

# Knowledge Institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020

## Guinea-Bissau

### Introduction

This report about the development of the knowledge institutions in Guinea-Bissau was made as part of the preparations for the AfricaKnows! Conference (2 December 2020 – 28 February 2021) in Leiden and elsewhere, see [www.africaknows.eu](http://www.africaknows.eu).



Reports like these can never be complete, and there might also be mistakes. Additions and corrections are welcome! Please send those to [dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl)

### Highlights

- 1 Guinea-Bissau's population increased from 0.6 million in 1960, via 1.0 million in 1990, to 2.0 million in 2020.
- 2 Guinea-Bissau's literacy rate is low: 46% (15 years and older, 2014).
- 3 The so-called education index (used as part of the human development index) improved between 2005 (earlier data not available) and 2018: from .311 to .402 (it can vary between 0 and 1).
- 4 Regional inequality in education is high throughout the period. Bissau always had the best position, though also with the slowest development. Gabu has the worst position throughout. Biombo had the fastest development.
- 5 The Mean Years of Schooling for adults increased somewhat between 2005 and 2018, from 2.26 years to 3.30 years. There is very high regional inequality throughout the period.
- 6 The Expected Years of Schooling for children improved: from 8.5 to 10.5 years. There is high regional inequality.
- 7 Tertiary education in Guinea-Bissau started in 1979. Currently there are four public tertiary knowledge institutions in Guinea-Bissau and four private ones.
- 8 According to the 4ICU website Guinea-Bissau does not have any institutes in the continent's top 200.
- 9 Guinea-Bissau's think tanks: we found information on two think tanks in Guinea-Bissau.
- 10 Museums: Guinea-Bissau has two museums.

## Part 1: The Story

### Guinea-Bissau's demographic and education development

Guinea-Bissau (officially The Republic of the Guinea-Bissau) is located in West Africa, bordered by Senegal, Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean.

Guinea-Bissau was colonized as Portuguese Guinea by the Portuguese Empire in the 19<sup>th</sup> century though some parts of Guinea-Bissau had already been under Portuguese rule since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Independence was declared in 1973 and recognized in 1974.

Portuguese, the official language, is spoken as a first language by about 2% of the population. Creole, the national language, is spoken as a first language by about 54% of the population.

Guinea-Bissau's population increased from 600,000 in 1960 to 1.97 million in July 2020. There was a drop in the yearly population growth rate starting in 1973 and ending in 1978 with the lowest growth rate of 0,05%. These years were marked by political instability and high levels of violence.

In 1960, only 14% of Guinea-Bissau's population lived in cities (only 84,000 people), while the urban population has increased to 45% or 884,000 in July 2020. Guinea-Bissau's largest city is the capital Bissau.

Guinea-Bissau's life expectancy increased from 36 years for males and 40 years for females in 1960 to 57 years for males and 61 years for females currently. The median age first decreased from 20 years in 1960 to 17 years in 1995. Since then, it started to increase and is presently 19 years. In 1960 an average woman gave birth to 5.9 live-born children, which increased to 6.7 in 1985. Since then, the fertility rate has been decreasing and currently an average woman gives birth to 4.5 live-born children<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/guinea-bissau-population/>



Source: Geology.com

### Literacy and enrolment

According to UNESCO, the adult literacy rate in Guinea Bissau was 46% in 2014 (62% for men and 31% for women). Of the youth (15-24 years old) 49,000 males and 88,000 females were regarded as illiterate in 2014. For the adult population as a whole these figures are 174,000 for males and 352,000 for females in 2014.

Guinea-Bissau's population of primary school age children (6-11 years) is about 300,000 children<sup>2</sup>. Education is compulsory from age 6 to age 14 (9 years). In 2010, 71% of the primary school age group attend primary school (boys 73% and girls 70%; more recent data not available). Children with the age to attend secondary school (12-17) are 254,000. 167,000 people are in the age category to attend tertiary education (people between 18 and 22). There is no data available on enrolment percentages for secondary and tertiary education. Also Campusfrance does not provide data about the numbers of students in the country and abroad<sup>3</sup>

