



Elections & Beyond

UNDP

Governance Cluster

in Guinea-Bissau



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Connecting The Dots Between Change Agents in Guinea-Bissau

How The Undp Guinea-Bissau Is Using A Porfolio Approach To Create Networks Of Innovation And Integrity In A Post-Conflict Setting

When Maria N. decided to speak up, she understood the weight of that decision: she would go against many of her colleagues who were violating ethical and transparency standards at the government institution where she was working. Amadou S., a young Guinean civil servant, tried in vain to get his institution to develop financial services for all citizens. Convinced that only innovative solutions can provide a way out of the country's status quo, he now develops a fintech solution on the side. Access to financial services for Bissau Guineans is almost inexistent. Outside of the capital, there are only a few bank branches, and fintech solutions are absent. Similarly, basic public services in education, health, or justice are out of reach to most citizens in the regions. The country is persistently among those with the lowest Human Development Index, and currently ranks 175th out of 189 countries (2020). Poverty is persistently high, with an estimated 70 per cent of the population living below the poverty line, half of whom are women.

Guinea-Bissau's Opportunities To Prosper And Innovate Are Visible But Have Not Yet Materialized.

Over the past years, this atypical Small Island Developing State (SIDS) has been able to keep its solid social fabric alive. Its economic potential goes well beyond the mediocre growth rates of past decades and its dependency on cashew monoculture. But recurrent crises have crushed the hope of most citizens for sustained change, for peace and prosperity.

Networks of patronage have made a different future hard to imagine. Weak institutions, which keep the status quo, impede citizens and civil servants like Maria and Amadou from becoming the agents of change they aspire to be.

An overwhelming part of the formal workforce is employed by the Government of Guinea-Bissau. And while the public sector is the first choice when it comes to social mobility, it both benefits and suffers from the current system characterized by a lack of transparency and ineffective service delivery – just like the nascent private sector.

Agents of Change

The need for change agents to feel connected to others in a safe space is key in post-conflict settings. The recently launched Leadership Academy provides exactly that: a space where shared experiences, debates with different stakeholders and network opportunities online and offline foster co-creation and interconnectedness. These nascent informal networks are the backbone of a new definition of leadership for Guinea-Bissau.

The Academy can help build islands of integrity and innovation for the public sector and beyond, by providing a platform for different actors to come together to push the limits of the status quo. This initiative is currently in the making and we see that individuals and institutions are showing a growing interest in the approach.

ANOTHER DIMENSION IS DIVERSITY. The National School for Administration and UNDP, the two ‘promoters’ of the Leadership Academy, are working to include courageous talent from all regions. Traditionally excluded from accessing professional networks, young Guineans from outside the capital who take on leadership roles in their communities can now be connected through three networks at the regional level, where they exchange ideas on how to address root causes of women’s exclusion from the decision-making or how to access education and learning initiatives in remote areas.

A young woman from the Gabu region recently spoke about the stigma she faced when attending a mentorship program for young entrepreneurs in the capital. She fought the notions about what girls can do, and now coordinates a group of innovators across four regions, all connected through the community-driven [Na Nô Mon platform](#) ("in our hands" in Creole). Youth is key to overcome stigma and exclusion as they are more aware of their rights and better equipped to challenge norms that have excluded large parts of the population for a long period of time.

Both the Academy and the Na Nô Mon platform are initiatives developed by the governance cluster in partnership with the [Accountability Lab](#), [Impact HUB](#), [Instituto Pedro Pires](#), and multiple other UN agencies, among others.

From the start, we took an integrated approach guided by the 2030 Agenda in analyzing the various aspects of development, beyond building a cadre of change agents: economic opportunity, gender equality, financial inclusion, access to knowledge, employment creation through innovation, community dialogue and peacebuilding.



The Initiatives Are Part Of Our Journey Of Designing A Country-Specific Approach To Our Programme, Constantly Iterating, Redesigning, And Adapting Our Interventions.

