



COALITION OF ORGANIZATIONS DEFENSE OF
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN GUINEA-BISSAU

**CIVIL SOCIETY REPORT OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF GIRL'S RIGHTS IN
GUINEA-BISSAU**

**UPR - GAPS IMPLEMENTATION OF GIRLS
RIGHTS IN GUNEA-BISSAU**

July 2019

Index

List of acronyms -----	2
Context -----	3 - 6
1. Introduction -----	6 - 9
2. Analysis of the main issues raised -----	9 - 11
3. The particular issue of child marriage -----	11 - 13
4. Conclusions -----	13
5. Proposal for solutions, recommendations -----	13-14
6. References -----	14

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AGRICE - Guinean Association for Rehabilitation and Integration of the Blind
AMIC - Association of Friends of Child
ANP – Popular National Assembly
BO- Official Newsletter
CDHNU - United Nations Human Rights Council
CADBEC - African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CAJ - Access to Justice Center
CDC - Convention on the Rights of the Child
CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CODEDIC - Coalition of Organizations for the Defense of the Rights of the Child
CRGB - Constitution of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau
CRG - Child Rights Governance
UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund
ILAP - Light Survey on Poverty Assessment
IMC - Women and Children's Institute
LGDH - Guinean League for Human Rights
MGF - Female Genital Mutilation
UN - United Nations
WHO - World Health Organization
NGO - Non Governmental Organization
ILO - International Labor Organization
OSC - Civil Society Organizations
PNI - National Children's Parliament
PJ - Judicial Police
UNDP - United Nations Development Program
POP - Public Order Police
SCI - Save the Children International
UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund

I. Geographical data and the political context

Guinea-Bissau is a country located on the West Africa's Atlantic coast. It covers an area of 36,125 square kilometers and a population estimated at 1.8 million inhabitants and approximately 51.67% are women and 49.33% are men. The population density is five people per kilometer square and the currency is the CFA (African Community Finance Franc), which has a fixed exchange rate against the Euro that is € 1 = 655,957 CFA. It has been experiencing cyclical political instability since 80's until 2012 where the last coup took place. The political system is semi-presidential, and operates on the principle of separation of the sovereignty powers. It is currently emerging from its most recent crisis, a purely political one whose crucial phase ended with the legislative election on 10 March 2019.

II. Standard of living of the population

According to the latest Human Development Report prepared Guinea-Bissau has a development index of 0.455, a figure that places the country in 178th position in a ranking composed of 188 countries and territories; 84.4% of the Guinean population is in a situation of multidimensional poverty and 58.4% in a situation of severe poverty; 79.4% of the population enrolled in the labor market remains poor due to underemployment.

III. Access to education

The average years of schooling of Guinean population is 2.96; according to UNDP, human development report 2016, and to illustrate it, a study of ILAP,2010, steamed that active population has in standard less than four first years of studies. Concerning to this question it can still have been taken into consideration the following data.

-Only 31,1% of children enter primary school with expected age.

-Only 66,2% of children in rural areas have access to first schooling year against 91% of urban means

_44% of children at a compulsory schooling age, do not attend school.

-75% of basic schools do not have 1st to 6th grade (which reduces drastically the chances to attend 5th grade

IV. Access to health

The survey report to multiple indicator,2014, Guinea Bissau (MICS 2014) shows the following data to access to health

Table 1: Women and Children's Access to Health Services

1.	<i>The percentage of women between 15-49 years old, with</i>
2.	<i>55% of child birth are done at home</i>
3.	The maternal mortality rate is 900p/100.000 births
4.	The percentage of children between the 12 to 23 months who received all recommended vaccinations on the calendar ,before the first anniversary, is 37,4%
5.	The estimated of neonatal mortality is 40p/1000 living births
6.	The estimated infant mortality rate is 60 p/1.000 living birth
7.	The estimated of mortality between children of 1-5 years old is 93 p/1.000 living births
8.	It is estimated that 2.200 children/young people between 10-19 years old live with HIV virus
9	It is estimated that the prevalence of HIV virus in the population between 15-19 years old is 3,2%

Guinea Bissau is among the countries with the worst rates of human development in the world. In this context the passage and evaluation by the UNHRC is an obligation of Guinea Bissau due to its insertion in the context of concert of nations. It is also true that the international integration rises a set of law-related obligations that, when implemented, would encourage and promote the adoption of affirmative measures as well as an appropriate legal framework to bring changes needed to improve welfare, protection and access to social services on the basis of the entire population. The situation referenced several times has necessarily serious reflections in the field of promotion and protection of children's rights, especially in those cases where, for some reason, they have characteristics that make them more vulnerable to Discriminations and abuses, namely girls, disabled children, etc. In addition to exclusion from access to basic social services, children, among others, are certain specific forms of direct violations of their rights, including forced labor, sexual exploitation, excision and the Forced and early marriage.

