



Australia and Guinea-Bissau Cooperation

Australia's Direct Aid Program (DAP) has supported dozens of community development projects since 2013. The program supports organisations with expertise in education, health, water and sanitation, gender equality, disability inclusion, food security and human rights. It seeks to strengthen bilateral relations and contribute to sustainable development in local communities.

A range of projects funded between 2020-2025 highlight how the partnership between Guinea-Bissau and Australia can deliver on shared development priorities.

Solar Energy for Maternal Care

Ser Mais Valia supported the upgrade of maternity services at the Hansen's Disease Hospital in Cumura, Bissau. The initiative funded the installation of a solar photovoltaic system and new lighting equipment, ensuring reliable power for critical medical devices and proper illumination during childbirth, as well as other medical and nursing procedures. This intervention addresses the high maternal and neonatal mortality rates in Guinea-Bissau and the hospital's unstable electricity supply, which often forces care to occur under inadequate conditions. Women in labour, healthcare professionals, and the surrounding community benefit from safer clinical environments, improved working conditions, and enhanced maternal and neonatal care.



Mango peeling machine

Associação para produção agropecuária e facilitação de escoamento installed a mango peeling machine in the village of COOPAC, in the Gã-Mamudo-2 section, improving mango production for consumption and sale. The initiative benefited 560 women, girls, and local producers directly, and reached over 4,600 people in neighbouring villages. By reducing the physical burden and time spent on manual peeling, the project enabled women and girls to focus on education, household tasks, and income-generating activities.



Small-scale irrigation system

In the village of Bidjanta, Associação das Mulheres Agricultoras de Bidjanta implemented a project to improve irrigation and food production through the installation of a solar-powered system. The initiative includes the construction of a well, a drip irrigation network, and the creation of a community vegetable garden, aiming to ensure year-round water supply and increase agricultural productivity. It benefited 46 people and supports over 110 women and families from surrounding communities, contributing to improved food and nutritional security and promoting healthier eating habits.

The Machine that creates time

Associação Afectos com Letras installed a rice husking machine in the village of Dencasse, on the Isle of Pecixe, benefiting over 300 residents. The initiative improved rice production and food security, while significantly reducing the time women and girls spent on manual husking. As a result, women and girls were able to attend school and engage in other economic and family activities, improving education, health, and overall quality of life.



Drinking Water is Health

Ser Mais Valia supported the construction of a drinking water well to address severe water scarcity affecting 2,500 residents in Cacine, Tombali region. The project included drilling, solar-powered pumping, a 4,000-liter tank, and a public fountain with three taps. Managed by the local Association of Friends of Schools in Guinea-Bissau, the well improves access to clean water, contributing to better public health and reducing infant mortality.



Rehabilitation of Menegue Village

After a devastating fire left over 1,000 people homeless, the ONG – Ação Comunitária para Desenvolvimento das Ilhas Bijagós (ONG-ACODIB) provided emergency support to the village of Menegue, on Canhabaque Island (Bolama Bijagós region). The initiative funded construction materials to help rebuild 70 homes and purchased rice to support affected families. This response improved living conditions, reduced hunger, and helped restore dignity and stability to the local community.

Australia recognised the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in 1974, and diplomatic relations were formally established in 2011. Since 2017, the Australian Ambassador in Lisbon has held non-resident accreditation to Guinea-Bissau, with regular dialogue.

Our countries share a strong connection to the ocean and the blue economy. We are committed to the protection of the marine environment, and the impacts of climate change, particularly on Small Island Developing States.

Australia has long been a reliable partner to these states, recognising their vulnerability to external shocks and the complex economic, social and security challenges they face. Australia works collaboratively to address these issues as a member of the Pacific Islands Forum and the United Nations (UN).

Our countries share a commitment to an international system based on rules, norms, and international law, and we contribute actively to the work of the UN. We also share a commitment to deepening ties with lusophone countries. Australia was recently accepted as an associate observer of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP).

