

Guinea-Bissau

Sectoral Scenarios for Guinea-Bissau

Enoch Randy Aikins

Last updated 05 July 2024 using IFs v7.63

Table of contents

Sectoral Scenarios for Guinea-Bissau	3
Stability scenario	3
Demographic scenario	7
Health/WaSH scenario	11
Agriculture scenario	13
Education scenario	17
Manufacturing scenario	21
Leapfrogging scenario	25
Free Trade scenario	30
Financial Flows scenario	33
Infrastructure scenario	38
Governance scenario	42
Impact of scenarios on carbon emissions	45
Donors and Sponsors	46
Reuse our work	46
Cite this research	46

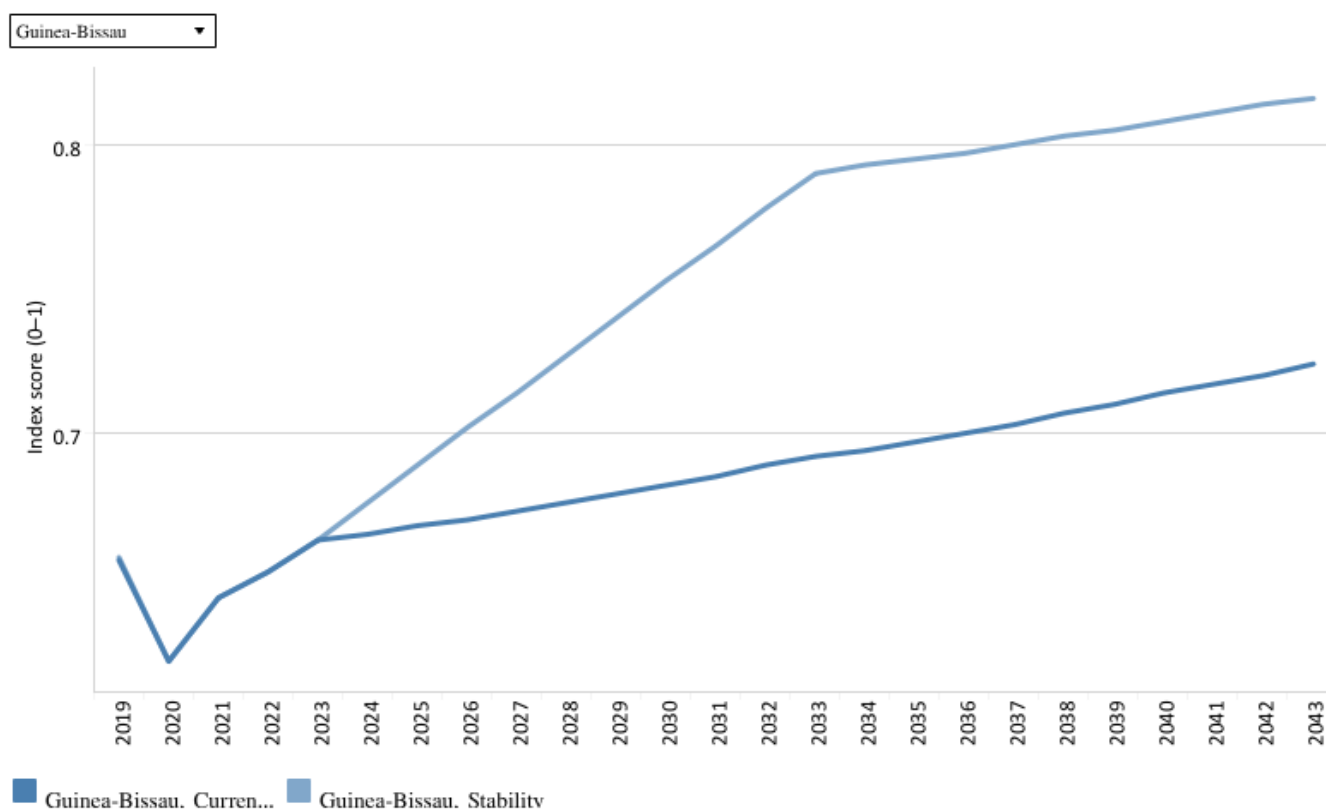
Sectoral Scenarios for Guinea-Bissau

- Stability scenario
- Demographic scenario
- Health/WaSH scenario
- Agriculture scenario
- Education scenario
- Manufacturing scenario
- Leapfrogging scenario
- Free Trade scenario
- Financial Flows scenario
- Infrastructure scenario
- Governance scenario
- Impact of scenarios on carbon emissions