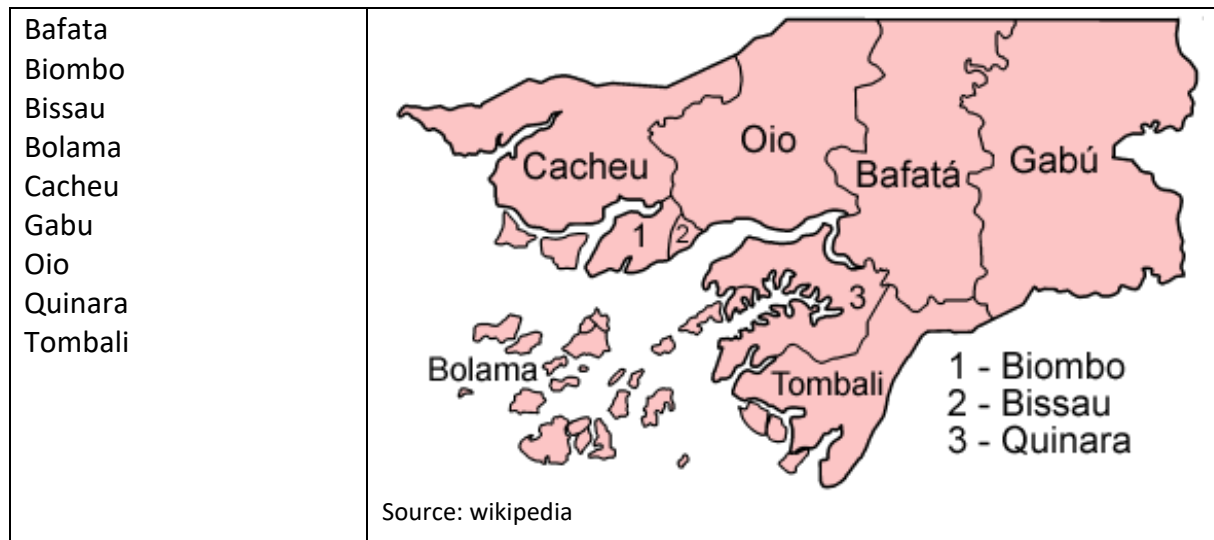
### Regional differentiation of education results, 2005-2018

The information provided by the Globaldatalab about the subregional human development

<sup>2</sup> <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/gw>

<sup>3</sup> [https://ressources.campusfrance.org/publications/mobilite\\_pays/en/](https://ressources.campusfrance.org/publications/mobilite_pays/en/)

index, its components and its indicators (<https://globaldatalab.org/shdi>) provides data for the period between 2005 and 2018, for nine regions in Guinea-Bissau (see map and list below).



The Globaldatalab provides data about the education index (one of the three indexes that together form the Human Development Index), and about two relevant indicators: mean years of schooling, showing the average education level of the adult population per region, and expected years of education, showing the expected number of years current children will attend schools. This excludes the Islamic religious schools and only deals with the official, state-based, school system.

We present the data for the years 2005 (earliest year available), 2012, and 2018 (the latest year available at the moment). See tables 1-4 in part 2 ('the data').

### Education index

The education index has improved in all of Guinea-Bissau's regions between 2005 and 2010 (see table 1 in part 2). Performing best throughout is Bissau (obviously the region where the capital is located). However, Bissau had the slowest development. Gabu performs worst throughout the period. Fastest development was in Biombo.

Regional inequality is high and consistent throughout the period.

There does not appear to be any correlation between population growth and development. We compare 2005 with 2018. See table 2 in part 2.

### Mean years of education

According to UNESCO, 'Mean Years of Schooling' is an indicator about the "average number of completed years of education of a country's population aged 25 years and older, excluding years spent repeating individual grades".<sup>4</sup>

The educational standard of the adult population of Guinea-Bissau has improved in all of the regions between 2005 and 2018 (see table 3 in part 2). Regional inequality has been very

<sup>4</sup> <http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/mean-years-schooling>

high throughout the period though. Performing best throughout is Bissau, which yet again had the slowest improvement. Performing worst throughout is Gabu, and once again Biombo has the fastest improvement.

### Expected years of education

UNDP defines the ‘expected years of schooling’ as the: “Number of years of schooling that a child of school entrance age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates persist throughout the child’s life”.<sup>5</sup>

For Guinea-Bissau’s children educational prospects have improved in all of the regions between 2005 and 2018 (see table 4 in part 2). Regional inequality has been high throughout the period. Performing best throughout is Bissau. Gabu performs the worst throughout the period. Biombo had the fastest improvement, Bafata has the slowest improvement.