This work, inspired by data on potential clients and their needs, has drawn the interest of various partners, both internationally and nationally, making the change agent networks, the Academy, and the Na Nô Mon platform central pieces of UNDP's action on the ground. Our work on digital disruption, including the [E-Governance strategy](#) for the Government and [the start-up center for innovation and social entrepreneurship](#) in Bissau, are also connected to the Academy and ground initiatives across programmes – all of which are based on our theory of change: if we connect a diverse group of change agents, we will help decode the current system which has not delivered on the promises of development for Guinea Bissau.

Assorted image

Access to Justice and building enclaves of accountability and transparency

By putting people and their legal needs at the center of its intervention, UNDP is supporting a people-centered rule of law strategy that aims to create enclaves of accountability and transparency. These enclaves will support an enabling institutional framework that leads to transformational change in favor of the rule of law and the fight against impunity, corruption, and transnational organized crime. Reaching beyond the urban centres and working with the local/traditional systems is essential to a meaningful community-driven approach to justice that focuses on community transformation.

In this context, UNDP supported a new strategy that pilots the concept of a new model of House of Justice that can be built in various regions outside the capital. These Houses of Justice group together all services related to justice: court, civil status, identification as well as the legal aid to be set up all over the country. In 2019, UNDP supported the development of the prototype for the House of Justice to be constructed in districts throughout the country and the construction of the House of Justice in Gabu.

In addition the development of a new community policing strategy aims to strengthen the intervention capacity of police agents by promoting proximity and building bridges of trust between the population and those who protect them. This strategy presupposes a new contract between the police and citizens, based on rigor, respect for police ethics, the legality of procedures, co-responsibility and mutual trust between populations and police forces with a view to guaranteeing security and social peace. In Gabú, the Public Security Strategy and the Operational Implementation of the Community Policing Model in Guinea-Bissau, which was prepared with the technical support of the UNDP was approved by the national authorities. This new policing strategy, together with the House of Justice in Gabu, has led to a new ecosystem of justice in the region. Within the system, a chain of actors can work together to create a shared vision and provide services to the community that increases their access to justice. By ensuring the people in charge of these services are part of the processes, the ecosystem is able to transform the justice sector based on the needs of the people.

By supporting national authorities to bring the judicial services and police closer to the communities, UNDP is piloting the creation of a justice ecosystem that will, at a later stage, transform the delivery of justice in Guinea-Bissau.

All these activities have been possible through a coordinated approach in the implementation of projects funded by our main partners, in particular the Peace Building Fund, African Development Bank, Government of Japan.







Rule of Law

A key to supporting rule of law are programmes that enhance government institutional capacity to fight transnational crime, especially drug trafficking, in a more effective and transparent manner and inclusive of community representatives and views. In this manner, the PBF works with the judicial police and other key institutional actors to strengthen their capacity through policy support, training, and provision of some targeted equipment. It also works with communities on awareness raising and advocacy with regards to prevention on drug trafficking and other organized crime.

Increasing Access to Justice : House of Justice in Gabu

In Guinea Bissau, most of the residents who cannot access justice say that the main barrier is lack of financial resources to pay for travel, as most of the facilities are in the capital.

To address this gap, PBF-funded initiatives look at various ways to bring justice closer to the people.

With this in mind, the Ministry of Justice's new strategy on access to justice visions piloting a new model of the House of Justice. This model regroups all services related to justice: court, civil status, identification, and legal aid to be set up all over the country.

UNDP supported the development of the prototype for the House of Justice to be constructed in districts throughout the country and the construction of the house of Justice in Gabu. As a result, the judicial services are fully functional in this district, enhancing the justice supply by providing quality services to the population. This structure increases citizens' access to all justice-related services by providing them in one single shop.

The success of this project in Gabu resulted in new funding for expansion to other areas of the country.

