

GUINEA-BISSAU



BASIC INFORMATION

Population:	1.6 million inhabitants (2005)
GDP:	301 million dollars (2005)
GNI per capita:	180 dollars (2005)
HDI:	0.349 (173 rd) (2004)

BACKGROUND TO THE CONFLICT

Civil war broke out in June 1998 following the instigation of a military revolt by General A. Mané. In November 1999 there was fighting in the capital between forces loyal to the rebel General on one side and government troops on the other, though a ceasefire was called a few days later. During 2000, A. Mané led another rebellion, bringing down President Vieira, though he was eventually executed at the end of the same year. During the civil war, the security forces increased greatly in number, placing a huge financial burden on the government once the war had ended. At the end of 2003 there was a coup d'état which led to the formation of a Government of National Transition, led by the businessman H. Rosa. A few months later there was an uprising by around 600 soldiers, which caused Portugal and other countries to send a peace mission to the country.

PEACE AGREEMENTS / PROCESS

ECOWAS has been involved in the negotiations aimed at bringing an end to the conflict, and in July 1998 it drew up a "road map" for negotiations for a ceasefire. November 1998 saw the signing of the **Abuja Agreement**, which discussed the formation of a transitional government. A DDR programme was drawn up in February 1999, and during the following month the UN created an office in the country (UNOGBIS) to coordinate its work for the country's rehabilitation. A donor conference was held in May 1999, leading to the promise of aid totalling 200 million dollars. However, all these projects were put on hold due to the successive coups d'état of May 1999 and September 2003.

INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

The United Nations opened an Office in the country (**UNOGBIS**) following a proposal by the Secretary General in resolution S/1999/232 of 3 March 1999, with the aim of encouraging peace-building across the country. Following the review and extension of its mandate on a number of occasions, UNOGBIS currently has the following duties:

- Strengthen political dialogue and the promotion of national reconciliation, with respect for the rule of law and human rights.
- Support the restoration of democratic normality.
- Assist in the holding of proper democratic elections.
- Strengthen conflict-prevention mechanisms.

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- Support national efforts for security sector reform, including the development of civilian-military relations.
- Encourage full implementation of the United Nations Action Plan in order to control the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.
- Support the Resident Coordinator in order to obtain international financial aid that will provide the resources needed to implement development and rehabilitation strategy.
- Strengthen institutional powers in order to establish a peace-building strategy.

DDR STRUCTURE

Background to the DDR process:

The first pilot programme for the demobilisation of 500 former combatants was completed in January 2001. A further 3,500 soldiers and former combatants were demobilised at the end of June 2001 and another group of 1,000 in mid-December of the same year.

At the end of March 2005, a report by the UN Secretary General indicated that the demobilisation and reinsertion of former combatants, the reform of the justice system and the revitalisation of the economy were the main challenges that had to be faced in order to guarantee stability in the country. His report also mentioned that the IOM has continued to provide administrative management and financial support for the DDR programme, which is now in its final stage.

Type of DDR:

Reduction of armed forces and demobilisation of militias and paramilitary groups.

Enforcing bodies:

The Government has a Demobilisation, Reinsertion and Reintegration Programme (PDRRI), which includes supervision of the different activities involved by an Inter-Ministerial Committee and an explorer Technology Group (ETG). The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has provided support for the DDR of 11,300 former combatants with the implementation of two projects, one lasting 10 months and the other 36.

Groups to be demobilised:

Around 12,595 (10,544 soldiers and 2,051 militia members).

Budget:

In February 2004, the World Bank awarded a 13 million dollar loan to Guinea-Bissau, of which 5 million was to be used for the demobilisation of surplus members of the country's armed forces. At the end of 2004, the World Bank reviewed the aims of a 25 million dollar loan approved in 2001 for the country's economic rehabilitation, including the introduction of a demobilisation programme and the implementation of a National Reconciliation and Reconstruction Programme (NRRP). The loan included four components, one of which involved building peace through DDR, which would affect some members of the armed forces and other former combatants. The Multi-Donor Trust Fund created for this project received contributions from Sweden and the Netherlands.

Each beneficiary of the programme has received around \$1,000 in grants. The programme has cost a total of around 26 million dollars, with contributions from the World Bank, the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, the African Development Bank and the EU, which has given around 3.3 million dollars.

Timetable:

To be completed between January 2001 and the end of 2005.

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Other issues:

- **Security Sector Reform:** A “road map” has been drawn up with help from specialists in the United Kingdom, aimed at the integrated reform of the security sector. CEDEAO, ECOWAS and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, the AU and some bilateral and multilateral donors have already expressed a wish to help the government in the planning and implementation of its reforms.

During 2006, the Government presented a package of reforms valued at 400 million dollars, in which the cost of the RSS and the modernisation of the Armed Forces came to 184 million dollars. This reform proposed reducing the current Armed Forces from 9,000 troops to 3,500. With regard to the budget required to carry out this reform, of the 184 million dollars earmarked, 70 will be set aside for retraining the ex-combatants.