Stability scenario

Chart 13: Governance security in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
IFs index 0–1



Source: IFs 7.63 governance security index using internal war and government risk

[View on Tableau Public](#)

← → ↺ ↻ | 📄 📱 🔗 Share

The Stability scenario represents reasonable but ambitious reductions in risk of regime instability and lower levels of

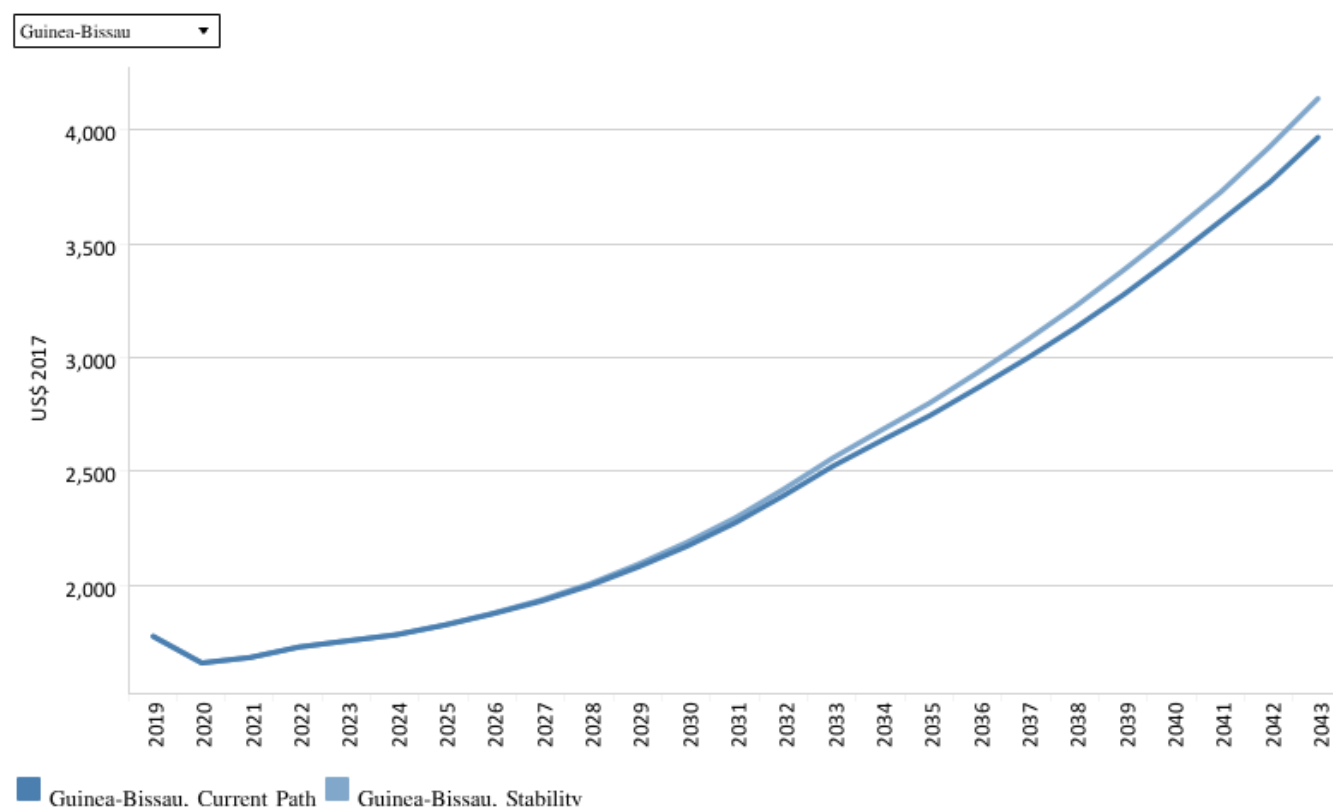
internal conflict. Stability is generally a prerequisite for other aspects of development and this would encourage inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) and improve business confidence. Better governance through the accountability that follows substantive democracy is modelled separately.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