Mobile Justice

In addition to the building of new infrastructure, training of judges and magistrates, and more, the Justice Caravan traveled to the hardest-to-reach areas. A mobile justice van traveled throughout the country to reach the most remote populations to provide legal aid, civil registry and human rights awareness dialogues. Fatumata, is a mother of three children. Together they live in Malafu, a remote village in the region of Oio in Guinea-Bissau. She rarely leaves Malafu due to financial constraints, as her husband who was the sole breadwinner died of malaria in 2022.



During the national Mobile Justice Van mission's visit to the village of Malafu, Fatumata approached the Center of Access to Justice clerks for more information and told them she did not have an ID to register her children.

The Centre of Access to Justice clerks informed Fatumata that she could register her children using her electoral card and her children's vaccination cards from the hospital right away. Through the legal aid Fatumata got from Centre of Access to Justice clerks, she was able to register Mamudo, Sona and Sara using the Mobile Van for free.

Fatumata, Mamudo, Sona and Sara are just three of the 2,971 Bissau-Guineans who were provided legal aid and civil registry to using the Mobile Justice Van.

*funded by the Government of Japan, Peace Building Fund and UNDP.

Community-oriented policing as a way to reduce crime in Guinea-Bissau

Closely linked with improving access to justice are initiatives such as the community policing project, also implemented in various regions of the country.

Guinea-Bissau is reforming its police force with the introduction of model police stations fully equipped for efficient and effective community policing. On January 31st, 2023, the inauguration ceremony of the Model Police Station was held in Gabu. The building includes basic facilities, communication and specialized police investigations equipment, office furniture, temporary detention facilities, appropriate juvenile and female desks, and general service security provisions among others. The initiative was implemented with the support of the UNDP Guinea-Bissau Office and UNODC, and with financing from the United Nations Peace Building Fund.

Community policing is based on police officers and citizens working together in creative ways to solve problems related to crime, fear of crimes and other forms of public disorders at a community level. To achieve these goals, the police must develop a close relationship with the law-abiding citizens whom they serve and protect. This allows the citizens the opportunity to help define priorities and engage in various activities with the aim of improving the general quality of life in the areas where they live. In this way, community policing changes from a reactive approach to a proactive approach toward problem solving.

The model police station is an integrated concept combining infrastructure, training and community policing. According to the current UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Tjark Marten Egenhoff, "The expansion of the full implementation of the model police station at Bairro Militar in Gabu is projected to enhance the level of professionalism of the police service in accordance with international standards, increase public confidence in the police and state authority, contribute to crime prevention and the reduction of threats and other unlawful activities, and improve the conditions conducive to a secure environment for the socio-economic development of the country and its local communities."



“The police station in Gabu will support the capacity of the police service in the area of policing and internal security, contribute to the restoration of state authority and promote enhanced access to justice by the population. It will also help build confidence between the population, the state authorities and international partners including, the UN, responding directly to the priorities in the ongoing national public administration reform,” a source from the Government of Guinea-Bissau added during the construction.

It is expected that the model police stations will be expanded to a total of twelve such stations throughout the country, as part of an overall total of up to thirty-four model police stations in Guinea-Bissau.

National Strategy to Fight against Corruption

In 2021, upon a request by the President of the Republic, UNDP supported the development of a comprehensive and integrated anti-corruption strategy: the National Strategy to Fight against Corruption. The strategy aims to identify mechanisms to prevent and combat corruption, promote a culture of transparency, integrity, and good governance, with concrete results that contribute to political stability, economic development, and the social well-being of the country.

This strategy, approved in March 2022, aims at promoting new values: a culture of integrity, transparency, and accountability, as well as concepts of modernizing and improving service delivery by the public administration. Additionally, the strategy will work towards increasing the effectiveness of state institutions to prevent and combat corruption, complete the legal and institutional framework at the level of international best practices and promote awareness, commitment, and political leadership in the prevention and fight against corruption. Finally, the strategy invites working at the decision-making level to implement concrete measures of “zero tolerance” to corruption to defend and safeguard public goods.





