MANDATE
In Guinea-Bissau, HI works with national institutions and establishments to improve the living conditions of disabled people and their social and economic inclusion.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW
Guinea-Bissau is one of the poorest countries in the world. The country has been plagued by political instability and has suffered several coups d’etat in the last 20 years. The 2014 presidential elections saw the arrival of a democratically-elected government which has initiated many reforms. The needs in the country, however, are colossal: nutrition-related health problems are widespread in Guinea-Bissau and particularly in pregnant women, which contributes to the high rates of maternal and infant mortality. Furthermore, the country has very basic health services and few health workers, most of whom have little training. The same applies in the education sector, in which only 64% of children completed their primary education in 2010.

INTERVENTION HISTORY
HI has been working in Guinea-Bissau since 2000. The first projects tackled functional rehabilitation, the vocational inclusion of people with disabilities and landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Due to political instability and security risks, the organisation suspended its activities in Guinea-Bissau between 2008 and 2014. Since 2015, it has been working on new projects, the first of which is in the field of education.

FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Development Index (HDI)*</td>
<td>178/188 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth*</td>
<td>55.2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross national income (GNI)/capita ($PPP)*</td>
<td>$1,362 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface area**</td>
<td>36,125 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population**</td>
<td>1,746 million</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*UNDP: Human Development Report 2015
**UNSD 2015

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Ratified on 24/09/2014
Oslo Treaty (Convention on Cluster Munitions) Ratified on 29/11/2010
Ottawa Treaty (Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction) Ratified on 22/05/2001

Philippa Russell: prussell@handicap-international.org
Projects running in 2017

Inclusive Education: taking actions for the full participation of children with disabilities through education programmes (APPEHL)
Regional project running in Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Benin and Guinea-Bissau

OBJECTIVE
Promote the educational inclusion of children with disabilities in Guinea-Bissau and ensure that disabled children from the villages and districts in the target school catchment areas have access to education that meets their individual needs.

METHOD
Introducing awareness-raising activities directed at education authorities (national and regional) on the importance of inclusive education for children with disabilities. HI will work to give the authorities the technical skills required to implement an inclusive education policy.

BENEFICIARIES
- Children and teachers from the 14 pilot schools in Bissau
- Disabled children not enrolled at school in Bissau
- Ministry of Education

PARTNERS
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Women, the Family and Social Solidarity
- Federation of Disabled People’s Organisations of Guinea-Bissau (FADPD)
- School parent representatives

LOCATION
Region of Bissau

Integrated Inclusive Education, Child Protection and Early Impairment Detection

OBJECTIVE
Foster an inclusive, healthy and safe school environment, working with the schools and communities involved in the UNICEF Child-Friendly Schools programme (programme to define a quality standard for schools).

METHOD
To allow disabled children to enjoy the same rights as other children, HI has decided to work on a number of complementary activities including:
- Capacity building for teachers (child-centred approach, inclusive education, hygiene, nutrition)
- Identification of the disabled children enrolled in schools and those not enrolled, living in the community
- Awareness-raising in the community on the importance of the inclusion of people with disabilities
- The improvement of accessibility in schools (in part, by building accessible latrines and water points)
- Child protection activities to promote birth registration and raise awareness in the community on the importance of preventing violence against children

BENEFICIARIES
- 2,340 children enrolled in the 12 partner schools
- Disabled children not enrolled in school at the beginning of the project
- At least 400 children visiting the 4 partner health facilities in the two health regions of Oio and Farim
- Teachers and directors at the 12 partner schools and inspectors from the four sectors of the Oio region
- Personnel from the four pilot health facilities in the two health regions of Oio and Farim
PARTNERS

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Women, the Family and Social Solidarity
- Ministry of Public Works, Construction and Urbanism
- Local authorities
- Federation of Disabled People’s Organisations of Guinea-Bissau (FADPD)
- School parent representatives

LOCATION

Regions of Oio and Farim

Project to Strengthen the Disabled People’s Rights Movement

OBJECTIVE

Civil Society Organisations in Guinea-Bissau have strengthened capacity to support disabled people and to pressure public authorities and other key stakeholders to implement inclusive development policies.

METHOD

In order to 1) enable disabled people’s organisations (DPOs) to build organisational and technical capacity to improve internal governance, 2) enable civil society organisations (CSOs) to contribute to the development, monitoring and evaluation of policies that take into account disabled people and 3) promote inclusive local development, HI is working on a series of activities:

- Institutional assessment; legal support and monitoring of DPOs;
- Research at the national and regional levels;
- Training of leaders and members of DPOs;
- Participation of DPOs and other CSOs in national and regional cooperation forums; mobilisation of local and national stakeholders; dialogue with West African federations of DPOs;
- Support to awareness-raising and local inclusive local development projects in six regions (see below).

BENEFICIARIES

- 210 representatives from 20 DPOs and 15 CSOs
- 15 CSOs
- 28 government employees from: Ministry of Women, the Family and Social Solidarity, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications; the local authorities of Bissau and of five regions

PARTNERS

- Federation of Disabled People’s Organisations of Guinea-Bissau (FADPD)
- DPOs (from the target regions)
- CSOs
- Ministry of Women, the Family and Social Solidarity
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Public Works
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications
- Local authorities

LOCATION

Regions of Bafatá, Biombo, Cacheu, Gabu, Oio and Bissau
HIV and Disability Project

OBJECTIVE
- Increase the availability of data on the vulnerability of people with disabilities to HIV infection in each of the target countries.
- Reinforce the technical and organisational capacities of civil society organisations to implement advocacy initiatives to promote the inclusion of disabled people in the HIV/AIDS response at the national and regional levels.
- Increase the participation of disabled people’s federations in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS policies and programmes at the national and regional levels to ensure the needs of disabled people are given greater consideration.
- Promote partnerships between disability and HIV organisations in West Africa to foster a strong, sustainable civil society mobilisation.

METHOD
- Monitoring and evaluation of epidemiological data, of the extent to which disabled people’s rights are respected and of the level of access to information enjoyed by people living with HIV
- Community systems strengthening
- Addressing legal barriers to service access

BENEFICIARIES
- Disabled people’s organisations
- Women’s organisations
- People with disabilities
- Populations at risk

PARTNERS
- Government health services
- Disabled people’s organisations
- West African Federation of People with Disabilities (WAFOD)

LOCATION
Regional

MAIN DONORS

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<th>French Development Agency (AFD)</th>
<th>European Union (EU)</th>
<th>UNICEF</th>
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