The problems are these, thus, diverse and complex in such a way that any resolution scheme requires a strategy and sustainable approach. What has been done to change this trend? What are the improvements already registered? What are the present and future challenges? How are girls ' rights covered and protected? Among others, these are the issues that will be addressed in this work, having as a temporal horizon the period between the years 2015 and 2019 and as a subsidy the recommendations formulated by States in the framework of the last presentation of Guinea-Bissau in CDHNU, among others above mentioned:

A. Rec 96.62 To keep fighting against female genital mutilation and early marriage (Djibouti);

B. Rec. 96.63 To take concrete measures, including through public information campaigns and to increase community involvement, to accelerate the elimination of female genital mutilation and

reduce the number of early and forced marriages (United Kingdom of Britain), and Northern Ireland);

C. Rec. 96.64 To redouble efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation and the early and forced marriage of girls (Portugal);

D. Rec. 96.65 To continue to deepen measures to eliminate practices such as mutilation and female genital cutting, as well as forced marriages (Argentina);

E. Rec. 96.66 To continue efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women, particularly female genital mutilation and forced and early marriage (France);

F. Rec. 96.67 Strengthening national legislation in rural areas to prevent early or forced marriage of children (Sierra Leone);

G. Rec. 96.68 redoubling efforts to eliminate early and forced marriage (Maldives);

It is evident that from this international integration rises The situation referred to several times necessarily has serious implications for the promotion and protection of children's rights, especially in those cases where for some reasons they have characteristics that make them more vulnerable to discrimination and abuse, such as girls, children with disabilities, etc. In addition to exclusion from access to basic social services certain specific forms of direct violation of their rights, including forced labor, sexual exploitation, excision and forced and premarital marriage are identified in relation to children.

The problems are thus diverse and complex so that any resolution scheme will inevitably go through a strategic and sustainable approach. What has been done to change this trend? What are the improvements already registered? What are the present and future challenges? How are girls' rights addressed and protected? Among others these are the issues that will be addressed in this work with a timeframe between the years 2015 and 2019 and as a subsidy the recommendations formulated by the states in the framework of Guinea-Bissau's last presentation in the UNHRC, among others highlighted:

- a. **Rec 96.62** Continue to combat Female Genital Mutilation and early marriage (Djibouti);
- b. **Rec. 96.63** Take concrete action, including through public information campaigns and increased community involvement to accelerate the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation and reduce the number of early and forced marriages (United Kingdom and Great Britain) and Northern Ireland);
- c. **Rec. 96.64** Redouble efforts to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation and early and forced marriage of girls (Portugal);
- d. **Rec. 96.65** Continue to deepen measures to eliminate practices such as Female Genital Mutilation and cutting, as well as forced marriages (Argentina);
- e. **Rec. 96.66.** Continue efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women, particularly as regards Female Genital Mutilation and forced and early marriage (France);
- f. **Rec. 96.67** Strengthen national legislation in rural areas to prevent early or forced marriage of children (Sierra Leone);
- g. Rec. 96.68 Redefine efforts to eliminate precocious and forced marriage (Maldives);

- h. **Rec. 96.69.** Adopt measures to prevent early and forced marriage, including through awareness-raising campaigns and measures to monitor the implementation of existing legislation, as well as by encouraging the enrollment of girls (Canada)

1. Introduction

This report aims to strengthen the upcoming presentation of the State of Guinea-Bissau in the UNHRC. We focus on the effective protection of the rights of girls in the national context. This report is a property of NGO's represented by CODEDIC-GB, whose works are sponsored, by PLAN INTERNATIONAL GNB and the SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL, under their collaboration programs with Guinean civil society organizations.

1.1. Objectives

1.1.1. Overall Objective

This report aims to contribute to the Universal Periodic Review of Guinea-Bissau implementation of Convention of the rights of the child and the girl child in particular. Further, the report aims to contribute to the strengthening of monitoring activities carried out by civil society organizations, particularly those engaged in the promotion and advocacy of children's rights such as CODEDIC.