This scenario generally signifies increased political stability, reduced internal conflict, high FDI inflows, improved and accountable governance, and low levels of corruption in the country. Guinea-Bissau has had a history of civil war and political instability, with four successful coups d'état and about 17 coup attempts. The terms of office of all previous democratically elected presidents in the country were truncated by coups d'état and instability. From 2004 to 2009, the average term spent in office by successive governments did not exceed six months. The 2014 election, which was described by observers as the fairest and freest in the history of Guinea-Bissau, ushered the country into a new era of democratic stability, leading to the election of President José Mário Vaz. So far, he has been the only president who has been able to serve his full term of office as guaranteed and mandated by the constitution. However, during his five-year tenure, he worked with as many as seven prime ministers. The 2019 presidential election that led to the election of Umaro Sissoco Embaló resulted in another spate of political crises and instability. At the beginning of 2020, there were two competing governments due to conflict between the president and the National Assembly led by the prime minister under military control. While the situation has been brought under control somewhat, there are still fears of instability in the country. As a part of waves of coups d'état in West Africa, a faction of the Bissau-Guinean military attempted a foiled coup d'état of president Umaro Sissoco Embaló on the 1st of February 2022.

In 2019, Guinea-Bissau's score on the governance security index was 0.66, which was higher than the average of 0.64 for low-income countries in Africa. In the Stability scenario, the score on the governance security index is projected to rise to 0.82 by 2043, which is 0.1 point above the Current Path forecast of 0.72 in the same year. Interestingly, Guinea-Bissau will have a higher level of governance security compared to the average for low-income countries in Africa which is estimated to be 0.71 by 2043 in both the Current Path forecast and the Stability scenario.

Chart 14: GDP per capita in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

In 2019, the GDP per capita for Guinea-Bissau was US\$1 776, which was US\$116 more than the average for low-income countries in Africa. In the Stability scenario, the GDP per capita is projected to increase to US\$4 137 by 2043. This will be US\$170 more than the Current Path forecast and US\$347 above the average for low-income countries in Africa. From 2020 to 2032, the GDP per capita for Guinea-Bissau was less than the average for low-income African countries. Regime stability and a peaceful environment inspire investor confidence and attract FDI into the country, with a positive effect on economic growth. By implementing the Stability scenario, Guinea-Bissau has the potential to increase its GDP per capita.

Chart 15: Poverty in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Share

As Guinea-Bissau is a low-income country, it uses the global benchmark of US\$1.90 per day as the poverty line. In 2019, 1.2 million Bissau-Guineans (about 63.9% of the population) were living on less than US\$1.90 per day. Although the number of poor people will rise marginally from 1.2 million people in 2019 to 1.3 million people in 2043 in the Stability scenario, the scenario will reduce the number of people living below the poverty line to 41.6% by 2043 — 1.8 percentage points below the Current Path forecast. This still means that the materialisation of the Stability scenario could lead to 60 000 fewer poor people in 2043 than in the Current Path forecast. Throughout the period, the proportion of poor people in Guinea-Bissau was higher than the average for low-income African countries.



