



Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES)

Guinea Bissau

Country Setting

- ▶ Guinea-Bissau is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world.
- ▶ The aftermath of the armed conflicts of 1998-99, especially looting and destruction of already weak facilities, continues to affect social services, particularly education and health.
- ▶ 42.4 per cent of children go to primary school (45.9% of boys and 38.9% of girls).
- ▶ Social and cultural risk factors include early marriage and female genital mutilation.
- ▶ The leading cause of mortality and morbidity among all age groups is malaria.

WES Sector Setting

- ▶ In the rural areas, there are four main ways of accessing water: unprotected wells, protected wells, boreholes and rivers, from which 4 per cent of the population get their water.
- ▶ Water access is not a big problem during the rainy season, but it becomes more difficult when high temperatures begin to dry out the reserves. In most cases, the population is not able to keep water safe from the source to final consumption.
- ▶ The government adopted a water code in 1992. In 1993, the inter-ministry Water Council (CIMA) was created, comprising the ministers of water, health, planning, agriculture and infrastructure.
- ▶ Several problems affect the water and sanitation sector including institutional and management problems, lack of funding and of qualified technicians.

Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	1,493
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	204
Total adult literacy rate (%)	38

Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	79	57
Rural	49	23
Total	59	34

UNICEF WES Programme

Main Components

- ▶ The programme aims to increase access to safe water from 49 per cent to 55 per cent in priority areas and reduce mortality.
- ▶ Water supply and sanitation facilities will be constructed in target communities, schools and health centres in three regions.
- ▶ Hygiene and sanitation within families and communities will be promoted through community-based activities and schools.
- ▶ Community-based committees will be trained in the management of water sources and in monitoring environmental hygiene.

Programme Highlights and Achievements

- ▶ Provision of safe water to 36 health centres in priority areas; construction of another 33 boreholes, 16 traditional wells and 600 latrines for schools and communities.
- ▶ Solar power pumps with photovoltaic cell, storage tanks and pipelines installed.
- ▶ Encouraged partnerships with NGOs and community participation in construction and maintenance of wells and latrines.
- ▶ Supported a study that demonstrated feasibility of well disinfecting.