
What did IDEV evaluate?

IDEV carried out a mid-term evaluation of the Country Strategy and Program (CSP) of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB or “the Bank”) in Guinea-Bissau. Implemented in a context of fragility, the AfDB’s CSP in Guinea-Bissau, which runs from 2015 to 2019, aims to contribute to national stability and economic recovery, through two pillars: i) strengthening the foundations of the State and ii) building infrastructure that promotes inclusive development. Between 2015 and 2017, the volume of the Bank’s assistance to Guinea-Bissau was worth over USD 60 million, for 10 operations. The AfDB gave priority to interventions in the energy sector (43%) and governance (26%). The social sector and agricultural sector received 20% and 11% of the financing respectively.

The evaluation assessed the Bank’s performance in implementing the first phase of the Country Strategy (from 2015 to 2017), whilst also drawing lessons and making recommendations to inform the implementation of the second phase (from 2017 to 2019) as well as the preparation of the next strategy.

What did IDEV find?

Relevance: The relevance of the Bank’s support was deemed generally adequate in terms of its response to Guinea-Bissau’s development needs and challenges. However, findings from the evaluation indicate that the Bank was not sufficiently selective in the choice of interventions. In addition, the approved projects encountered issues of quality-at-entry and had too narrow a scope to achieve maximum development impact. Nevertheless, three of the Bank’s interventions, namely the Rice Value Chain Development Project, the Emergency Economic and Financial Reform Support Program, and the Administrative Capacity-Building Support Project, had the highest likelihood of reducing fragility conditions.

Effectiveness: The expected mid-term outcomes of the CSP were not achieved. Evidence shows that it is highly unlikely that the expected project outcomes will
be achieved at the end of the current CSP cycle. As well as the prevailing political and institutional instability, the lack of realism in planning, the absence of a long-term sector vision, and the focus on outputs rather than on outcomes, limited the ability of the Bank’s operations to produce the expected outcomes.

**Efficiency:** The implementation of the program has not been efficient. The overall disbursement rate of the portfolio was only 23.1% at the end of February 2018, with significant delays noted in all projects.

**Sustainability:** The sustainability of the Bank’s interventions and of the related benefits after project completion, was deemed unsatisfactory. The country is unlikely to sustain the achievements of the implemented projects due to its limited technical and financial capacity.

**Gender and Inclusion:** While there is evidence of the Bank mainstreaming gender at the strategic level, the emphasis on gender and inclusivity was rather limited at the project design stage.

**The Bank’s performance:** Bank performance in knowledge management was found positive overall, although weaknesses were identified in the areas of policy dialogue and supervision.

Furthermore, the Bank’s limited staff presence in the country negatively affected its capacity to efficiently manage its activities and ensure effective coordination and dialogue.

**What did IDEV recommend?**

The following recommendations were made to the Bank:

1. Adapt the Bank’s assistance to the particular context of Guinea-Bissau.
2. Show proof of innovation in the next CSP by adopting a program-based approach.
3. Improve the quality of the Bank’s portfolio in Guinea-Bissau.
4. Develop a results-based approach for capacity development in the country.
5. Increase the Bank’s presence in Guinea-Bissau.
6. Mainstreaming gender in projects design should go beyond quotas for participation of women to integrating approaches and actions that directly target inequalities between men and women.