Human Rights and Media

Human rights and robust media freedom are part of an essential foundation to build a resilient, peaceful, inclusive and just society. The governance cluster, in partnership with OHCHR, through the PBF project **“Enhancing the human rights protection system in Guinea-Bissau”** aims to strengthen the national system for promoting and protecting human rights in Guinea-Bissau, to effectively address several human rights challenges that can endanger peacebuilding, to enhance the capacity of the state to respect, protect and fulfill its human rights obligations. It also aims at empowering rights-holders to claim their human rights and contribute with through a support given to human rights civil society organizations and defenders for greater capacity in monitoring and early warning on human right issues. Special attention will also be given to the role of the youth and media as peace agents and promoters of dialogue and trust within communities, within the PBF Project “Political Stabilization and Reform through Confidence Building and Inclusive Dialogue”, implemented with UNFPA and UNESCO. In addition to providing support to the reinforcement of the legal framework and mechanisms for guaranteeing freedom of expression, the right to information, safety of journalists, and media development, with a focus on supporting women led community media. In this regard, the project will also work with youth-led organizations, including through community media/radio programmes.

Building foundations for quality journalism in Guinea-Bissau

In 2021, the Media Consortium (CMICS) and UNDP joined forces with one goal: to enhance quality journalism in Guinea-Bissau.

After several monthly open classes, seminars and investigative journalism scholarships, Demba Sanhá, CMICS project manager, sees a great progress in the students: “This project is filling a very big gap in terms of training. The capacity building activities are improving substantially the knowledge of the journalism students and also the quality of the information in Guinea-Bissau.”

The Media Consortium in Guinea-Bissau was created in 2018, with support from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund through UNIOGBIS, to boost the media sector and act as a space for all media organizations in the country to come together. CMICS offers a technical-professional journalism course and a fully equipped radio and TV studio in Bissau, where students can practice what they learn.

The monthly open classes covered a wide range of topics: from governance, to sustainable development, human rights or drug trafficking.

In addition to the classes, several full-day seminars were held on topics such as how to report on COVID-19 or drug trafficking, the role of journalists in a democracy, and more. To encourage in-depth reporting, investigative journalism scholarships were given to 8 groups of journalists to conduct their investigations in the areas of TV, radio and press.

“Ever since its creation, CMICS has had a unique and very important support by UNDP in all the activities we implement”, says Demba. “UNDP has never left us.”

Radio is currently the most popular form of media consumption in the country. Since most public and private radios are in the capital Bissau, community radios ensure that information reaches the more remote areas of the country. Most of the community radios journalists are volunteers and have no training in journalism. Demba says that CMICS has a lot of requests from the community radios to expand its journalism course outside of the capital and into the rural areas of Guinea-Bissau. To meet this gap, the monthly open classes are broadcast in 16 community and provide training to these journalists from more remote regions of the country. They are also broadcast live on Facebook, to reach an even broader audience.

“We are aware of the weaknesses of our education system, and so these open classes and seminars will support the capacities of the media professionals and journalism students”, says Demba Sanhá. “Our students are being trained to start doing quality and independent journalism – this is our biggest dream and that is what we are fighting for.”

Human rights defenders network

Gueri Gomes Lopes remembers a night recently when his organization, the Human Rights Defenders Network, received a call from a colleague who was in trouble. “This activist, who works in a rural area, was trying to stop an under-age, forced marriage,” says Lopes, General Secretary of the Human Rights Defenders Network

"Families in the community came to his home, threatening to assault him." Once he made the call to the network, which receives PBF support, fellow human rights defenders made calls to authorities in the capital, who intervened on behalf of the human rights worker.

"We also denounced it on our social media," adds Lopes.

