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## GUINEA -BISSAU FACTSHEET

December 2016

### HIGHLIGHTS

*10<sup>th</sup> State to accede to one or both of Statelessness Conventions since the launch of #IBelong Campaign*

### POPULATION OF CONCERN

(as of April 2016)

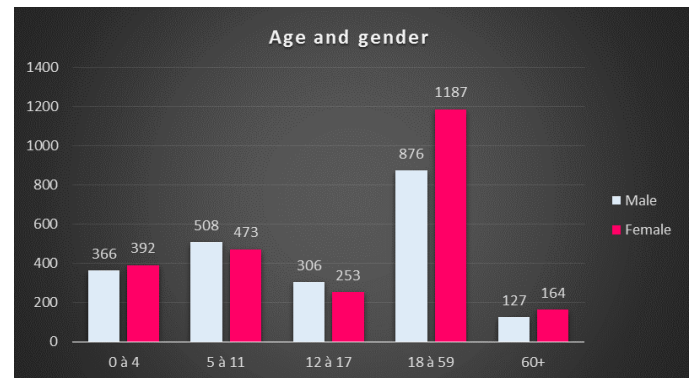
**9,327** refugees in Guinea-Bissau

Country of origin	Total
Senegalese	9,282
Ivory Coast	8
Serra Leoa	22
Others	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,327</b>

**13** Asylum Seekers.

**4,652** Refugees verified

### AGE AND GENDER



#### UNHCR Presence in Guinea-Bissau:

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

4 national staff, 01 international staff, 02 affiliated workforce.

#### Protection priorities

- Focus on protection objectives linked to naturalization and land formalization
- Promote the empowerment of existing national structures through capacity building
- Promote a more favorable protection environment for persons of concern and local communities

## 2016 BUDGET

	<u>OL</u>	<u>AOL</u>	<u>OP</u>
<b>Staffing</b>	255,181.00	47,778.00	302,959.00
<b>ABOD</b>	235,000.00	48,000.00	283,000.00
<b>OPS</b>	401,999.00	681,156.00	1,083,155.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>892,180.00</b>	<b>776,934.00</b>	<b>1,669,114.00</b>

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### Protection

- Advocacy has been successfully conducted and President José Mário Vaz has deposited the Instruments of Accession to the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness in New York on September 2016.
- In April 2016 UNHCR led a verification exercise of Senegalese refugees in 57 villages at the Cacheu region and confirmed the presence of 4,652 refugees. The absent refugees might have left the country permanently or only temporarily to return to Casamance for seasonal migration. The results are being used to better design UNHCR's local integration strategy for the Senegalese caseload.
- In 2015 CNRD carried out 2 missions on sensitization and information campaigns regarding documentation in 9 hosting villages. The outcome was that most refugees showed interest in acquiring Bissau Guinean citizenship or in keeping their refugee status in order to benefit from international protection.
- An ad hoc commission has been working on naturalization cases since 2014. A total of 481 were forward for analysis and approval by the government. 89 of those cases were sent to the ministry of Justice, but only 15 were approved so far by the Council of Ministers.
- 40 Protection Committees for SGBV prevention and response were established and trained since 2013, 13 of which were created in 2016.

### Durable Solutions

- Durable Solutions strategy focus on the development of a local integration framework that enables the naturalization of refugees willing to acquire the Guinea Bissau nationality and formalization of land ownership for refugees with property given by local leaders of each hosting communities. Currently, a joint project between UNHCR and CNRD on land formalization is being implemented in the Cacheu Region to ensure that most vulnerable refugees who applied for naturalization have facilitated access to title deeds.
- In 2016 UNHCR has assisted rural refugees and host communities in the sectors of access to drinkable water, health, agriculture and income generating activities as well as urban refugees in the sectors of education and resettlement.
- In order to promote social cohesion and avoid tension between locals and refugees, the Office's approach has been to support the existing services and government's strategy so as to make basic services available to both refugees and host communities in urban and rural area. In addition, the Office also supports vulnerable cases in the rural area with key items, such as wheel chairs, bikes and, in some cases, financial grants for income generating activities.
- In 2016 10 individuals (amounting a total of 05 cases, 04 from Sierra Leone and 1 from Senegal) were resettled in Canada.



Rice Rusker provided to refugees in Cacheu / Refugee child using bicycle provided by IP / Local communities benefiting from well funded by UNHCR for irrigation for agricultural purpose © UNHCR Guinea-Bissau