

# WHO

## GUINEA BISSAU

### 2025

## Biannual newsletter



**PUBLICATION TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED ABOUT THE  
WHO ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES IN GUINEA BISSAU**

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## SUMMARY

This edition features key achievements and initiatives supported by WHO in Guinea-Bissau during the first half of 2025:

**Field Presence & Monitoring:** WHO consultants conducted 274 visits across six critical regions to support health systems and service delivery.

**Surveillance & Emergencies:** A third national training on Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) reached 194 participants across all 11 regions.

**Immunization:** The National Preventive Yellow Fever Vaccination Campaign (9–18 May) launched with WHO's technical support, offering free vaccines to all individuals aged 9 months to 60 years.

**Health Planning & UHC:** Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP), with support from WHO, held a workshop in Bissau to present and validate its 2025 Unified Operational Plan.

**Health Workforce:** WHO donated the “Jean Djonu” Library to the National Health School, equipped with ICT resources, to strengthen training and capacity development focus on Nursing Program.

**Maternal & Newborn Health:** WHO and partners supported the validation of updated maternal care protocols and celebrated World Health Day 2025 with a call to action for safe beginnings for mothers and newborns.

**Health Financing:** For the first time, WHO delivered a Portuguese-language training on Health Accounts and Financing Progress Matrix tools to 5 Lusophone countries, including Guinea-Bissau.

**Digital Health:** Telemedicine capacity was strengthened through the training of 15 health professionals and the joint WHO–UNDP launch of the national Telemedicine Center.

**Health Governance & Peacebuilding:** WHO and UNICEF conducted a joint mission in Quinara, while the Health Sector Dialogue Mechanism advanced coordination with government and unions.

**Gender, Equity & Human Rights:** WHO supported national reporting to CEDAW, promoted gender-sensitive health financing and digital services, and contributed to the GEHR components of the National Social Protection Strategy.

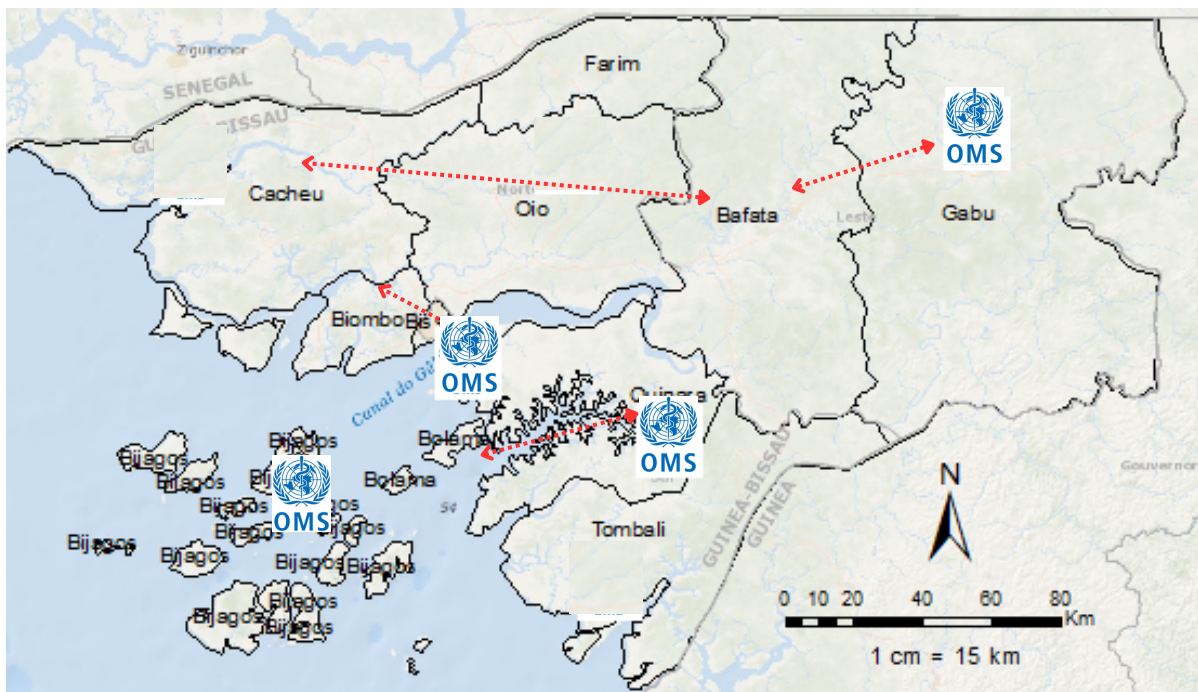


## 1. HIGHLIGHTS

The World Health Organization (WHO) works to support and improve health for everyone. Its main roles include:

1. To provide **leadership** on matters critical to health and engage in partnerships where joint action is needed;
2. To **shape the research agenda** and stimulate the generation, translation, and **dissemination of valuable knowledge** for health;
3. To set **norms and standards** and promote and monitor their implementation;
4. To articulate ethical and evidence-based **policy options**;
5. To **provide technical support**, catalyze change, and build sustainable institutional capacity;
6. To monitor the health situation and **assess health trends**.

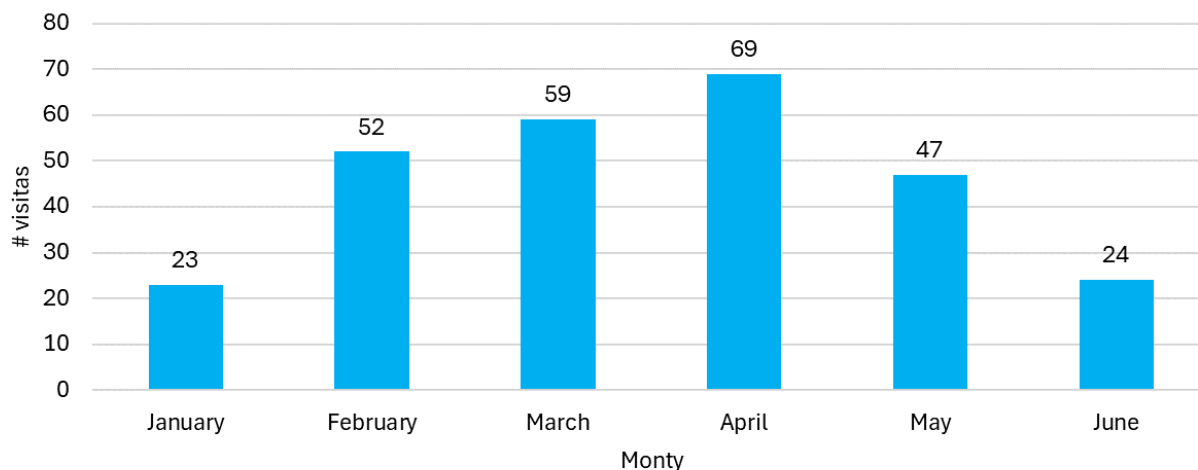
## 2. LOCATION OF WHO CONSULTANTS IN GUINEA BISSAU



The WHO consultants are strategically located to provide timely support in health surveillance and emergency response. They collaborate closely with local health authorities, communities, and partners to strengthen health systems and ensure a swift and effective response to health threats.

### 3. EMERGENCY

**Fig. 1: Total surveillance visits carried out by WHO consultants**



Data Source: WHO-Kizeo

#### 3.1 SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH EMERGENCY

The third phase of training on Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) was conducted across the 11 regions, with the following number of participants: Bafatá (20), Bijagós (12), Biombo (11), Bolama (5), Cacheu (30), Farim (7), Gabú (33), Oio (14), Quinara (11), SAB (29), and Tombali (22), **totaling 194 participants.**

**Fig. 2: Training in Integrater Disease Survellance and Response (IDSR) conducted by INASA**



#### COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE FOR AFP DETECTION JUNE 2025

Awareness sessions for health professionals on procedures for collecting Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) samples as part of polio surveillance





## 4. IMMUNIZATION

### Yellow Fever Vaccination Campaign Launched in Guinea-Bissau:

The National Preventive Yellow Fever Vaccination Campaign was officially launched in Guinea-Bissau. From **9 to 18 May 2025**, the vaccine will be offered free of charge to people aged **9 months to 60 years**, across all regions. The launch event brought together key partners, including the Ministry of Public Health, WHO, UNICEF, Gavi, the World Bank, and community members. The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to universal vaccination, with WHO providing technical support throughout the campaign. Vaccination was available at schools, hospitals, health centers, and mobile posts.

