

# **National Voluntary Report on the Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration for the International Migration Review Forum 2022**

## **1. Methodology for preparing the voluntary GCM reviews**

The Government of Guinea Bissau (GoGB) reviewed the implementation of the 23 objectives of the Global Compact for Migration under the lead of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities for the regional review of the Global Compact that took place in mid-2021 and updated its regional review report for the International Migration Review Forum in 2022. The MFA did not create a specific mechanism to this purpose but had bilateral consultations with several ministries to gather information on the progress of the implementation of the different objectives of the GCM in Guinea Bissau. More specifically, the Secretary of State of Communities coordinated the exchange of information with the Ministry of Family, Women and Social Cohesion (namely the Institute of Women and Children), the Ministry of Econom/F1mcG3-89(u)5(onom/F1m)-4(cG3-89(u)5(83 RG/F1 12 Tf1 92 reh)-3(tate)4( )-19(1 0

institutions, and it was elaborated a draft of the report that was discussed in a tripartite meeting with the key government stakeholders on migration governance, i.e., the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communities, the Ministry of Economy, Plan and Regional Integration and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The International Organization of Migration, as a member of the United Nations Country Team, supported the review process of the implementation of the GCM, by providing assistance to organize and compile the collection of information and in discussing the results and priorities for the future.

## **2. Policy and enabling environment**

Following the endorsement of the GCM, the Government of Guinea Bissau reactivated the National Platform on Migration, headed by the Ministry of Economy, Plan and Regional Integration and the Ministry of Interior, to coordinate and follow up on the implementation of several measures and policies which aim to improve migration governance. This National Platform on Migration seeks to enhance horizontal coordination among ministries, being comprised of key government agencies, international organizations, and civil society organizations working on migration issues. The International Organization for Migration was invited to be a permanent member of the platform in 2021, as a consequence of the technical support given to the government of Guinea Bissau on the consultations to the Global Compact on Migration, namely in the development of the national action plan to implement the GCM in Guinea Bissau (2021-2026). The Directorate General of Regional Integration (under the Ministry of Economy, Plan and Regional Integration) launched, in April 2021, the process of developing the national migration policy. Several consultations have been made under the framework of the National Platform on Migration, not only in Bissau but also in three other regions of the country (Bafatá, Gabu and São Domingos).

## **3. Progress on GCM objectives** (suggested 5000 words)

The GCM National Implementation Plan, the General Emigrant Statute, the Diaspora Engagement Strategy and the Migration Governance Profile are awaiting approval and adoption at the Council of Ministers meeting. The GCM National Implementation Plan. It

ii) Migration Management and Health Security; iii) Mobility and Movement of People; iv) Trafficking of Persons; v) Protection of Migrants and Communities; and vi) Human and Financial Capital of Migrants.

Moreover, Guinea Bissau has accepted to become a “GCM Champion country” to “share insights, lessons learned and promising practices to contribute to achieving the objectives of the GCM”.

These are the progresses achieved since the adherence of Guinea Bissau to the GCM, as per specific objectives:

#### GCM Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

- Guinea Bissau developed the National Migration Profile in 2019. It presents migration trends and migrant characteristics; the impact of migration on development; governance and policy frameworks; and international cooperation on migration. Data was collected from various statistical and administrative sources, academic research, and interviews with key governmental and non-state actors.
- The Report on Migration Governance Indicators in Guinea Bissau (2021) measures the degree to which national policies facilitate and promote responsible, safe and regular migration. A national consultation was held in 2019 with governmental and non-governmental actors to discuss the draft of the report and collect inputs. The report has been presented in May 2021 and is under review.
- A mapping of immigrant associations in Guinea Bissau was carried out by the GoGB, as well as the analysis of data on stocks of ECOWAS citizens residing in GB and areas of activity;
- Two diaspora mappings were conducted in Italy and Portugal in 2019 to inform policy making and adequate the actions of the GoGB to the needs and aspirations of these migrant communities abroad.
- Six decentralized training sessions on data collection and management on trafficking of persons were organized to enhance the institutional capacity of officials from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (National Guard, the Directorate General of Migration and Borders and the Navy) and civil society organizations (the National Committee for the Abandonment of Harmful Practices, the Vigilance

## Committees

- National authorities, CSOs and community leaders have been trained on the risks of irregular migration.