DDR STAGES

Disarmament:

Although the DDR programme does not itself include a specific disarmament stage, the proliferation of weapons (especially small arms and light weapons) represents a challenge to security in the country. It is for this reason that the government designed a pilot programme for the collection and destruction of weapons within the framework of the United Nations' Coordinated Measures relating to small arms. This should have begun in November 2005, but has not yet been introduced as a result of the change in government.

Demobilisation:

Since achieving independence, Guinea-Bissau has gone through a number of processes aimed at demilitarising its society and reducing interference from the armed forces in the country's politics. After the armed conflict of 1998-1999, the Republic's President enacted a decree in 2000 which introduced a PDRRI. Financed by the World Bank and bilateral donors, the PDRRI is a government programme that has also enjoyed technical help from the OIM, both in its preparatory stages and during DDR itself. The OIM has also provided financial management for the whole programme.

With the aim of promoting peace-building, national reconciliation and social and economic recovery, the PDRRI was introduced in August 2000 and designed to run until the beginning of 2006. The aims of the PDRRI are as follows:

- a) Demobilisation of surplus members of the armed forces and the police, along with members of the militias involved in the 1998-1999 conflict (concluded).
- b) Reinsertion of all demobilised personnel (concluded).
- c) Reintegration of all demobilised personnel and former combatants involved in all armed conflicts in the country since independence in 1954 (still underway).

Reinsertion:

This stage should have begun in June 2001, but in the end could not be started until September 2002. The stage lasted for 12 months. Aid consisted of a combination of grants with advice services channelled through a dozen local NGOs. Two grants were paid at a total cost of \$720,000. The additional cost of the reinsertion programmes totalled 2.9 million dollars.

Reintegration:

The aim is to reintegrate around 11,300 former combatants. These former combatants were encouraged to participate in their communities and promote activities that would generate wealth and physical rehabilitation, using a fund created for this purpose. Although this stage should have begun in July 2002, it did not start until April 2003, ending in June 2004 with the

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reintegration of around 3,000 former combatants. It was hoped that a further 7,200 could be reintegrated between June 2004 and July 2005. 19% of the people who have been reintegrated are women.

Micro-projects financed during stage I of Reintegration		
Sectors	Millions of \$	Former combatant beneficiaries
Economic	4.9	3,577
Social	0.4	197
Vocational training	0.6	487
TOTAL	5.9	4,261

A shortage of funds currently means that reintegration has not covered all former combatants. Of the 11,445 beneficiaries, only 7,168 (regarded as the most vulnerable of the demobilised personnel and former soldiers) have benefited from the reintegration programme. The reintegration stage of the PDRRI is being implemented through a network of local and international NGOs.

	Figures 2000-2001			Demobilisation		Reintegration		
				planned	achieved	planned	requested	vulnerable
DRR	conflict 1998-1999	Armed forces	10,544	2,341	2,169	2,169	1,887	1,318
		Militias	2,051	2,051	1,760	1,760	1,563	1,114
Reintegration	conflicts 1954-1998	Former combatants	16,706			16,706	8,005	4,754
TOTAL			29,301	4,392	3,929	20,635	11,445	7,186

EVOLUTION OF THE DDR PROCESS

Demobilisation was satisfactorily completed in September 2002, leading to the reinsertion of around 3,929 former combatants. The armed forces were reduced by 8,200 troops, a lower proportion than hoped (32% as opposed to the 50% planned). At that time it was planned that a further 3,000 former combatants would have been reintegrated by the middle of 2005. The IOM programme asked for an extension until the end of 2005 in order to be able to complete its reintegration targets.

However, the problem of the proliferation of small arms continues. In an attempt to deal with the problem, a National Commission has been created and charged with the implementation of pilot projects for the collection and destruction of weapons. The collection of funds for this process would seem to be at quite an advanced stage (September 2005), meaning that the Commission may begin operations at the end of the year.

ASPECTS TO BE EXAMINED

Planning:

- Delay in implementing the programme.
- Delay in completing the list of soldiers to be demobilised.
- Poor operation of the Zoned Reintegration Councils during the reintegration stage.

Financing:

- Delays in salary payments.
- Some donors suspended their contributions.
- Some of the resources for the year 2000 (0.5 million dollars) were diverted for other government expenses.

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Security:

- Deterioration in the security situation in mid-process.
- Political instability.

SOURCES

International:

- World Bank: *Implementation Completion Report On a Credit in the Amount of US\$ 25 million to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau for an Economic Rehabilitation & Recovery Credit*, 2004, at <http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2005/02/18/000112742_20050218093606/Rendered/PDF/31015.pdf>.
- IOM, at <<http://www.iom.int/iomwebsite/Project>>.
- OCHA, at <<http://www.reliefweb.int/library/profiles/Guinea-Bissau-06-2005.pdf>>.

Non-governmental:

- Malan, M.: *Transitions with Minimal Assistance: Lessons from Guinea-Bissau?*, KAIPTC, 2005, at <[http://64.78.30.169/kaiptc/Guinea Bissau Paper MM.pdf](http://64.78.30.169/kaiptc/Guinea%20Bissau%20Paper%20MM.pdf)>.

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