

UNHCR IN GUINEA-BISSAU

Guinea Bissau operation is characterized by refugees living in protracted situations both in rural and urban areas. With a low number of urban refugees and a big caseload of protracted Senegalese refugees in the rural area the most suitable durable solutions identified for Guinea-Bissau is local integration. In order to ensure sustainability and to create a positive environment for local integration, the Office works to empower the existing national structures through capacity building activities and provision of technical support to the government and other stakeholders. UNHCR is continuously advocating for the access of POC to national services while supporting livelihoods projects to promote refugee's self-reliance.

In addition, its protection and durable solutions strategy focus on the development of a local integration package for the naturalization of refugees willing to acquire the Guinea Bissau nationality and formalization of land for vulnerable refugees whose properties were given by local and traditional leaders. Finally, according to its mandate, UNCHR in Guinea-Bissau also works closely with the Ministries of Justice and Interior to prevent and respond to statelessness.

HIGHLIGHTS

POPULATION OF CONCERN

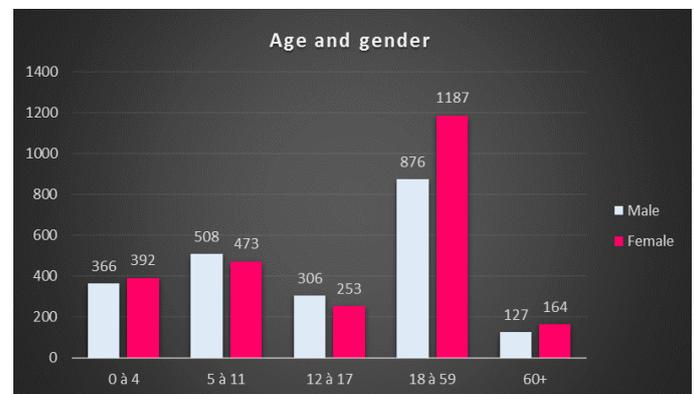
9,327 refugees in Guinea-Bissau

Country of origin	Total
Senegalese	8.374
Ivory Coast	16
Serra Leoa	22
Others	836
Total	9,263

32 Asylum Seekers.

4,652 Refugees verified as (April 2016)

AGE AND GENDER



*Data from 2016 Verification Exercise

UNHCR Presence in Guinea-Bissau:

- **01 Office located in Bissau**
- **08 Staff:**

5 national staff, 01 international staff, 02 affiliated workforce (national and international).

Main Counterparts

- **National Commission for Refugees (CNRD)**
- **International NGO Mani Tese**

Protection priorities:

- Promotion of naturalization and land formalization of Senegalese refugees;
- Capacity building of existing national structures on asylum related issues;
- Promotion of livelihoods and self-reliance of refugees and host communities;

2017 BUDGET

	<u>OL</u>	<u>AOL</u>	<u>OP</u>
Staffing	263,511.23	0	263,511.23
ABOD	223,912	50,000	273,912
OPS	444,357.5	748,426.5	1,192,784
TOTAL	931,780.73	798,426.5	1,730,207.23

2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection/Durable Solutions

- In March, UNHCR together with the National Commission for Refugees (CNRD) conducted a Naturalization Workshop involving all relevant governmental stakeholders who plays a role in the naturalization process in order to advocate for the reduction of naturalization costs and a recommendation was done to reduce the costs to 150.000 XOFs/file (actual costs exceeds 900.000 XOFs).
- In June, a Workshop on Land was organized by CNRD and UNCHR in order to advocate for the reduction of costs and the simplification of existing procedures. The governmental counterparts who attended the event recommended the exemption of costs for a number of steps that compose the formalization process (e.g. issuance of juridical opinions, publication in official diaries, registration of concession designations) and which will incur in a considerable reduction of costs. An SOP was developed by the participants as to speed up the process and define roles of pertinent Ministries.
- In May UNHCR facilitated the participation of the Bissau-Guinean delegation at the Banjul Ministerial Meeting for the Elimination of Statelessness. In the aftermath, a Workshop on Statelessness was held in June by UNCHR and Ministry of Justice as for to spread the messages agreed in Banjul and advocate for the approval of the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Statelessness, developed in 2015.
- A verification exercise was conducted in June in order to confirm the physical presence of Senegalese refugees in the country as well as to provide them with refugee ID Cards. Registration centers were created in 11 villages and a total of 2.860 individuals were registered, out of which 1.710 were newly registered. One innovation of this activity was the presence of a Birth Registration Officer from the Ministry of Justice which allowed over 300 refugee children born in Guinea-Bissau to receive birth certificates during the verification.
- Regarding the Office`s strategy to ensure protection from violence, in June 2017 a reskilling SGBV Workshop was conducted by Mani Tese in collaboration with UNHCR targeting the 41 Protection Committees created since 2012. In addition, Mani Tese, together with UNHCR and local communities, created Protection Committees in 4 new villages.

Livelihoods

- In 2017, 12 communities will be supported with livelihoods activities. Out of those, 4 communities are being assisted in poultry production and henhouses were constructed in the villages of Varela, Sidif, Sougototo and Djegué. In addition 5 communities will benefit from gardens and irrigations systems for horticulture purpose. In the first semester, 4 wells were built in Sougototo, Edjaten, Capal, Barraca Biro;
- In order to strengthen Community-Based management structures, UNHCR and Mani Tese sensitized, in the first semester of 2017, over 300 communities members from the villages of Edjaten, Sidif and Capal on the importance of setting up Management Committees for better supervision and monitoring of the projects to be implemented in their villages. An AGD approach was applied and the need to include women into local management structures was highlighted. Finally 03 Management Committees were created with 7 members (4 refugees and 3 nationals' males and females).



Community meeting held in April in Soungutoto. © UNHCR Guinea-Bissau



Rice-Husker delivered to the Community of Barraca Biro. © UNHCR Guinea-Bissau



Refugee receiving ID Card during June's Verification Exercise. © UNHCR Guinea-Bissau