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GUINEA-BISSAU FACTSHEET

September 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

10th State to accede to one or both of Statelessness Conventions since the launch of #IBelong Campaign

POPULATION OF CONCERN

(as of April 2016)

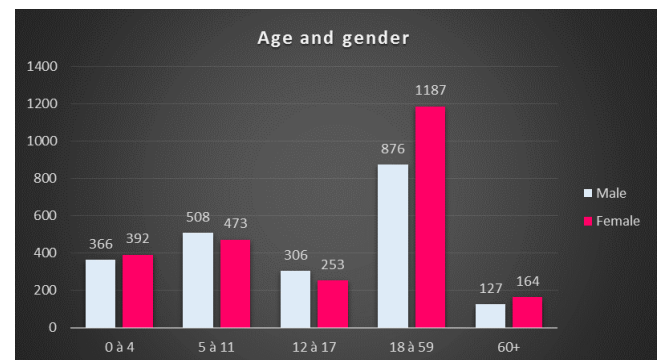
9,327 refugees in Guinea-Bissau

Country of origin	Total
Senegalese	9,282
Ivory Coast	8
Serra Leoa	22
Others	15
Total	9,327

13 Asylum Seekers.

4,652 Refugees verified

AGE AND GENDER



UNHCR Presence in Guinea-Bissau:

- **01 Office located in Bissau**
- **07 Staff:**

4 national staff, 01 international staff, 02 affiliated workforce.

Protection priorities

- Focus on protection objectives linked to naturalization and land formalization
- Promote the empowerment of existing national structures through capacity building
- Promote a more favorable protection environment for persons of concern and local communities

2016 BUDGET

	<u>OL</u>	<u>AOL</u>	<u>OP</u>
Staffing	255,181.00	47,778.00	302,959.00
ABOD	235,000.00	48,000.00	283,000.00
OPS	401,999.00	681,156.00	1,083,155.00
TOTAL	892,180.00	776,934.00	1,669,114.00

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Advocacy has been successfully conducted and President José Mário Vaz has deposited the Instruments of Accession to the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness in New York on September 2016.
- In April 2016 UNHCR led a verification exercise of Senegalese refugees in 57 villages at the Cacheu region and confirmed the presence of 4,652 refugees. The absent refugees might have left the country permanently or only temporarily to return to Casamance for seasonal migration. The results are being used to better design UNHCR's local integration strategy for the Senegalese caseload.
- In 2015 CNRD carried out 2 missions on sensitization and information campaigns regarding documentation in 9 hosting villages. The outcome was that no refugee showed interest in having residential permits for foreigners. They rather prefer to acquire Bissau Guinean citizenship or to keep their refugee status in order to benefit from international protection.
- An ad hoc commission has been working on naturalization cases since 2014. A total of 481 were forward for analysis and approval by the government. 89 of those cases were sent to the ministry of Justice, but only 15 were approved so far by the Council of Ministers.
- 13 Protection Committees were created in 2016. Sensitization sessions with focus group discussions will be led by IP on Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response with all 13 communities by the end of October 2016,

Durable Solutions

- Focus on the development of a local integration framework, including a local integration package for the naturalization of refugees willing to acquire the Guinea Bissau nationality and formalization of land ownership for refugees with property given by local and traditional leaders of each hosting communities. Currently, a joint project between UNHCR and CNRD on land formalization is being implemented in the Cacheu Region to ensure that most vulnerable refugees who applied for naturalization have facilitated access to title deeds.
- UNHCR has been assisting rural refugees and host communities in the sectors of access to drinkable water, health, education, agriculture and income generating activities as well as urban refugees in the sectors of education and resettlement.
- In order to promote social cohesion and avoid tension between locals and refugees, the Office's approach has been to support the existing services and government's strategy so as to make basic services available to both refugees and host communities in urban and rural area. In addition, the Office also supports vulnerable cases in the rural area with key items, such as wheel chairs, bikes and, in some cases, financial grants for income generating activities.
- In April 2015 05 cases (04 from Sierra Leone and 1 from Senegal, amounting to a total of 10 individuals) were approved for resettlement in Canada. So far 01 Senegalese person was resettled in the second week of August 2016. The other 09 candidates are waiting for departure date.



Rice Rusker provided to refugees in Cacheu / Refugee child using bicycle provided by IP / Local communities benefiting from well funded by UNHCR for irrigation for agricultural purpose © UNHCR Guinea-Bissau