy and political dialogue

### World Population Day

The government of Guinea-Bissau and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly held a high-level event on the occasion of World Population Day with the theme: "A World of 8 billion Towards a Resilient Future for All". The date was celebrated with the launch of the State of World Population 2022 report entitled: "seeing the invisible: the case for action on the neglected crisis of unintended pregnancy".



#### Support to the Government of Guinea-Bissau in the presentation of the Voluntary National Review

As part of the presentation of the National Voluntary Review (VNR) on the status of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the country, through the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Integration, presented the report at the High Level Political Forum in New York from 13-17 July. The VNR was prepared at the national level thanks to the financial and technical support of UNFPA and other UN agencies. In particular, UNFPA made a technical contribution in the revision of the indicators (3, 5, 17).

### High level forum on Obstetric Fistula

In line with the theme of this year's UN General Assembly "A Turning Point: Transformative Solutions to Interconnected Crises", UNFPA, in partnership with the governments and First Ladies of Togo, Gambia, Burking Faso, Côte d'Ivoire organized a side event on the theme "Towards the Elimination of Obstetric Fistula by 2030: A Call for Transformative Action and Strategic Partnerships to Address the Protracted Crisis in West and Central Africa". The First Lady of Guinea-Bissau, H.E. Denisia Embalo, was invited to participate and bring the voice of the women and girls of Guinea-Bissau who are victims of Obstetric Fistula. Her speech in New York also marked the launch of the campaign to provide medical care to 29 Guinean women to restore their dignity.



### **International Youth Day**

In the framework of the commemoration of the International Youth Day 2022, 12 August, an event was held for reflection and position-taking on the construction of the youth development agenda. The event, under the aegis of the National Youth Council, the Youth Institute and other development partners including the United Nations Population Fund, brought together young people from different youth networks, the Government and its development partners, with the aim of contributing to the awareness of young people on their responsibility as active actors of social transformation in the present and the future. Thematic meetings were promoted regarding the achievement of the SDGs, and recreational meetings were held to appeal for Peace and good Governance.



### 16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls

The fortnight was marked by a series of events in several cities across the country. The opening ceremony of the 16 days brought together partners for a reflection on the current situation of Gender Based Violence in Guinea-Bissau, including Female Genital Mutilation and child marriage. The Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity, National Network for the Fight against Gender Based Violence in Guinea-Bissau (RENLUV), representatives of UN agencies in Guinea-Bissau, civil society organisations, women's organisations intervening in the same area, and focusing the attention of decision makers and the entire civil society were able to define the main lines of urgent action to end violence against women and girls.



### Pact of Commitment for the Supply of Reproductive Health Products in Guinea-Bissau

The Pact of Commitment for the Supply of Reproductive Health Products in Guinea-Bissau was signed in December 2023 between UNFPA Guinea-Bissau and the Government of Guinea-Bissau, represented by the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Finance, through its Ministers. In this vein, a line was allocated in the 2023 State Budget for the achievement of the strategic objectives of the Procurement Partnership, which aim, among others, to increase the availability and ensure the quality of Reproductive Health (RH) and Family Planning (FP) commodities, ensure that RH and FP supplies reach the most remote locations, and increase national financial contributions for quality RH and FP services.



### Service delivery

### Obstetric fistula campaign

Obstetric fistula (FO) is one of the most serious morbidities that can affect women during childbirth. The occurrence of these fistulas is a sign of a poor maternal health system. The Guinea-Bissau Ministry of Public Health, in partnership with UNFPA, organised a fistula management campaign, focusing on the repair of complex fistulas and capacity building of local providers, in partnership with a Senegalese medical team. 29 women with obstetric fistula underwent surgery during the campaign.



### South-to-south Cooperation Support for INE's trip to Brazil

As part of the preparatory phase of the 4th General Population and Housing Census, UNFPA, through the South-South partnership, established contacts between the Brazilian embassy in the country, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency- ABC, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Census-IBGE and INE, about the possibilities of technical partnership for the next census, which allowed two INE national technicians to benefit from a capacity building mission through a study visit and participation as observers in the Brazilian CENSO held in September 2022.



