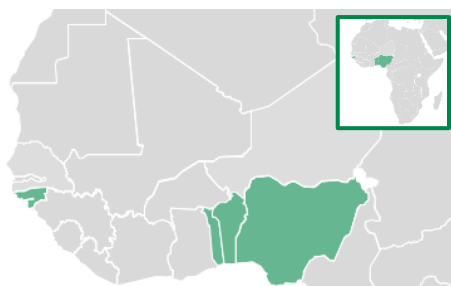


FRSD in Guinea-Bissau

The Fund for Regional Stabilisation and Development in Fragile Regions within ECOWAS - Improving living conditions of the population in selected ECOWAS member states



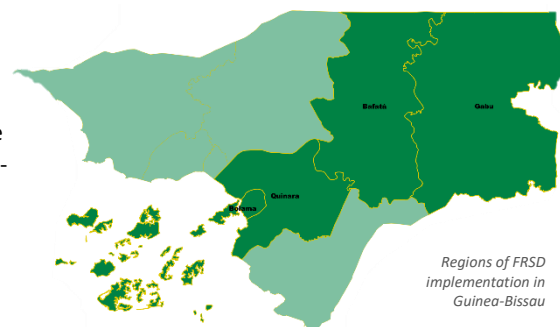
Countries of FRSD implementation: Guinea-Bissau, Togo, Benin and Nigeria (ECOWAS Commission HQs)

Needs assessed in Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau is one of the poorest countries in the world, politically shaken by regular military coup attempts and successful coups. About one half of the country's small population of 2 Mio. people is illiterate. A comprehensive assessment conducted by the FRSD through multiple missions and studies reveals and specifies Guinea-Bissau's pressing challenges, including political instability, poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and limited economic diversification. Weak national transportation and communication networks hinder regional development. Citizens demand improved basic services including reliable power supply, infrastructure, vocational training, and more involvement in decision-making. Alarming trends like high rates of early marriages persist due to limited access to education and healthcare. Despite these challenges, value chains in agriculture and fisheries provide opportunities and potential for sustainable development.

The regions

FRSD activities are focused on the four regions Bafatá, Bolama, Gabú, and Quinara due to their particularly urgent shared development challenges. In Bafatá, characterized by subsistence farming and diverse economic activities like food processing and tailoring, the focus is on overcoming barriers such as inadequate infrastructure and low technical know-how. Gabú, with its strong reliance on agriculture shows the need for modern equipment and market access to bolster productivity. Meanwhile, Quinara's reliance on fishing and small-scale entrepreneurship underscores the importance of addressing technical gaps.



Regions of FRSD implementation in Guinea-Bissau

Our approach

FRSD aims at implementing fast-acting, yet meaningful and sustainable measures to reach almost 4000 young people and women in Guinea-Bissau. The programme integrates affirmative actions to address gender disparities in project design and implementation to ensure equitable outcomes. Interventions are aligned with national development plans and embrace a participatory, evidence-based approach to foster sustainable and inclusive progress in Guinea-Bissau. The context suitability of our project implementation is ensured through locally driven solutions. Therefore, our 4-fold strategy takes different dimensions into account, ranging from economic to social and ecologic levels. The interventions' successes are achieved through capacity reinforcement of farmers' cooperatives' governance structures and extensive training in agroecology principles along agriculture, poultry and fishery value chains. The cooperatives are accompanied to access markets, process products for value addition and consequently increase their income. Cooling systems are integrated in the value chains as services to avoid post-harvest loss and preserve processed products. These solar powered solutions are designed in an environmentally sustainable and resource conscious way adapted to the rural context.

Media 4 Peace: Activities to enhance journalists' capacities in reporting in a conflict-sensitive manner on different topics of interest in ECOWAS member states; The expected outcomes are accessible political information and strengthened governance structures through increased visibility of local authorities and the ECOWAS commission.

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Food Security	Livelihood	Entrepreneurship & Sustainable Cooling	Social Cohesion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of facilitators • Training of farmers • Increase and diversity of production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food processing and transformation • Commercial and financial literacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of Agripreneurs • Start-up support for micro-entrepreneurs • Sustainable cooling systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Innovation / Agri-Hackathon • Media 4 Peace • Visibility Events

Contact person
Evelin Ayadi-Krenzer, Head of Programme
Fund for Regional Stabilisation and Development in Fragile Regions Within ECOWAS Member States (FRSD)