*WHO representative and Minister of Health launch the National Yellow Fever Vaccination Campaign*



*Sensitisation and supervision during the campaign carried out by WHO consultants in the regions*





## 5. HEALTH PLANNING /UHC LIFE COURSE

On 19 February 2025, the Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP), with support from WHO, held a workshop in Bissau to present and validate its 2025 Unified Operational Plan. The event, led by the Directorate of Studies, Planning and Partnerships (DSEPP), brought together around 50 stakeholders—including development partners, embassies, NGOs, and MINSAP program directors—to discuss key priorities in governance, essential services, and public health programs. The meeting concluded with a recommendation to hold additional technical sessions to finalize remaining components of the plan.



**Health Workforce:** WHO donated equipment to the library of the National Health School's Nursing Program.

On 13 March 2025, the WHO Office in Guinea-Bissau officially handed over the “Jean Djonu” Library to the National Health School. Equipped with 17 computers, tables, and chairs, the library honors the late Professor Jean Djonu. This initiative was funded through Portuguese Cooperation resources mobilized by WHO Geneva. The donation reflects WHO’s continued commitment to supporting health training institutions and developing the health workforce.



## Maternal health strengthening

### Validation workshop strengthens maternal care protocols:

From 9–11 April 2025, the Ministry of Public Health, through the Directorate of Reproductive Health Services, held a national workshop in Bissau to validate updated prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care guidelines. The meeting brought together 88 national health technicians from all 11 health regions, including maternity and pediatric care leads.

The workshop was technically supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) through the EU-funded PIMI III project.



### World Health Day 2025 Celebrated in Bissau with Focus on Maternal and Newborn Health

On 9 April 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Public Health celebrated World Health Day. The event also marked the launch of the global campaign “Healthy Beginnings, Promising Futures”, aiming to reduce maternal and newborn mortality and promote the well-being of women and children. The ceremony brought together government officials, the UN Resident Coordinator, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, the Spanish Embassy, Portuguese Cooperation, GAVI, Caritas, Plan International, civil society organizations. WHO Representative Dr Chantal Kambire-Diarra emphasized that every hour in Africa, 20 mothers and 120 newborns die from preventable causes and called for urgent action and investment in maternal and newborn care.





## Health Financing Capacity Building – Portuguese-Speaking Countries

### First-Ever Training on Health Financing Tools

From 24–28 June in Bissau, WHO organized the first dedicated training in Portuguese on the Health Financing Progress Matrix (HFPM) and System of Health Accounts (SHA 2011) for Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and São Tomé and Príncipe. The training aimed to strengthen national capacity to assess and reform health financing systems toward Universal Health Coverage. Supported by the EU through SHEFiM and UHC-P, the training enhanced technical skills, promoted peer learning, and encouraged evidence-based policymaking.



Representatives from Portuguese-speaking African countries gathered to deepen their understanding of the Health Accounts and Health Financing Progress Matrix tools.

Dr Chantal Kambire-Diarra, WHO Representative in Guinea-Bissau, emphasized that “no one should have to choose between good health and other basic needs,” highlighting sustainable financing as key to achieving Universal Health Coverage.

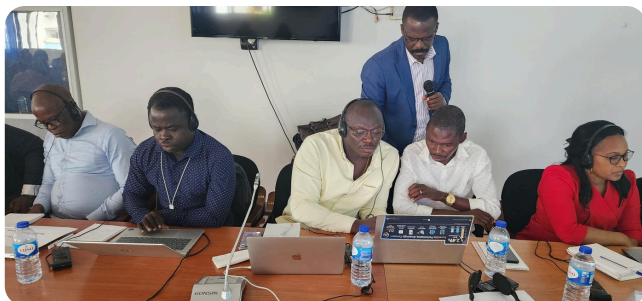
On behalf of the Ministry of Public Health, Minister Pedro Tipote underscored the ethical responsibility to ensure transparency in health financing so that no one is left behind. Francesca Moleda of the EU Delegation reaffirmed the importance of equitable and adequate health financing and expressed hope that the seminar will support the development of fair, resilient, and inclusive health systems.



## Health Financing Capacity Building – working group

### Group Work on the Use of the Health Accounts Tool

Participants from Portuguese-speaking African countries engaged in group work sessions to apply the Health Accounts (SHA 2011) tool.