#### Capacity development

#### Partnership with the National School of Health (ENS)

Within the framework of the partnership with the National School of Health, in 2022, an innovative project was started with the 1st Supplementary Course in Nursing (CCE) which allows baccalaureate nurses to acquire the "Degree of Graduates" and the Supplementary Course in Obstetrics (CCO) which allows general midwives to acquire the "Degree of Licensed Midwives". In 2022, 8 midwives were selected and prepared with a view to their integration into teaching.



# Towards zero Maternal Deaths in *Quinara Region*

Buba, Quinara region, Guinea-Bissau, zero preventable maternal deaths were recorded at the Buba Health Centre during the period June 2021 to June 2022, in a region marked by its high maternal mortality rate. While the national average maternal mortality rate is estimated at 746 per 100,000 live births (INASA 2018), the rate in the Quinara region is 3,015 per 100,000 live births (INASA 2018), which is four times higher than the national average.

In rural areas like the Quinara region, one of the most remote places in Guinea-Bissau, reaching a health centre is like an obstacle course, and is even more complicated and dangerous during the rainy season. In these rural communities, health centres may have nurses and midwives, but no obstetrician/gynecologist to immediately assess high-risk pregnancies and obstetric cases. The lack of skilled health professionalscontributes to high maternal and neonatal mortality rates.

The Buba Health Centre is a referral centre for the Quinara region. The nearest health centre to Buba is in Indjassane, a village 21 kilometres away. "The Indjassane health centre receives patients from the southern and eastern provinces of the country. There are cases where the evacuation of pregnant women who need specialised care to the health centre in Buba is necessary.

They travel in very difficult conditions, often on motorbikes, and arrive at the Buba Health Centre very tired. Thanks to the availability and professionalism of the team of specialists, they end up being treated properly and on time". José Alexandre da Silva, HeadNurse, Indjassane Health Centre.



"Success rates have been exceptional lately,"

exclaims Dr Sonia, as there have been no maternal deaths for one (1) year, from June 2021 to June 2022. This news was celebrated by all health authorities and development partners, UNFPA, donors and staff at the Buba Health Centre, which receives approximately 50 pregnant women per month in antenatal care from across the Quinara region, representing 35.4% of women of childbearing age - 15 to 49 years old (National Institute of Statistics/2022). In total, the team. 7attended 563 deliveries during this period, including 476 natural deliveries and 87 caesarean sections with simple post-operative follow-up.

Prior to the arrival of the UNFPA team, the Buba Health Centre was facing significant gaps in the provision of quality maternal health services due to non-functioning operating theatre, unavailability of essential equipment and supplies, and shortage of skilled staff. Working hand in hand with the Regional Health Directorate authorities, local health workers and community health workers, the UNFPA technical team, supported by regular UNFPA resources and the Maternal Health Fund (MHTF), has been working toaddress all these issues and reduce maternal mortality.



"During my last pregnancy, I was referred to the capital Bissau, but now, thank God, it is no longer necessary, this time I gave birth at the Buba Health Centre, I have no complications and I feel fine."



"I thank God, because I gave birth by caesarean section and everything went well, I have my child in my hands and I feel good. Because in the past, when pregnant women were evacuated to Bissau, in somecases they died, due to the bad road conditions."

Built in 2015 with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Buba Health Centre has the only functional operating theatre in the entire Quinara region. In 2020, UNFPA invested in refurbishing and equipping the Health Centre and has since provided it with life-saving sexual and reproductive health commodities, including contraceptives. It became operational in 2021 when skilled health professionals were deployed as part of the H4+ Project, jointly implemented by UNFPA,UNICEF, WHO and other partners to strengthen emergency obstetric and neonatal care.





#### **Integrated Steering Committee with 5 Ministers**

In 2022, a National Programme Steering Committee was established with the 5 partner ministers. Chaired by the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Integration, the steering committee provides strategic guidance at the administrative, programmatic, operational and strategic levels to facilitate the articulation of the different work plans in order to accelerate the achievement of results.