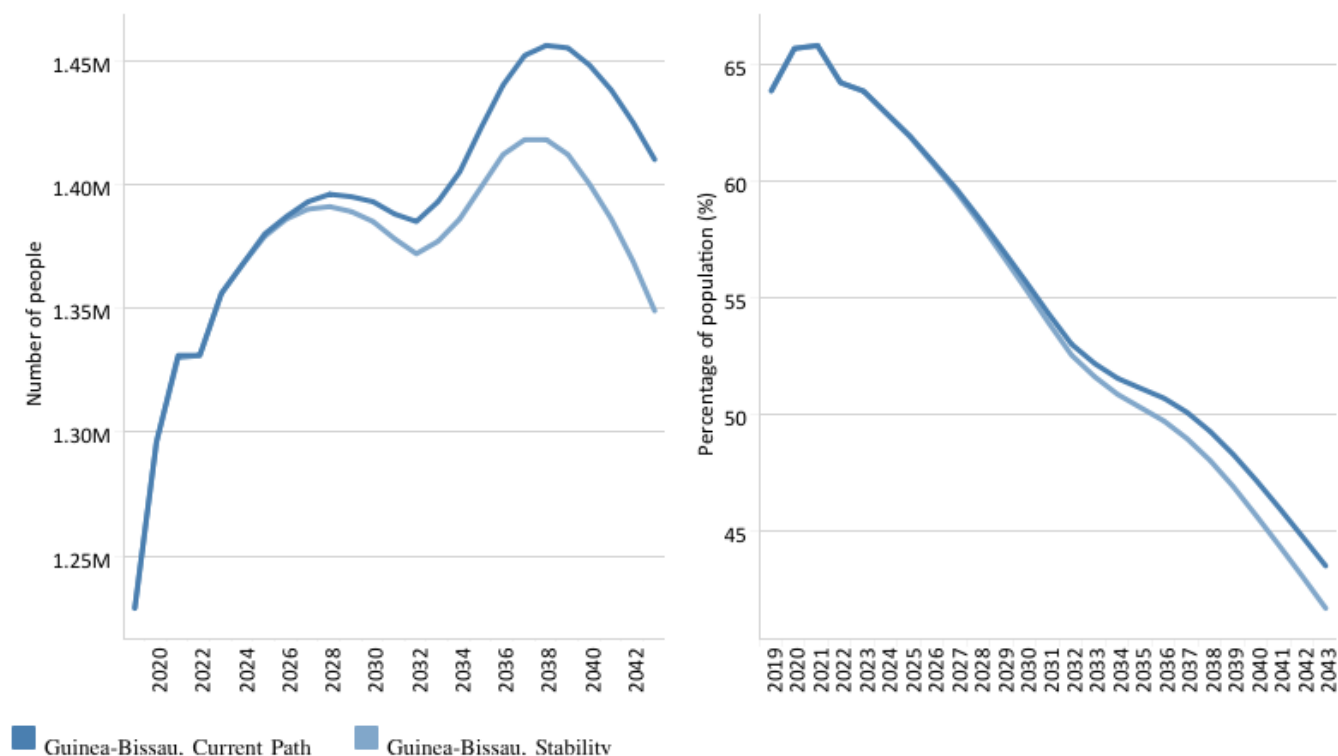
Demographic scenario

Chart 15: Poverty in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of total population



Guinea-Bissau \$1.90



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

View on Tableau Public

Share

This section presents the impact of a Demographic scenario that aims to hasten and increase the demographic dividend through reasonable but ambitious reductions in the communicable-disease burden for children under five, the maternal mortality ratio and increased access to modern contraception.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