1.1.2. Specific objectives

Taking into consideration the terms of reference of the study and the specific orientations of its holder the specific objectives of this work are:

- a. Update on implementation of the right of girls in Guinea-Bissau;
- b. Identify and analyze existing gaps regarding the guarantee and protection of the rights of girls;
- c. To proceed the framing and analysis of the issue of infantile marriage in Guinea-Bissau
- d. To Present the proposals for solutions to the main problems identified concerning the theme of the study;

1.2. Methodologies and Hypotheses

1.2.1. Methodologies

In terms of methodology, the work developed focused on a broad documentary analysis supported through bibliographic research and reinforced with interviews and discussions with CODEDIC team and members of other organizations. The adoption of this approach allowed for a good cross-checking of data from several types of documents, reports on the situation of the child in Guinea-Bissau, the elements collected during the exploratory interviews and discussion in group. Also the research team was able to integrate, as part of the methodology, the references of the child auscultation about girl's rights in the different regions that is considered rich in the subsidies about the girls rights Guinea-Bissau.

The process of preparing the report included the following phases:

- 1) **Preparatory phase:** reading of the guidance documents;
- 2) **Planning Phase:** elaboration of the work plan;
- 3) **Bibliographic Review:** compilation of the main documents and bibliographic references;
- 4) **Audit of relevant actors:** exploratory interviews and group discussions;
- 5) **Analysis and systematization:** reading and compilation of the main data;

- 6) **Elaboration of the draft:** first version of the report;
- 7) **Validation session:** presentation, discussion of results and feedback from key stakeholders;
- 8) **Elaboration of the final version** - revision and adoption of recommendations. For the design of the report a methodological approach was adopted based on three fundamental modalities: documentary analysis (qualitative and quantitative), exploratory interviews and group discussion sessions.

Considering that there is some systematized information on the situation of the child in Guinea-Bissau, it was understood that it would be relevant to analyze the reports, studies and the actual legislation in the field of the Rights of the Child.

1.2.2. Hypotheses

Based on the findings, the team made the following assumptions:

- a. **There is an adequate legal framework to ensure a basic protection and promotion of the rights of children as well as the access to basic services (health services, education, etc).**

We found that the international commitments assumed by Guinea-Bissau reflected on the different national and international legal and political instruments aimed at promoting the protection of the Rights of the Child. In this regard, **articles 24** - in the Constitution of the Republic (**CRGB**) emphasize that all citizens are equal before the law, enjoy the same rights, subject to the same duties, regardless of race, sex, social, intellectual level or cultural, religious belief or philosophical conviction. **Article 26**, in which the State recognizes the constitution of the family and ensures its protection; children are equal before the law, regardless of the marital status of the parents.

- **There are also important detached legislation, namely:**
- The Law to combat Female Genital Mutilation (**Law Nbr. 14/2011 of 06 June**) aims to prevent, combat and suppress the practice of Female Genital Mutilation.
- The National Policy on Gender Equality and Equity (2017) - aims to combat inequalities between boys and girls, **i.e.** any gender inequalities expressed in stereotypes, biases and discriminatory practices that lead to differences and opportunities for participation in the development process.
- The Law on Domestic Violence (**Law Nbr. 6/2014 of 4 February**) - aims to combat cases of physical, psychological, property and sexual violence, especially in relation to children as a group that is more vulnerable to all types of violence in the domestic relations.
- The Penal Code, Civil Code, General Labor Law - which defines the minimum working age; code of conduct for the protection of children and sexual exploitation in tourism and travel. • Licensing and supervision system of reception centers.
- The Law of the Temporary Reception Family. The Law on Prevention and Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings (**Law 12/2011**). The Merit-Based Grants Program for insertion and reintegration of girls' victims of violence. The National Plan for the Prevention and Fight against Human Beings trafficking and the Law on the Prevention, Treatment and Control of HIV / AIDS.

