

Country Disease Outlook

Guinea-Bissau

August 2023



World Health
Organization

African Region

Background

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau is a country on the west coast of Africa, bordered by Senegal and Guinea. It is a low-income country with a GDP per capita of US\$ 776 (2022) and a population of 2.1 million (2022).

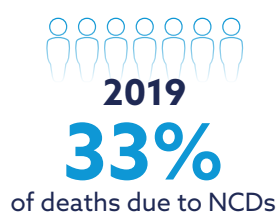
Key points

- ◆ Guinea-Bissau has a high burden of communicable and non-communicable disease (NCDs), with the latter making up 33% of deaths in 2019.
- ◆ Guinea-Bissau improved its child survival rates between 2015 and 2021, however it is not yet meeting the SDG targets for neonatal or under-five mortality rates.
- ◆ Guinea-Bissau is endemic for all five of the NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA). In 2020, 88% of the 393,436 people targeted were treated with MDA.
- ◆ Guinea-Bissau's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been suboptimal and not meeting the 90% target levels. In 2021, coverage rates dipped below prior years, with the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine at 67%, while the coverage rate for the first dose of measles vaccine was 63%. This resulted in 20,287 zero-dose children and 11,680 under-immunized children. It is important for Guinea-Bissau to strengthen its routine immunization system, while also implementing catch-up vaccination strategies in the country to ensure that no children are left unprotected from vaccine-preventable diseases into the future.

UHC/CN

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable
and Non-communicable Diseases
WHO Regional Office for Africa





Broad disease outlook

The country has a high burden of both communicable (such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) and non-communicable disease (NCDs). The latter was estimated to have caused 33% of deaths in 2019.

Communicable diseases

Malaria

Malaria remains a public health problem in Guinea-Bissau. In 2021, the incidence of malaria (per 1,000 population) was 105.1 cases and has been rising since 2015. Malaria attributable deaths were 1,000 cases. The country had been meeting the targets set by the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria in 2015-18, although the incidence rate has since increased and has remained above the target in 2019-21.

Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS

Incidence of tuberculosis was at level of 361 cases per 100,000 people in 2021, unchanged from the previous year. The mortality rate of TB cases (all forms, excluding HIV coinfection) has declined slightly since 2015, going from 79 to 75 per 100,000 population in 2021. In contrast, the TB mortality rate among HIV-positive people has increased from 51 to 58 in the same period.

Guinea-Bissau has not met the 95-95-95 goals:

- ▲ 60% of people living with HIV that know their status.
- ▲ 74% of people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment.
- ▲ 47% of people living with HIV and on treatment are virally suppressed.

Approximately 17,609 people were receiving antiretroviral treatment in 2021.

Neglected tropical diseases

Guinea-Bissau was endemic for all five of the NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA), namely lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis and trachoma. In 2020, 345,506 of the 393,436 targeted (88%) were treated with MDA.

Other notable NTDs that remain endemic are leishmaniasis (cutaneous), taeniasis and cysticercosis, leprosy, and rabies.

Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are a significant health problem in Guinea-Bissau. The age-standardised mortality rate across four major NCDs (Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Cancer and Diabetes) was high at 801 per 100,000 in males and 621 in females in 2021.

Guinea-Bissau has implemented limited efforts on the NCD progress indicators on tobacco taxes specifically, however there is very limited progress against the remaining indicators. These include the other indicators relating to tobacco, as well as those relating to the NCD guidelines, alcohol advertising restrictions, alcohol taxes, salt policies, trans fats policies, marketing to children and physical activity awareness.

Childhood Immunization

Guinea-Bissau's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been suboptimal and not meeting the 90% target levels. In 2021, coverage rates dipped below prior years, with the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine at 67%, while the coverage rate for the first dose of measles vaccine was 63%. This resulted in 20,287 zero-dose children and 11,680 under-immunized children. It is important for Guinea-Bissau to strengthen its routine immunization system, while also implementing catch-up vaccination strategies in the country to ensure that no children are left unprotected from vaccine-preventable diseases into the future.

