



Access to health services in Guinea-Bissau

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Access to health services in Guinea-Bissau

- My speech will focus on:
- Recommendations made to the State of Guinea-Bissau for the health sector
- Developments in relation to these recommendations
- Proposal of recommendations (reformulation of recommendations previously formulated but not implemented or partially implemented).

Recommendations made to the State of Guinea-Bissau for the health sector

- Libya recommended supporting strategies to advance the health sector and ensure universal care. Recommendation 119.109 (Libya).
- Timor-Leste recommended measures to improve maternal and newborn health care. Recommendation 119.112 (Timor-Leste).
- Algeria recommended that Guinea-Bissau strengthen health legislation and the implementation of policies and guidelines to improve access to health care services, especially for persons with disabilities, women and youth. Recommendation 119.107 (Algeria).

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Important progress has been made in the health sector with the drafting and updating of important documents to guide the sector in general and the specific response to certain diseases that plague the country's population. Ministerial orders aimed at ensuring free health services for the elderly and children under 5. However, funding in the health sector still falls short of the Abuja declaration, which stipulates that at least 15 per cent of the budget should be allocated to the health sector.

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However, funding in the health sector still falls short of the Abuja declaration, which stipulates that at least 15 per cent of the budget should be allocated to the health sector.

It should also be emphasised that the country does not have a basic health law that can lay the foundations for the functioning of the sector.

In addition to normative aspects from the point of view of care, some challenges remain:

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- Availability of the hepatitis B vaccine only at 45 days of life and not at birth as recommended
- Unavailability of treatment for cases of hepatitis B mono-infection
- Failure to integrate cervical cancer screening into the routine of reproductive health services
- Lack of an oncology service, technicians and equipment needed for cancer treatment
- Limited access to reproductive health services for pregnant women due to various factors
- Lack of inpatient services in public services for patients with mental illness and drug addiction
- Poor quality of patient data and records made on paper and difficulties in archiving them □ Non-integration of NGO data into the country's health information system (DHIS2)
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Proposal of recommendations (reformulation of recommendations previously formulated but not implemented or partially implemented)

- Ensure a gradual increase in domestic health financing by 2028, allocating at least 15% of the general state budget, in line with the Abuja Declaration.
- Introduction of hepatitis B vaccine at birth and HPV vaccination, especially for girls, by 2027, and ensuring its effective availability.
- Ensuring the availability of hepatitis treatment
- Develop policy and implement community-based maternal and child health programs, including mobile campaigns (2025 to 2030)
- Ensure the training of health technicians in the various areas of specialization and ensure their assignment, retention and appropriation
- Developing, validating and adopting a new fundamental law for community health (2025 to 2027)
- Integration of cervical cancer screening into reproductive health services in all women's health facilities from 2026

Proposal of recommendations (reformulation of recommendations previously formulated but not implemented or partially implemented)

- Create chemotherapy and radiotherapy services: acquire equipment and train technicians between 2025 and 2030
- Create adequate infrastructure for the reception and rehabilitation of the mentally ill and drug addicts by 2025
- Implement a complete digitalization of the health system to improve the efficiency and management of health services, with implementation planned by 2030
- Integrate all health programmes, including NGO data, into the district health information system (DHIS2)
- Ensure the widespread dissemination and effective implementation of existing laws: la loi 14/2011 on female genital mutilation:
 - The Domestic Violence Act,
 - The National Gender Policy
 - Law 11/2010 on Sexual and Reproductive Health and
 - The National Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities by 2027.

Recommendations

- Adapt health infrastructure and tools to ensure the inclusion of all forms of disability by 2030.
- Develop a strategic plan for collaboration and integration between traditional and conventional medicine (2025 to 2030).
- Implement telemedicine services and online consultations by 203.
- Monitoring the impact of climate change on people's health, especially in coastal areas by 2026

- Thank you