### Guinea-Bissau’s tertiary knowledge development

Guinea-Bissau currently has 8 universities or other tertiary institutions. There are 4 public ones and 4 private ones, one of which with a religious background. University education officially only started in the 1980’s The number of private tertiary institutions started to grow from 2003 onwards. All tertiary institutions in Guinea-Bissau are located in or near the capital city Bissau. There is evidence of one think tank, also in Bissau and museums in Bissau and Cacheu.

Historically the development of the number of universities is as given in the following table.

### Guinea-Bissau’s universities and other tertiary institutions 1960 – 2020

Type	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Public	0	1	3	4	4	5	5	4	4	4
Private	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	4
Total	0	1	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	8

Sources: see tables 5 and 6 in part 2

### Public and private universities in Guinea-Bissau

Information about the universities in Guinea-Bissau can be found in tables 5 and 6 in part 2.



(public) Escola Superior de Educação (in Bissau)<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/expected-years-schooling-children-years>

<sup>6</sup> [https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-FOiwEYD\\_4oE/UZ0McpMVzOI/AAAAAABYC4/n0-MP7XsuNs/s640/foto\\_esec.png](https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-FOiwEYD_4oE/UZ0McpMVzOI/AAAAAABYC4/n0-MP7XsuNs/s640/foto_esec.png)



(Private) Universidade Lusófona da Guiné<sup>7</sup>

### **Regional distribution of Guinea-Bissau's Universities**

All eight institutes are located in the capital Bissau.

### **Think tanks and other knowledge institutions in Guinea-Bissau**

According to the 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report, there is one think tank in Guinea-Bissau, outside the university system. It is not certain if that is the same institution as is mentioned in table 8 in part 2, where we include two think tanks.

### **Museums in Guinea-Bissau**



National Ethnographic Museum in Guinea-Bissau<sup>8</sup>

We found two functioning museums in Guinea-Bissau. Both museums in Guinea-Bissau are historical cultural museums. See table 9 in part 2.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://universidadelusofonaguine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/academico-1.jpg>

<sup>8</sup> [https://moma.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Museu\\_Etnogr%C3%A1fico\\_Nacional\\_Bissau.png](https://moma.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Museu_Etnogr%C3%A1fico_Nacional_Bissau.png) ; also see: <https://moma.org/directory/national-ethnographic-museum-guinea-bissau/>

## Part 2: The Data

**Table 1: Guinea-Bissau: Education index 2005-2018<sup>9</sup>**

Region	2005	2012	2018	2018/2005
Bafata	0.218	0.243	0.250	1.15
Biombo	0.225	0.373	0.424	1.88
Bissau	0.498	0.543	0.570	1.14
Bolama	0.340	0.406	0.428	1.26
Cacheu	0.334	0.387	0.404	1.21
Gabu	0.171	0.197	0.205	1.20
Oio	0.228	0.291	0.311	1.36
Quinara	0.242	0.332	0.360	1.49
Tombali	0.204	0.296	0.326	1.60
<b>Total</b>	0.311	0.377	0.402	1.30
<b>Inequality</b>	2.9	2.8	2.9	

**Table 2: Guinea-Bissau: changes in regional population between 2005 and 2018; population numbers in millions**

Region	2005	2012	2018	2018/2005
Bafata	0.16	0.18	0.21	1.31
Biombo	0.10	0.12	0.13	1.30
Bissau	0.33	0.47	0.58	1.76
Bolama	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.80
Cacheu	0.21	0.18	0.19	0.90
Gabu	0.17	0.19	0.22	1.29
Oio	0.23	0.27	0.31	1.35
Quinara	0.04	0.06	0.07	1.75
Tombali	0.06	0.10	0.13	2.17
<b>Total</b>	1.35	1.61	1.87	

**Table 3: Guinea-Bissau: Regional data for 'mean years of schooling**

Region	2005	2012	2018	2018/2005
Bafata	0.95	1.19	1.44	1.52
Biombo	1.53	2.34	2.95	1.93
Bissau	5.33	5.39	6.18	1.16
Bolama	2.05	2.35	2.79	1.36
Cacheu	1.98	2.22	2.62	1.32
Gabu	0.86	1.01	1.20	1.40
Oio	1.04	1.52	1.89	1.82
Quinara	1.32	1.62	1.94	1.47

<sup>9</sup> The HDI data, and its components go from 0 (worst level) to 1 (best level). We present the figures x 1000. The inequality figure is the highest value divided by the lowest value in a particular year.