At the level of International Law

- Guinea-Bissau's external relations policy with regard to the adoption of international rules on a wide range of subjects reveals an awareness of the importance of integrated strategies in the processes of promoting human development. With regard to the defense of the Rights of the Child, Guinea-Bissau also stands on track of internationally accepted policies. In the promotion of human rights, Guinea-Bissau has ratified and adopted several legal instruments on which we can highlight:
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights - which establishes principles of universal equality for all human beings, guaranteeing the right to life, liberty, personal security and personal dignity.
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989).
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children (CADBEC, 2008).
- Optional Protocol to Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which has been in force since 1981. It is the first international treaty to provide comprehensive information on the human rights of women. It proposes: the rights of women in the pursuit of gender equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.
- Protocol to the Charter of Human Rights and Peoples on the Rights of Women in Africa
- ILO Convention No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment.
- ILO Convention No. 182 on Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor.
- International Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights to the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (2004)
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale, Prostitution and Child Pornography (of the Child) of 6/3/2004.
- 2000 Millennium Declaration.

b. The girls' rights violation cases still continue frequently

Important progress has been made in recent years in terms of legislation to address the several human rights issues. In the field of the rights of girls, it should specifically highlight the aforementioned laws **12/2011** - for the prevention and combat of child trafficking and **Law 14/2011** criminalizing excision. However, in concrete terms little has changed about current state of affairs and as it can be deduced from the following data.

Nefarious practices and violence against girls: 43% of girls between 10-14 are targeted by FGM17; 16% of girls under the age of five are the target of FGM 18; 49.7% of girls aged 0-14 years were the target of some form of FGM; More than 7% of girls marry before completing 15 to 21; 47% of rural girls marry before age 18; 27% of girls in urban areas marry before 18 and 24.

C. Insufficient translation of public policies into affirmative measures to promote good practices and inclusion of girls

At the structural level, the following public institutions are highlighted:

- Specialized Committee of the National Parliament for Women and Children. The Office for the Protection of Abuse and Domestic Violence (Ministry of the Interior).
- Institute of Women and Children - IMC.
- National Children's Parliament - PNI.
- Court of Family and Minors (Minors Custody).
- Center for Access to Justice - CAJ.
- National Committee for the Prevention and Fight against Human Beings trafficking.
- National Committee for the Abandonment of Negligible Traditional Practices - CNAPT.N.
- Brigade for the Protection of Women and Children - Judicial Police.

However, the work of these public institutions is complemented by the initiatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) that advocate and intervene in a wide range of areas of protection of the rights of the child. These CSOs include:

- Network for Combating Violence in Gender and Children - RENLUV.
- Guinean League for Human Rights - LGDH.
- Coalition of the Organizations of Defense of Rights of the Child of Guinea-Bissau - CODEDIC-GB.
- National Federation of Associations of People with Disabilities (FNAPD)
- National Association of SOS Children's Villages Guinea- Bissau.
- SOS Talibé children.
- The Islamic Youth.
- Association of Friends of Children - AMIC.
- Guinean Association for Rehabilitation and Integration of the Blind - AGRICE.
- Casa Bambaram.
- Casa Emanuel.
- Young Educators Network - REJE.
- Advisory Council for Children and Youth - CCCJ.

It is also important to highlight the work of international organizations such as Plan International, Portuguese Cooperation and United Nations agencies (UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA), which support and assist in articulation of initiatives with public institutions and national CSOs in the field of promotion and defense of the Rights of the Child.

2. Situation of Women and Girls

1) What is the status of implementation of girls' rights in Guinea-Bissau?

Guinea-Bissau is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 177 out of 189 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index in 2017. Children face enormous challenges. According to the 2018 UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality estimates, Guinea-Bissau is among the 15 countries with the highest under-five mortality in the world, and among the 10 countries reporting the highest neonatal mortality globally. The net school attendance ratio is only 62 per cent (same for boys and girls), leaving many children behind. Food insecurity is a recurrent threat for a part of the population and close to a third of children are stunted (27.6 per cent). Less than 17 per cent of

children aged 6-23 months access the minimum food diversity (WFP, 2017). Women and girls are even more vulnerable, with fewer adolescent girls accessing education compared to boys and literacy rates that are as low as 50.5 per cent for women aged 15-24 compared to 70.4 per cent for men of the same age. Female genital mutilation and child marriage remain a widespread practice, with high social acceptance. A quarter of women aged 20-24 years are married before the age of 18. Adolescents lack appropriate skills to cope with early marriage and early pregnancy.