GCM Objective 4: Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation

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### GCM Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

- The GoGB supported, with the assistance of the national NGO AGLUCOMI and the international NGO AIDA the koranic schools, , with a campaign to prevent the dissemination of COVID-19 and the distribution of food and other goods among internal (so called) talibe children that moved from the regions to the capital.
- The GoGB with the assistance from IOM, distributed 10.000 masks to the security forces in the borders and to vulnerable migrants in Guinea Bissau to control the COVID-19 pandemic. GCM

### Objective 8: Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

- In 2018, the GoGB received requests from families who did not know about their relatives abroad. The GoGB requested the support from the International Red Cross to disclose information about the whereabouts of those migrants. The Government is under the process of establishing a formal partnership with the International Red Cross in order to analyse if there are nationals from Guinea Bissau among the 1100 deaths of the wreck in the Mediterranean in April 2015. There is an evidence from families of missing migrants in GB that supports the hypothesis that missing migrants from GB can be among the deaths of that accident.

### GCM Objective 9: Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants

- With the assistance from IOM, the GoGB strengthened the capacity of the judicial police



in the border control. More equipment to and training to detect falsified documents is in need. GCM

Objective 12: Strengthen





### GCM Objective 19: Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries

- With the aim of engaging members of the diaspora in the national development process, Guinea-Bissau encourages the return of Guinean nationals living abroad. Under Declaration No. 38/86 on the Code of Emigrants, any citizen abroad returning to Guinea-Bissau to stay can benefit from fiscal and customs exemptions of personal goods. The government reviewed the Code of Emigrants to guarantee an easier access to some benefits by the emigrants that were discussed with diaspora communities abroad and approved of the Cabinet.
- The government is taking advantage and participating in the Platform <https://diasporagb.org>, created by the NGO Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr, to have a direct dialogue with the migrant associations mapped during this process in Europe and willing to contribute with their actions to the development of their country of origin. Diaspora consultation have been organized with the participation of the Secretary of State of Communities and diplomatic missions from GB abroad.
- In 2018, the GoGB signed a protocol with the NGO Saude Sabe Tene, based in Portugal, to support the organization of missions of Guinean doctors and nurses in the diaspora, as well as other health professionals from other countries mobilized by the diaspora, to reinforce the capacities of the main central hospital in Bissau. 13 missions were organized between 2018 and 2022 (as of May 2022).
- The GoGB recognizes the participation of the diaspora in Guinea's Bissau development through the traditional remittances, the social contributions to communities of origin and the transfer of skills to key national institutions. Nonetheless, this contribution is yet to be explored and has often been spontaneous, without any framework to enhance its effectiveness in the mid and long term. To overcome this, the GoGB will develop a diaspora engagement strategy in the coming months to guide diaspora initiatives where they are needed the most and where they could be more sustainable.

### GCM Objective 20: Promote faster, safer, and cheaper transfer of remittances, and foster financial inclusion of migrants

- Although remittances represent the second largest source of foreign exchange and they corresponded to 9.5 per cent of GDP in 2020, there are no schemes to encourage or formalize these flows. Nonetheless, in response to a government request, a study on

remittances, funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and carried out with the technical assistance of IOM, was finalized in 2020. Moreover, the GoGB organized meeting with commercial banks in the country to know more about their products and services to the diaspora and discuss ways to facilitate the transfer of formal remittances to Guinea Bissau.

**GCM Objective 21: Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration**

- The GoGB organized a mission to Libya in 2019 to facilitate the identification of stranded migrants and to issue laissez passer to those without identification documents to accelerate the support of their return to Guinea Bissau.
- Moreover, the GoGB has been assisting the returnees in their reintegration in the country. 694 (680 men, 14 women) returning migrants were assisted with post-arrival reception assistance. Nearly half of these migrants received a financial support to start individual, collective and community projects.

**GCM Objective 22: Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits**

- The GoGB is negotiating a bilateral agreement with Cabo Verde to guarantee the equal treatment and portability of social security rights for nationals of both countries.

**GCM Objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly, and regular migration**