The network is crucial he says to connect human rights workers to each other and ensure their safety and ability to work. "It's important because defender have problems when they work by themselves. They are at risk of violence and persecution and assault. They don't always have resources and materials to defend themselves. We have created a network to have more strength. UNDP supports us to build capacity and our activities."

PBF-supported initiatives to help support a robust human rights system in Guinea-Bissau

- ▶ Support the finalization and adoption in the Council of Ministers of Guinea-Bissau's first Human Rights Strategic Plan as well as of a Plan of Action for its dissemination throughout the country to all stakeholders and its implementation.
- ▶ Creation of the Ad Hoc National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow Up (Ad Hoc Inter-ministerial Committee) to support the reporting on implementation of UN Treaty Bodies standards;
- ▶ Support to the Ministry of Woman and Family to lead an inter-ministerial working group to draft the country report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:
- ▶ Enhancement of the referral system and case management processes of child protection cases, especially those connected with gender-based and sexual violence – a pilot data gathering mechanism is being tested to make reporting more systematic;
- ▶ Working with various stakeholders involved in the upcoming elections to improve their knowledge on human rights standards applicable in the context of elections.





Inclusive Dialogue

For long-term peace and stability, it is crucial to open up a space for inclusive dialogue on key reforms that encompass constitution, political party framework and electoral. By reinforcing, complementing, and expanding the work done in 2018 and 2019, the project aims to strengthen the capacity of the government and civil society and accelerate the political stabilization and systemic reform processes critical to the country's sustainable development. These actions include effective and coordinated confidence-building measures in the country, dialogue and mediation interventions by ECOWAS, the UN, Civil Society, and other key international actors strengthen political stabilization in Guinea-Bissau.

Strengthening the capacity of Political Parties Youth Wings

In the context of Bissau-Guinean political instability, the youth are often seen as key players in mobilizing voters for political parties and candidates. So **in December of 2022, a workshop among the youth wings of Guinea-Bissau's major political parties was held in order for the groups to discuss conflict analysis, negotiation, mediation and dialogue.**

It's important to create a safe space, an environment where the youth can start doing politics differently. By doing so, they will create an agreed upon common agenda for country development, building a leadership that goes beyond decisive political parties by changing the narrative of a country mired in eternal instability.



During the meeting:

1. A total of 22 participants from all six political parties' Youth Wings represented at the Parliament attended the training.
2. The pedagogical approach used in the training, of hands-on, participative, experiential and activity-oriented sessions, intermixed with inputs from the consultant, proved to engage participants in open and frank debates in a relaxed learning environment. All group work mixed participants from different political parties, enabling for connections to be established, perhaps helping nurture better relationships between the individuals of different political affiliations, creating the space for dialogue to occur.
3. Participants conducted the structural analysis, dynamic analysis and actor mapping in mixed groups, revealing a strong capacity to work together and reach consensus across political party lines.

Participatory Community Planning

In some areas of Guinea Bissau, climate change has created or deepened already existing community conflicts over access to natural resources such as land, fish, water, and more.

The Participatory Community Planning approach aims to build up climate resilience in the communities as well as increase peaceful conflict mediation by supporting platforms and safe spaces that allow for honest dialogue. The PCP has already held three-day diagnosis events in several rural areas of Guinea Bissau. During these events, community members discussed the issues they are facing and their priorities to build climate resilience in the face of these challenges. From this launching point, the project will choose which interventions to implement. In addition to resilience, community conflict was also discussed in these PCP events. These important details and context of current conflicts will inform future dialogue among communities and authorities and help establish peaceful ways forward - toward conflict resolutions that are tailored to suit their unique needs.

Leadership Academy

Training Agents And Communities Of Change In Guinea-Bissau

The Leadership Academy seeks to transform Guinea-Bissau by developing a powerful network of leaders who can work together to maintain peace and chart a path to inclusive and sustainable long-term development.

The Academy will achieve this by strengthening the capacity of a wide range of actors to lead and implement the necessary transformative changes through meaningful and inclusive participatory processes.