Table 2: **Students Abandonment by sex and region at beginning and the end of the school year- 2009**

Region					Census 2009
	Abandon M	Abandon F	Ratio M/F at the beginning	Ratio M/F at the end	Relation M/F (*)
Bafata	7.3	16.5	1.0	1.1	1.0
Biombo	29.4	35.3	1.3	1.4	1.1
Cacheu	15.3	16.9	1.0	1.1	1.1
Gabu	15.1	0.0	1.3	1.1	1.0
Oio	6.8	3.8	1.6	1.5	1.2
Quinara	56.1	55.0	1.4	1.4	1.2
Tombali	31.0	35.4	1.1	1.2	1.1
SAB	29.9	23.0	0.8	0.7	0.9

Source : MICS 2014

The implementation of the rights of girls in Guinea-Bissau experiences little progress, due to the nature and the social structure. Many sociocultural factors influence the girl's career and there is still a huge gap between the inclusion and accessibility of boys and girls concerning to social and community resources. On the other hand, harmful practices have contributed to inhibit the potential of girls. According to the data referred to by the House of Rights, 37% of girls marry before the age of 18, while for boys the percentage is only 3,7%. There have been advances from the point of view of the legal framework with the criminalization of FGM through law 14/2011.

The CRGB has articles namely the 24th and 37th that establish equal parameters of freedoms and protection. However, structural problems (slow process, political and governmental crises and lack of access to information on the judiciary) linked to impunity and poor administration of the justice system lead to a lack of accountability of criminals and the non-existence of elements of dissuasion.

A comparative Index of school abandonment by sex and region presented in table 2. MICS (201) data shows curious reality for girls in the primary education. In three regions, there is a significant difference between the abandonment rates of boys and girls, notably Bafata, Tombali and Biombo regions.

Concerning to the right to health, the key gaps are highlighted below:.

- 2) *What are the gaps in guaranteeing and protecting right of girls*

It is possible to observe the little involvement of two social institutions, which from our point of view, is crucial to the success and sustainability of programs and the efficiency of laws. We refer to family and school.

Concerning the *family*, most of the time the violation of girls' rights in general, include forced labor, child marriage, sexual exploitation, forced school dropout, including excision, etc. in so-called social and cultural causes have as their background economic and/or patrimonial motivations. Strengthening basis of the family economy are believed to contribute to the reduction of more than 50%. In addition, schools, especially the public school network, has an invaluable potential in the process of identifying and addressing suspected violations. As an institution for excellence, the basic training of the individuals, plays a double role that will educate a girl in order to equip her with the tools to advocate for her own rights. On the other hand, the family (the potential victim in collaboration with the structures of administration of justice to persecute and punish the violators of the special laws that protect the rights of these individuals.

3. The particular issue of child marriage

In the Guinea-Bissau legal system, marriage before the age of 18 does not by itself constitute child marriage in line with the current concept of this world scourge. This is because the civil code sets the minimum age of 16 years, still below the legal age of majority. As a result, to speak of this reality of many young Guineans, when they reach the age of 16 it is necessary, according to the UDHR, that consent be 'free and total'. This fact coupled with the lack of civil registration and the ability to monitor civil registration by the competent authorities ends up allowing parents to encourage the marriage of their daughters when they are still children in the hope that the marriage benefits them financially and socially, while at the same time reducing the financial difficulties of the family. Indeed, child marriage is a violation of human rights compromising in this case development of girls and often resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation with poor education and professional training, reinforcing the gendered nature of poverty. The right to free and full consent to a marriage is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - which states that consent cannot be 'free and full' when one of the elements involved is not mature enough to make an essential decision on a partner for the life.

he search for young wives for reproduction and the imbalance resulting from the age difference leads to the little use of condoms by these couples... The vast majority of married women before the age of 15 are rural (9% vs. 6% of the urban environment). This phenomenon also occurs more in women without any level of education and among those residing in the poorest households (12% and 9%, respectively against 2% of the secondary level and more and 4% of the richest). It is verified that 11% of the 15-19-year-old women are currently married. This proportion varies widely between urban means (7%) and rural (17%), but is closely related to the level of education. For example, 35% of women with no education level are married or live in a de facto union currently against 2% of those who have reached the secondary level and more. Among women aged 15-49 years, 7% married before 15 years, with a higher percentage among residents in the Oio regions (11%) and Bafatá (10%). "

Table 3. Child Marriage in Guinea-Bissau by Region

Region	% of married women before 15 years old	% of married women before 18 years old	% of married men before 18 years old
Tombali	5.3%	40.7%	5.8%
Quinara	9.8%	41.5%	3.1%
Oio	12.1%	40.5%	5.3%
Biombo	9.5%	39.6%	4.3%
Bolama/Bijagós	4.5%	29.8%	2.5%
Bafatá	12.2%	52.2%	5.0%
Gabu	7.1%	67.2%	5.0%
Cacheu	8.2%	28.1%	6.9%
SAB	6.9%	22.8%	1.5%
Total	8.5%	37.1%	3.7%

