

Contributions to Peacebuilding

From

Guinea Bissau



Guinea Bissau

- **Location:**
West Africa
- **Population:**
1.6 million
- **Map references:**
Area:
total: 36,120 sq km
- **Languages:**
Portuguese and Crioulo.
- **Independence:** 1974
- Ranks **175** out of **177** in the UNDP Human Development Index for 2007/2008



Guinea Bissau – Context

- In 1998, a military mutiny and resulting armed conflict devastated the country's economic and social infrastructure, aggravating already widespread poverty.
- 80% of the country's infrastructure was destroyed and never rebuilt. (African Development Bank)
- The roots of the deep political and social crisis can be found in the following structural conditions:
 - Dysfunctional and weak State institutions
 - Bad and inefficient governance
 - Fractured political elite
 - Highly interventionist military
 - High levels of poverty
- To make matters worse, illicit international trafficking networks are using Guinea Bissau as a base of operations because of its strategic geographic location, porous borders and poor law enforcement capacity.

Government Efforts

- National Political Stability Pact signed in March 2007 between the three largest political parties
- Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Re-engagement of international partners, including the World Bank IMF, and UN
- Strategic Framework for Security Sector Reform
- PBF and PBC

- On December 19, 2007 the Country Specific Configuration for Guinea Bissau was established under the leadership of the H.E. Maria Luiza Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations.
- Launched a process for developing an integrated peacebuilding strategy.

Peacebuilding Fund

Contributed 6 million dollars for Quick Impact projects:

- Elections
- Youth Employment
- Refurbishing prisons
- Refurbishing Military Barracks

Peacebuilding Priorities

- Elections and institutional support for the Electoral Commission
- Rehabilitation of the infrastructure, particularly in the energy sector and other measures to jumpstart the economy
- Security Sector Reform
- Strengthening the Judicial Sector and consolidation of the rule of law and the fight against drug trafficking
- Public administration reform
- Social issues critical to peacebuilding

Peacebuilding Commission Process

- Follows the template set by Burundi and Sierra Leone
 - Joint Development of a Strategic Framework
 - Thematic Discussions
 - Establishing National Structures – National Steering Committee
- ONE DISTINCTIVE FEATURE...

NATIONAL APPROPRIATION BY AND VIA THE WOMEN

- Women's Organizations of Guinea Bissau have appropriated the process
- Conducted a effective lobbying campaign and managed to have two women named to the steering committee

NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

- Conducted a nation wide consultation to engender the PBC Strategic Framework
 - 8 Regional Consultations
 - 1 National Consultation
- Specific initiatives to foster gender equality in all priority areas

Gender Content in the SFD

Recognizes women's contribution to peace

- **Elections:** civic education to promote participation of women in electoral processes
- **Economic Development:** Empowerment through credit and training in business development
- **SSR:** Mechanisms to ensure the participation of larger numbers of women in SSR implementation
- **Justice Reform:** Improve access and provide special support and protection services for victims and inclusion of women in the formulation of laws and policies that promote effective protection of women
- **Public Administration:** Increase the participation of women in decision-making positions. Measures against sexual harassment and development of policies, legislation and mechanisms to support and protect women.
- **Social Aspects:** prioritize access to education for girls and maternal health