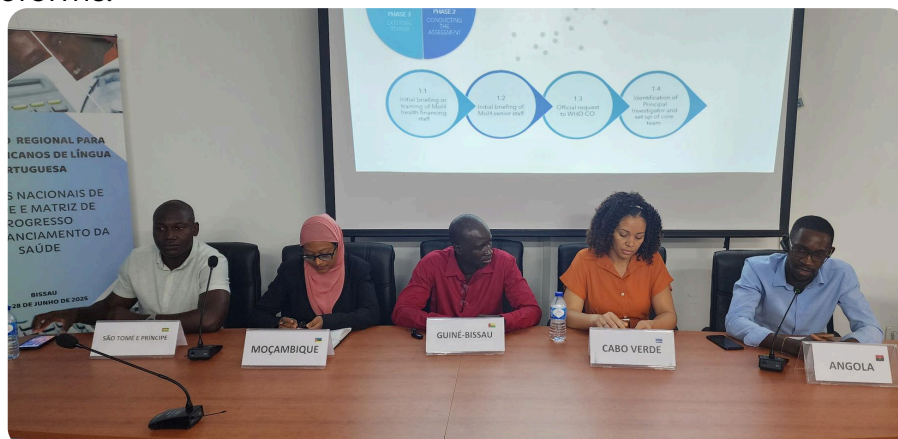
### Discussing Solutions for the Use of the Health Financing Progress Matrix

Participants held focused discussions to identify practical solutions for applying the Health Financing Progress Matrix (HFPM) in their national contexts.



### Presentation and Review of Country Roadmaps

Each participating country presented its proposed next steps for advancing health financing reforms.

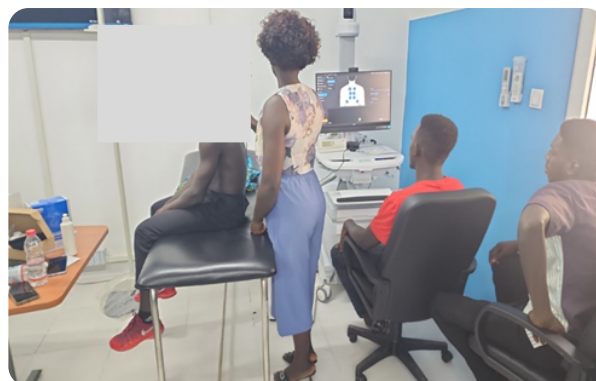
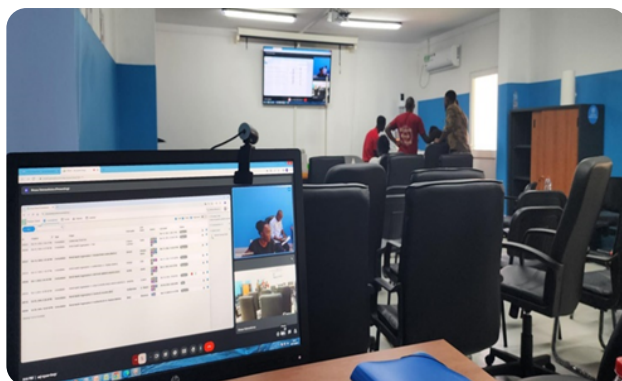




## 5. DATA AND INNOVATIONS, DIGITAL HEALTH - TELEMEDICINE

### Training on Telemedicine Equipment

Fifteen healthcare professionals from various specialties received updated training on the use of telemedicine equipment. This initiative aims to enhance the delivery of remote healthcare services and strengthen digital health capacity across the country.



### Joint WHO and UNDP Initiative on start Telemedicine Center

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have jointly a startup programme to operationalize the national Telemedicine Center.



## 8. GLOBAL HEALTH FOR PEACE INITIATIVE (PBF)

### Governance and Community Engagement:

Under the framework of the joint health governance project funded by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), WHO and UNICEF conducted a joint monitoring mission in the Quinara region to assess progress of project activities being implemented by our local partner NGO AIFO, reinforce coordination with local stakeholders, and strengthen engagement with decentralized authorities.



## 9. GENDER, EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### GENDER, EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS:

WHO supported national efforts to promote gender equity by submitting technical recommendations to inform the country's State Report to the CEDAW Committee. Gender-related advocacy was reinforced through social media to promote gender mainstreaming in public health.



Cross-sectoral recommendations were developed to integrate gender, equity, and human rights (GEHR) into the National Social Protection Strategy 2025–2034.

Additionally, WHO provided GEHR-focused inputs to AIFO's monitoring tools, strengthening their ability to address gender-based violence, disability, and intersecting vulnerabilities.