#### Social and Behavioural Change

Media and influencers (religious/traditional, digital leaders) have a key role to play in advocacy for policies and programmes, in raising awareness, changing behaviour, engaging decision-makers, and respecting human rights, too. UNFPA's Bissau office has established an influencers and media advisory group to improve its communication for social and behavioural change, promoting the use of a combination of long-term communication strategies and approaches to maximize the impact of its programmes and influence changing social norms.



### Towards the co-creation of the biannual programme

Within the framework of innovations for programme management, a partnership dynamic was initiated, with the implementing partners by the co-creation of a biannual programme. In the first phase, we reviewed and consolidated the results achieved in the first year of the 7th CPD (2022), a review that allowed us to see the level of implementation of the different indicators of CPD 7 that will help to achieve the 3 transforming results, through the 4 products of CPD 7 and also the intermediate indicators. After that, we had an integrated and transversal planning between the 4 products, which allowed us to define goals and implementation strategies that will meet the realization of the 3 transformative results. As part of the innovation for the management of the 7th program was also instituted in accordance with thepartners Institutional bi-annual planning will allow UNFPA and its partners to set bi-annual goalsand gain a bit more visibility and execution time and ajsutres strategies and revisions inregarding the goals and efforts recommended for the 2023-2024 Biennium.



### Developing the youth agenda with young people

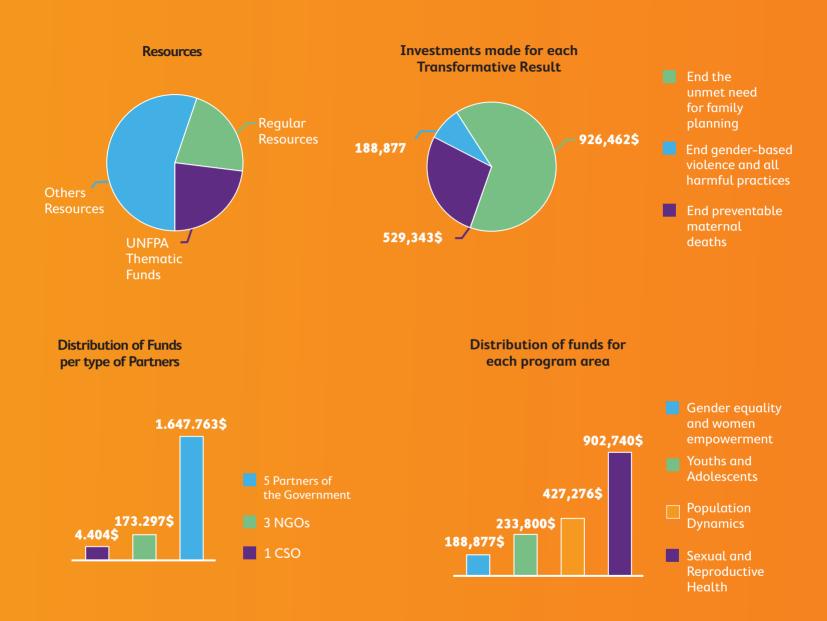
UNFPA initiated a momentum of further engagement with youth institutions and networks in Guinea- Bissau to co-create the renewed youth programme that will encompass the 3 transformative outcomes. Firstly, a survey of youth associations was conducted to ensure the involvement of a greater number of youth associations and organisations. UNFPA then engaged the Youth Institute, Youth Forum and organisations in a reflection on the 3 transformative outcomes including proposing joint approaches for youth and UNFPA synergies for youth. The outcome was the youth contribution to UNFPA activities in 2023.



### Office growth

In 2022 the office grew with 5 new colleagues and a new impetus was given with the restoration of the office. The 5 new colleagues came to strengthen a team already dynamic and willing to contribute to the implementation of the objectives set out in the UNFPA mandate in Guinea-Bissau. And it was in this same perspective, that the UNFPA office was restored with the purpose of giving a new look and ensuring the welfare of the staff, providing a pleasant space to work.

### Resources for Impact



With limited resources we can achieve a lot, with more resources we canachieve much more and make a real difference in the country.

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