The Leadership Academy is a flagship initiative of UNDP, launched in May 2021. It provides customized training to different stakeholder groups to enable them to engage effectively in national policy processes. It identifies, develops and nurtures change agents from different sectors and levels of society that have, to date, been marginalized by persistent power structures. This includes women, youth networks, traditional leaders, religious leaders, the private sector, rural-based people, and NGOs active in peacebuilding and governance.

How?

The Leadership Academy, based at the National School of Public Administration (NPAS) of Guinea-Bissau, has an 11-member Advisory Council, a list of 23 national trainers with extensive experience in various fields, and a Coordination Unit (with staff from UNDP and ENA).

The Leadership Academy is present in Bissau, the capital, and in three regions (BAFATA, Quinara and Cacheu) to ensure that it reaches the rural population that is often left behind.



“High-Level Conference on Preventing Electoral Violence: Best practices and Lessons Learned from West-Africa”.

In December of last year, the PBF Stabilization Project funded a “High-Level Conference on Preventing Electoral Violence: Best practices and Lessons Learned from West-Africa”. This High-Level Conference, organized by UNDP-Guinea-Bissau, in partnership with the ECOWAS Commission and the Office of the ECOWAS Resident Representative in Guinea-Bissau, included key personalities and decision-makers from across Bissau-Guinean society, including representatives of political parties, traditional leaders, religious leaders, representatives of civil society organizations, the media, and representatives of youth and women’s organizations. Around 250 people from Bissau and the regions attended the conference.

Overarching ideas for the Conference included promoting the sharing of experiences from the West African region and frank dialogue and reflection on the promotion of broad consensus in Guinea- Bissau regarding priority actions in the context of electoral processes in Guinea Bissau as well as on the key political processes and reforms underway.



A few of the priorities and urgent actions proposed by the conference include, but are not limited to:

- A.** The Youth and their contribution to peaceful elections in Guinea-Bissau.
- B.** Civil Society Actors and Election Monitoring Strategies for Guinea-Bissau.
- C.** Women Peace and Security: Strengthening women's active participation in electoral processes in Guinea-Bissau.
- D.** Religious Leaders and their Contribution to Peaceful Elections in Guinea- Bissau.
- E.** Hate Speech and Peaceful Elections in Guinea-Bissau.

Preserving National Documentary Heritage

Strengthening the system for safeguarding and preserving the national documentary heritage and history by digitizing the historical archives and launching an online portal that allows access to the digital library and national public archives.

Preserving History for the Future in Guinea Bissau

When he returned to the National Library at the end of Guinea Bissau's Civil War in November 1999, Iaguba Djalo remembers crying as he entered the building, which had been bombed after the military took over the building as a base.

The hallowed-out roof meant water had flooded the library during the West African country's tropical rainy season, and animals had made homes in the bookshelves.

Djalo, who served already as head of the library, waded through waters filled with snakes, dogs, and other animals to try and save what remained of the books, recordings and photographs that held the history of his country.

"It felt like loss, like memory erased," he says now. But he and his colleagues did not give up, despite having to kill a few snakes that tried to bite them as they saved the documentation. They managed to save many documents, some dating back hundreds of years, despite difficulties with funding for storage and transportation.

Today, these archives and many more are still at risk of being lost due to water damage, dust, and other threats due to lack of proper equipment and facilities.

That's why the United Nations Development Programme in Guinea-Bissau and the National Library of Guinea-Bissau, part of the National Institute of Studies and Research, via the Association of Librarians, Archivist and Documentalists have teamed up to preserve the rich history.

Through United Nations Peacebuilding Fund support, the United Nations Development Program has delivered high-tech equipment, trainings, and more to the local institutions working to ensure they can preserve these documents.

