Poverty is widespread in Guinea-Bissau. In 2018, 47.7 percent of the population (around 891,990 people) were poor and around 13.2 percent (around 246,840 people) lived in extreme poverty. Poverty is predominantly rural, with more than 75 percent of the poor living in rural areas, relying on subsistence agriculture. The other 25 percent are in the capital city Bissau. The coastal regions of Bissau, and to a lower extent Biombo/Tombali, have the lowest levels of poverty, whereas the interior areas of Bafata, Quinara, and especially Oio, have much higher levels of poverty.

Extreme poverty is high in Bafata, Cacheu, Oio, and Bolama-Bijagos. Individuals living in households where the head works in the agriculture sector have a higher poverty incidence (64 percent) compared to others. Nearly 62.8 percent of workers in the bottom quintile are in agriculture.
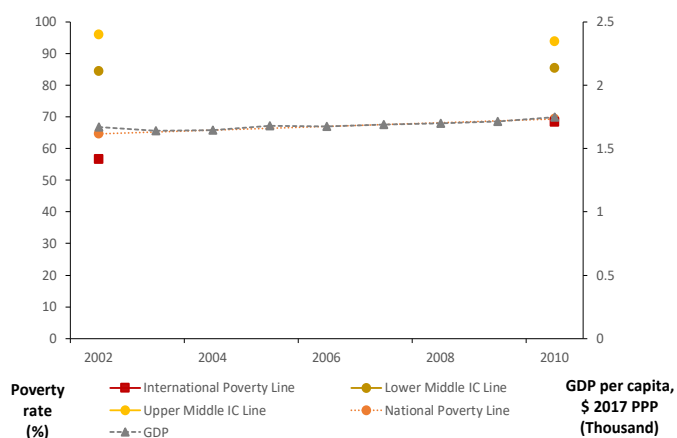
Many people living in urban areas work in commerce (24.2 percent) and exhibit a low poverty rate (27.3 percent). Moreover, the poor are concentrated in the informal sector. Nearly 93.7 percent of workers in the bottom quintile are in the informal sector. The estimated poverty headcount is 32.2 percent for households headed by women compared to 50.8 percent for household headed by men.

Projections using the $1.9 international poverty line suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic increased poverty from 63.8 to 66.2 percent between 2019 and 2020, corresponding to an augmentation of the number of poor by around 75,000 people.

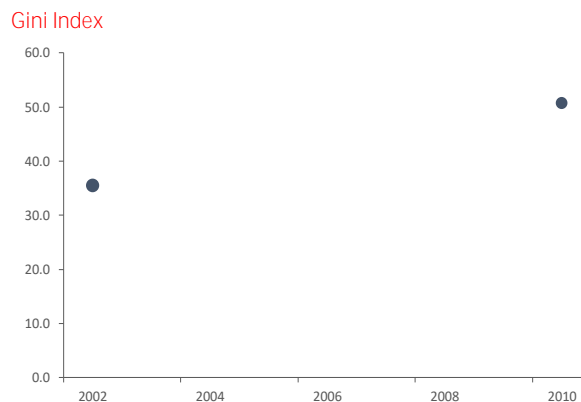| POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	1.1	69.3	2010
International Poverty Line 467.2 in CFA franc (2010) or US$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	1.0	68.4	2010
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 786.9 in CFA franc (2010) or US$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	1.3	85.4	2010
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 1352.5 in CFA franc (2010) or US$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	1.4	93.8	2010
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		80.3	2010
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		N/A	N/A
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		50.7	2010
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		N/A	N/A
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		0.82	2005-2010
Annualized Income or Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		N/A	N/A
MEDIAN INCOME			
Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita		N/A	N/A

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of Feburary 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2002-2010

Poverty rate (%)	International Poverty Line	Lower Middle IC Line
	Upper Middle IC Line	National Poverty Line
	GDP	

GDP per capita, $ 2017 PPP (Thousand)

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2002-2010

Gini Index

KEY INDICATORS

Distribution among groups: 2010	International Poverty Line(%)		Relative group (%)	
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60
Urban population	43	57	23	77
Rural population	24	76	51	49
Males	32	68	40	60
Females	32	68	40	60
0 to 14 years old	28	72	44	56
15 to 64 years old	34	66	37	63
65 and older	33	67	40	60
Without education (16+)	27	73	45	55
Primary education (16+)	33	67	37	63
Secondary education (16+)	50	50	21	79
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	74	26	N/A*	89

Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2010	(% of population)
Monetary poverty (Consumption)	
Daily consumption less than US$1.90 per person	68.4
Education	
At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	5.8
No adult has completed primary education	44.1
Access to basic infrastructure	
No access to limited-standard drinking water	36.4
No access to limited-standard sanitation	65.8
No access to electricity	97.1

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Guinea-Bissau faces substantial challenges in data production and dissemination. The production of statistics is mainly supported by donors. One of the main barriers of the National Statistics Office is lack of human resources to implement large scale statistical operations. For instance, although data collection for the 2019 MICS and the 2017 employment and Informal surveys were completed, the results are not available yet. The recent implementation of high frequency survey rounds to monitor the COVID-19 impact has also unveiled some of the capacity constraints of the National Statistics Office.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 45 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The three countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Somalia. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.