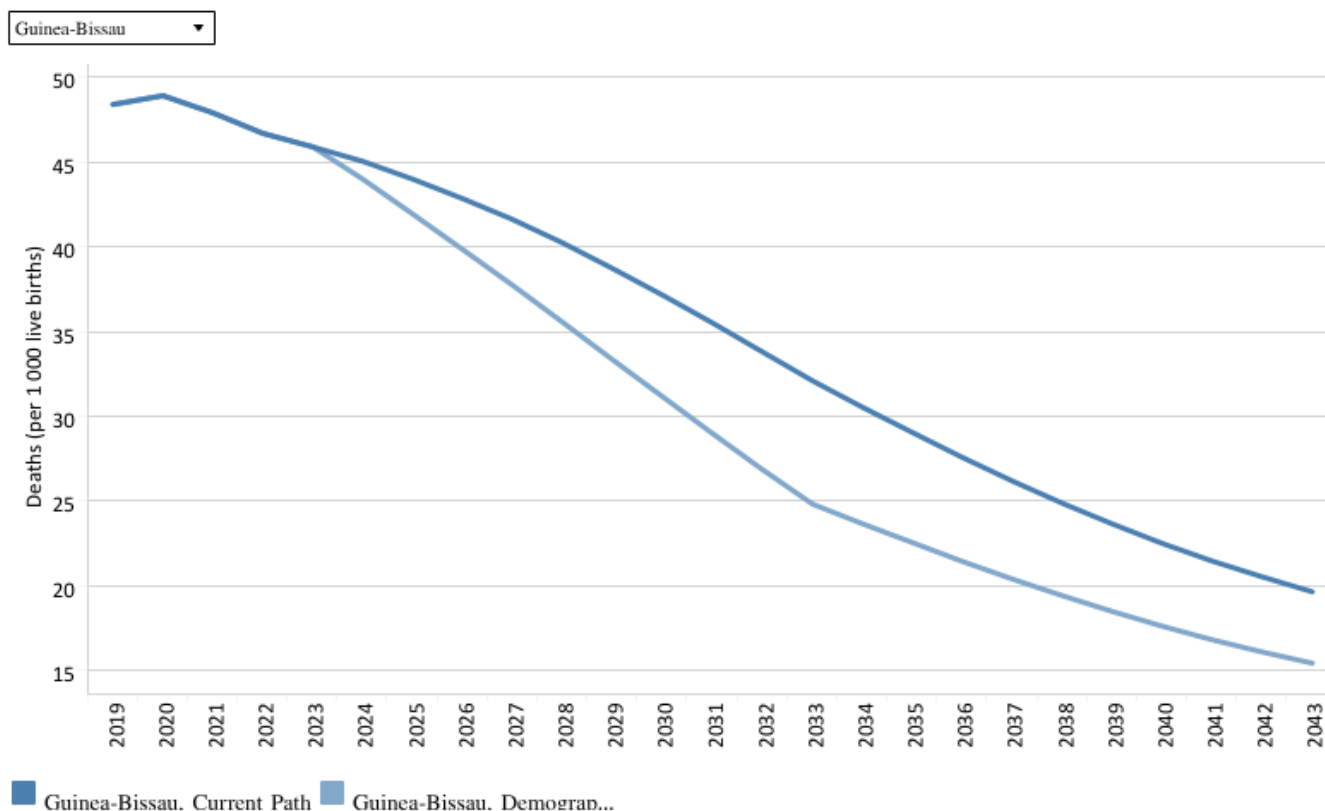
Demographers typically differentiate between a first, second and even a third demographic dividend. We focus here on the contribution of the size of the labour force (between 15 and 64 years of age) relative to dependants (children and the elderly) as part of the first dividend. A window of opportunity opens when the ratio of the working-age population to dependants is equal to or surpasses 1.7.

In 2019, the ratio of working-age persons to dependants was 1.22:1, meaning that there were 1.22 working-age persons for each dependant in the country. This is greater than the average of 1.16 for low-income countries in Africa. Generally, the demographic dividend materialises when the country reaches a minimum ratio of 1.7 working age persons for each dependant. While the country will not reach its demographic dividend by 2043 in the Current Path forecast, Guinea-Bissau is expected to reach this minimum ratio by 2040 in the Demographic scenario. This is two years earlier than the average for low-income countries in Africa, and the situation continues to improve thereafter. The materialisation of the demographic dividend in the Demographic scenario can be explained by increased access to modern contraceptives which

will lead to a decline in fertility rates. In the Demographic scenario, fertility rates are expected to decline to 2.5 births per woman in 2043, compared to 3 births per woman in the Current Path forecast within the same period.