Tombali	1.35	1.62	1.94	1.44
<b>Total</b>	2.26	2.75	3.30	1.46
<b>Inequality</b>	6.2	5.3	5.2	

**Table 4: Guinea-Bissau: Regional data for 'expected years of schooling**

Region	2005	2012	2018	2018/2005
Bafata	6.71	7.33	7.26	1.10
Biombo	6.27	10.6	11.7	1.87
Bissau	11.5	13.1	13.1	1.14
Bolama	9.77	11.8	12.1	1.24
Cacheu	9.65	11.3	11.4	1.18
Gabu	5.11	5.89	5.94	1.16
Oio	6.97	8.65	8.91	1.28
Quinara	7.11	10.0	10.6	1.49
Tombali	5.73	8.70	9.40	1.64
<b>Total</b>	8.50	10.3	10.5	1.24
<b>Inequality</b>	2.3	2.2	2.2	

**Table 5: Public universities in Guinea-Bissau**

University	Year of establishment	Location
Escola Superior de Educação	1979	Bissau
Escola Nacional de Administração (ENA-Bissau) Founded 1982 as Centro de Formação Administrativa, acquired current title and status 2010.	1982 (2010)	Bissau
Faculdade de Medicina Raúl Díaz Arguelles/Escola Nacional de Saúde. Founded 1986. Closed down during academic year 1998/1999 until 2006, when reopened as autonomous Faculty under the administrative authority of Universidade Lusófona da Guiné (ULG).	1986 (2006)	Bissau
Faculdade de Direito da Guiné-Bissau (FDB). Autonomous Faculty under administrative authority of Universidade Lusófona da Guiné.	1990	Bissau

Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, World Higher Education Database

([https://www.whed.net/results\\_institutions.php](https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php)); and the websites of the institutions, if available.

The 4icu websites do not give information about Guinea-Bissau.

**Table 6: Private universities in Guinea-Bissau**

University	Year of establishment	Location	Religious affiliation
Universidade Lusófona da Guiné (ULG) Founded in 1999 as the <b>(public)</b> Universidade Amílcar Cabral. Placed under the administration of the Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias (Lisboa, Portugal) and <b>changed into a private institution</b>	1999	Bissau	



from 2008 until 2011. Following restructurations initiated 2010 all activities ceased until 2013. <a href="http://universidadelusofonaguine.com/">http://universidadelusofonaguine.com/</a>			
Universidade Colinas de Boé (UCB)	2003	Bissau	No
Universidade Jean Piaget da Guiné-Bissau (UNIPIAGET) <a href="http://guine-bissau.unipiaget.org/">(http://guine-bissau.unipiaget.org/)</a>	2010	Bissau	No
Universidade Católica da Guiné-Bissau (UCGB) <a href="http://www.ucgb.gw/index.php">(http://www.ucgb.gw/index.php)</a>	2014	Bissau	Yes

Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, World Higher Education Database ([https://www.whed.net/results\\_institutions.php](https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php)); and the websites of the institutions, if available.

**Table 7: Regional distribution of universities in Guinea-Bissau**

Region	Public	Private	Total	Number per million inhabitants
Bafata	0	0	0	0
Biombo	0	0	0	0
Bissau	4	4	8	13.8
Bolama	0	0	0	0
Cacheu	0	0	0	0
Gabu	0	0	0	0
Oio	0	0	0	0
Quinara	0	0	0	0
Tombali	0	0	0	0
Total	4	4	8	4.3

For the last column we used the population numbers as given in table 2.

**Table 8: Think tanks and other knowledge institutions in Guinea-Bissau**

Think tanks	Year of establishment	Location
Voz di Paz ( <a href="https://www.facebook.com/vozdipaz/">https://www.facebook.com/vozdipaz/</a> )	2007	Bissau
Instituto Nacional de Pesquisa de Agraria <a href="http://www.coraf.org/guinea-bissau/">(http://www.coraf.org/guinea-bissau/)</a>	Unknown	Bissau

Sources; [https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=think\\_tanks](https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=think_tanks) (for: 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report) and Google.com

**Table 9: Museums in Guinea-Bissau**

Museums	websites	Location

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National Ethnographic Museum	<a href="https://moma.org/directory/national-ethnographic-museum-guinea-bissau/">https://moma.org/directory/national-ethnographic-museum-guinea-bissau/</a>	Bissau
Historical Museum Of Cacheu	<a href="https://tilwiki.com/art-places/historical-museum-of-cacheu">https://tilwiki.com/art-places/historical-museum-of-cacheu</a>	Cacheu

(source: Wikipedia: Museums and Google.com)

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