The documentation of Guinea Bissau is in many ways the story of two wars : Many of the archives tell the story of the country's 11-year liberation struggle from Portugal that was won in 1974, but much of this was destroyed in the country's 9-month inter-military turmoil from 1998 to 1999. Djaló says by saving and improving access to the historical documents, they can make sure they are not doomed to repeat history.

"If we look at the causes of instability, we can see them in our History and memory. If there is no History, no memory, each time we start again at zero," says Djaló.

According to Djaló, the new equipment will allow 120,000 documents, 3,000 photographic images, 8,000 film negatives and 4,000 microfilms to be digitalized.

A key aspect of the project is to help Bissau-Guineans better access the information as well as all documents

will be available online via the website of INEP/National Public Library. Librarians are also being trained on collection, database management, and categorization as well as on using and maintain the digital equipment for future efforts at preservation as history continues to unfold. This is also done with the support of the CPLP.

By strengthening the library's role as a coordinator of national information and research, another aim is to help the library implement the reading policy of the country – contributing to not only the preservation of the past generation but also the development of future generations.

“Collecting, organizing and digitalizing the documental patrimony of Guinea-Bissau allows the country to maintain and ensure the preservation of national memory, key to promote long-term peace and social cohesion, as it permits citizens to have access to its history, promotes the right to information and the exercise of full citizenship,” says Djalo.







Looking forward

Human Rights and Media

Early warning mechanism related to human Rights

For this year 2023, one of the main important challenges to handle is the capacities building of human rights actors to monitor and report human rights violations and abuses for the purpose of early warning and conflict prevention. Community radios will be strengthened to play an important role in human rights awareness raising and become actors of conflict prevention. Advocacy to an increased response to prevent and address SGBV and gendered human rights abuse will be strongly promoted and capacity of girls and women rights defenders', to prevent and refer conflicts and violations strengthened. Country regions with high rates of SGBV and reported cases of sexual violence by SCOs will be targeted. Support will be provided to establish an early warning mechanism, building on the work of existing regional cells. This mechanism will be developed in consultation with regional human rights organizations, including child-rights focused organizations and women and youth organizations, and will learn from regional experiences and other tools, developed and tested by ECOWAS and WANEP

Rule of Law

A new House of Justice in Buba, Guinea-Bissau

The Ministry of Justice's new strategy on access to justice visions piloting a new model of the House of Justice regrouping all services related to justice: court, civil status, identification, and legal aid to be set up all over the country. This structure will facilitate citizens' access to all justice-related services in one single shop and strengthen the presence of the State institution in the regions. UNDP supported the development of the prototype for the House of Justice to be constructed in districts throughout the country and the construction of the house of Justice in Gabu. Following this experience, UNDP mobilized funds from the Government of Japan through the JICA to build

a House of Justice in Buba, in the southern province, including all the services (Court, Legal Advice, Civil registry, and ID center) as well as their equipment. This includes five services: regional court, sectorial court, civil registration, ID services, and Legal Aid Centre. Approximately 30 staff (judges, lawyers, clerks, notaries, etc.) are expected to work here once construction is completed.

Inclusive Dialogue

Support the Citizenship Convention

A nationwide convention will gather civil society organizations and leaders from a broad geographical and ideological spectrum of Guinea-Bissau at a citizenship convention this year. The convention – supported by UNDP, EU, and Interpeace – will provide a platform where people can focus on dialogue and the promotion of urgent reforms. Together, organizations will work to coordinate and systematize recommendations from several on-going activities. These ideas will be discussed and presented to the national authorities. They include:

- 1.** Diaspora engagement forum
- 2.** Women, peace and security agenda and action plan
- 3.** Youth, peace, and security agenda
- 4.** National strategy for the inclusion of people with disabilities
- 5.** National Media Forum
- 6.** Security, Justice and Peace forums
- 7.** Monitoring of priority reforms
- 8.** Youth political parties' forum and the agenda for youth political participation
- 9.** Monitoring of local governance in 5 pilot sectors (based on the Information System for Plans and Projects developed by the EU)



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