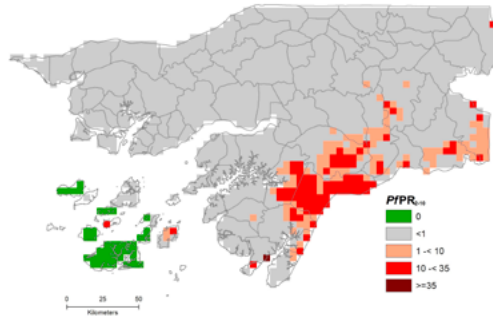
Child survival

Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates, the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 92 to 74 per 1,000 live births between 2015 and 2021, although it is still well above the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate decreased from 39 to 34 per 1,000 live births in the same period, remaining above the SDG target of 12.

MALARIA

POPULATION AT RISK IN 2022	TOTAL MALARIA CASES IN 2021	TOTAL MALARIA DEATHS IN 2021
13.5 million people	4.5 million	9,439

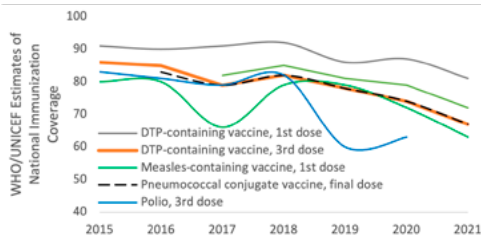
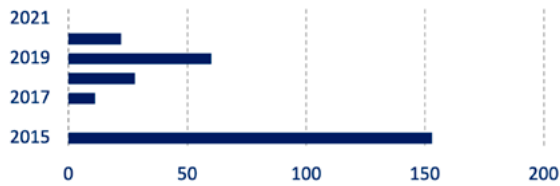
ITN use in children under five years 38.1% and 36.6% use of ACTs among those for whom care was sought and received a finger or heel prick



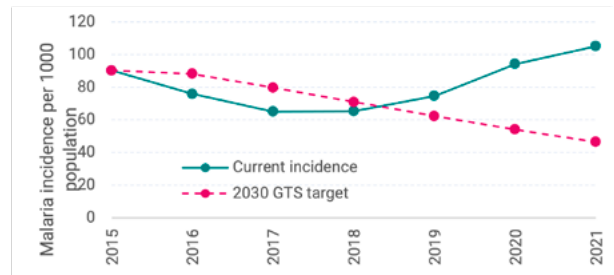
Plasmodium falciparum malaria prevalence in children in Guinea-Bissau in 2020. Estimates from the Malaria Atlas project

EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN

■ Measles



Malaria incidence in 2021 compared to GTS targets shows that the country was initially on target but has since reversed targets since 2018.



Zero dose children 20,287

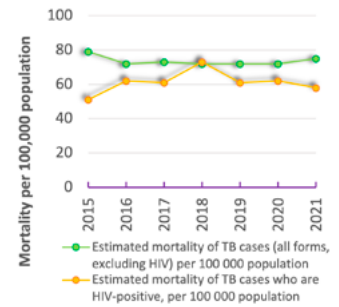
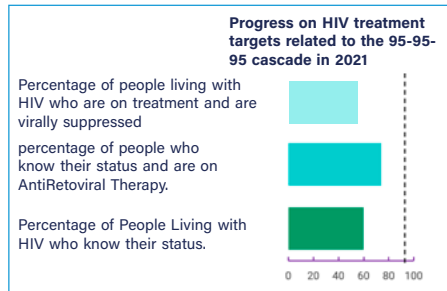
Under-immunized 11,680

WUENIC estimates show that vaccination coverage has been on a decline since 2018.

Measles outbreaks continue to be a major public health problem.

HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS

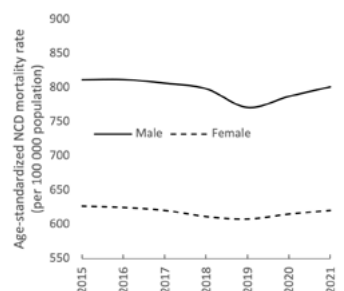
- 17,609 people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021
- 72% Treatment success rate for HIV-positive TB cases
- 14% of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment
- 3.9% Domestic funding for TB
- Unknown Domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/polution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restrictions
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS

- Achieved
- Partially achieved
- Not achieved/Unknown



NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)

- Lymphatic filariasis
- Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
- Schistosomiasis
- Trachoma
- Onchocerciasis

PC-NTDs treatment in 2021
393,436 targeted for MDA
345,506 treated with MDA

OTHER MAJOR NTDS

- Leishmaniasis (cutaneous)
- Taeniasis and cysticercosis
- Leprosy
- Rabies