Source : Plan International (2018)

According to MICS (2014) the issue of child marriage is the age at which girls become sexually active. Women who are married before the age of 18 tend to have more children than those who later marry. Deaths related to pregnancy are one of the main causes of mortality for married girls as single women of 15 and 19 years, particularly for the younger ones in this group. There are data suggesting that girls who marry very young are more likely to marry older men, which puts them at an increased risk of HIV infection

In criminal terms the forced marriage leads to a threat or coercion, articles 122 and 123 that are crimes against personal freedom. However, in case of occurrence, as the judicial procedure depends on the complaint (semi-public crime), as a rule is treated as family problem exempting those responsible for any criminal liability.

4. Conclusions

The information presented and analyzed shows that the implementation of the rights of girls in Guinea-Bissau is partly formal. In most cases, the civil marriage legislation end up being superseded in favor of customary marriage law. Thus, issues related to capacity are considered rarely in rural areas. As it has been shown, the Guinean State has created a series of measures concerning to protection of the Rights of the Child protected in the CADBEC and the CDC. However, it tends not to guarantee the effectiveness of the results of these measures. In this way, the impacts have been manifestly residual against the commitments.

The State has created legal instruments and intervention structures, but does not ensure their operation in a way that affects the applicability of the different legal instruments under their care. Let us see, as a paradigmatic example, the creation of the Institute for Women and Children. It is an exemplary structure from a formal point of view, but it does not receive from the State the human, logistical and financial resources that are fundamental to the fulfillment of the purposes for which it was created. This tendency is extended to the other structures created.

The laws do not work if they are not accompanied by strong institutions that guarantee their enforcement and it is in this field that the State must make a qualitative leap. There is a lack of serious political commitment regarding the implementation, monitoring, supervision and evaluation of the measures recommended. The State tends to delegate this responsibility - of actual realization - to international cooperation organizations, NGOs and CSOs. In fact, this is a real reversal of roles.

The Guinean state cannot be a mere partner of its own development. It is essential that the State assumes its role as the main stakeholder and that it defines concrete horizons, leads, coordinates and guarantees political, administrative and financial conditions for a specific defense of the Rights of the Child. In this ambit, international cooperation, NGOs and CSOs will have a favorable political context to support, in a coordinated and targeted manner the efforts of the State. The data show that the Rights of the Child, especially in the areas of protection, education, health are not assured.

5. Recommendations to the Government of Guinea-Bissau

- I. Strengthen monitoring of national legislation in rural areas to prevent child and forced marriage particularly girls;

Specifically, in the line of the children right auscultation accomplished by children organization:

- a. To consolidate the legal marriage age in 18 years old
- b. To decentralize the judicial services in order to let them closer to the population and to create the necessary administrative and financial conditions for a normal operation of these institutions;
- c. That is created necessary conditions for the security and adequate treatments to the victims of the mistreatment, abuses and other forms of the Children right violence, particularly marriage and excision
- d. That is created an emergency phone line and other means to help in the complaint of the abuses cases, well as the creation and decentralization of the victims services centers;
- e. Availability of a adequate number of the non-paid services for treatment for victims of the excision;
- f. Creation of the temporary institutional host centers in order to help all girls victims of the children marriage, excision and other sexual violences.

- II. Make concrete action, including through public information campaigns and increased involvement of families and school, to accelerate the reduction of child and forced marriages.
- Specifically, in the line of the children right auscultation accomplished by children organization:
- a. To get literate the parents and education sponsors, in order to let them able to follow the global demands about children marriage impacts;
 - b. create the necessary and objectives conditions in order to hold Children in the schools;
 - c. To ensure assistance in order to full fit all school materials needs for children until ninth grade;
- III. Improve and update the systematization of data, concerning to social development of indicators, particularly what were mentioned in the children rights section.

6. Bibliographic references

- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.
- African Charter on the Rights of Man and People.
- Civil Code of Guinea - Bissau.
- Penal Code.
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Constitution of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Law against Domestic Violence.
- Law against Female Genital Mutilation.
- National Policy on Gender Equity and Equality
- Report of the Multiple Indicators Survey, 2014, Guinea-Bissau (MICS 2014).