Chart 17: Infant mortality in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043

Deaths per 1 000 live births



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Mortality Visualization Tool data

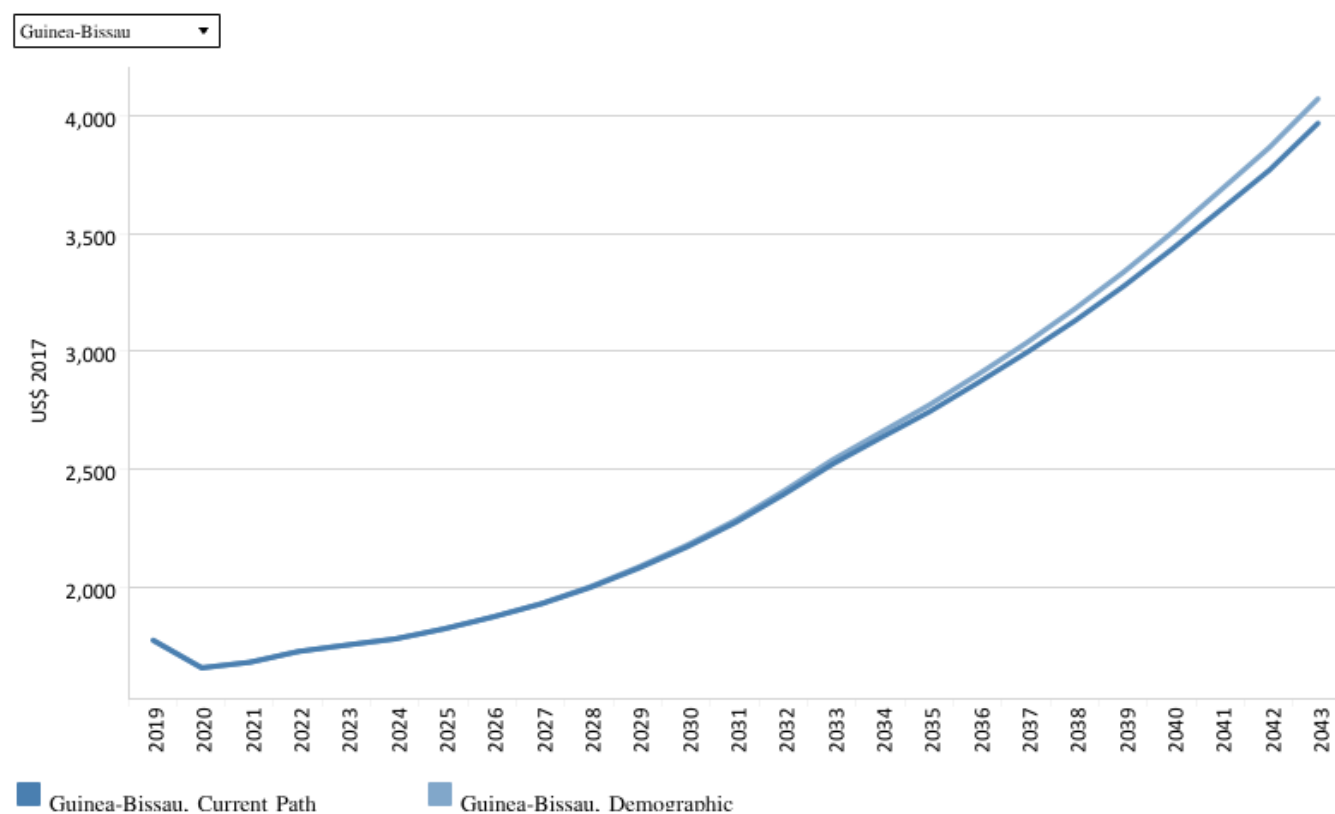
[View on Tableau Public](#)

↶ ↷ ↺ ↻ | 📄 📱 🔗 Share

The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths per 1 000 live births and is an important marker of the overall quality of the health system in a country.

The infant mortality rate in Guinea-Bissau in 2019 was 48.4 deaths per 1 000 live births. This figure is comparable to the average of 48.5 deaths for low-income countries in Africa. By 2043, however, the Demographic scenario will lead to a decline in infant mortality to 15.4 deaths per 1 000 live births, which is 4.3 deaths fewer than the Current Path forecast and 1.5 deaths lower than the average for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 18: GDP per capita in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

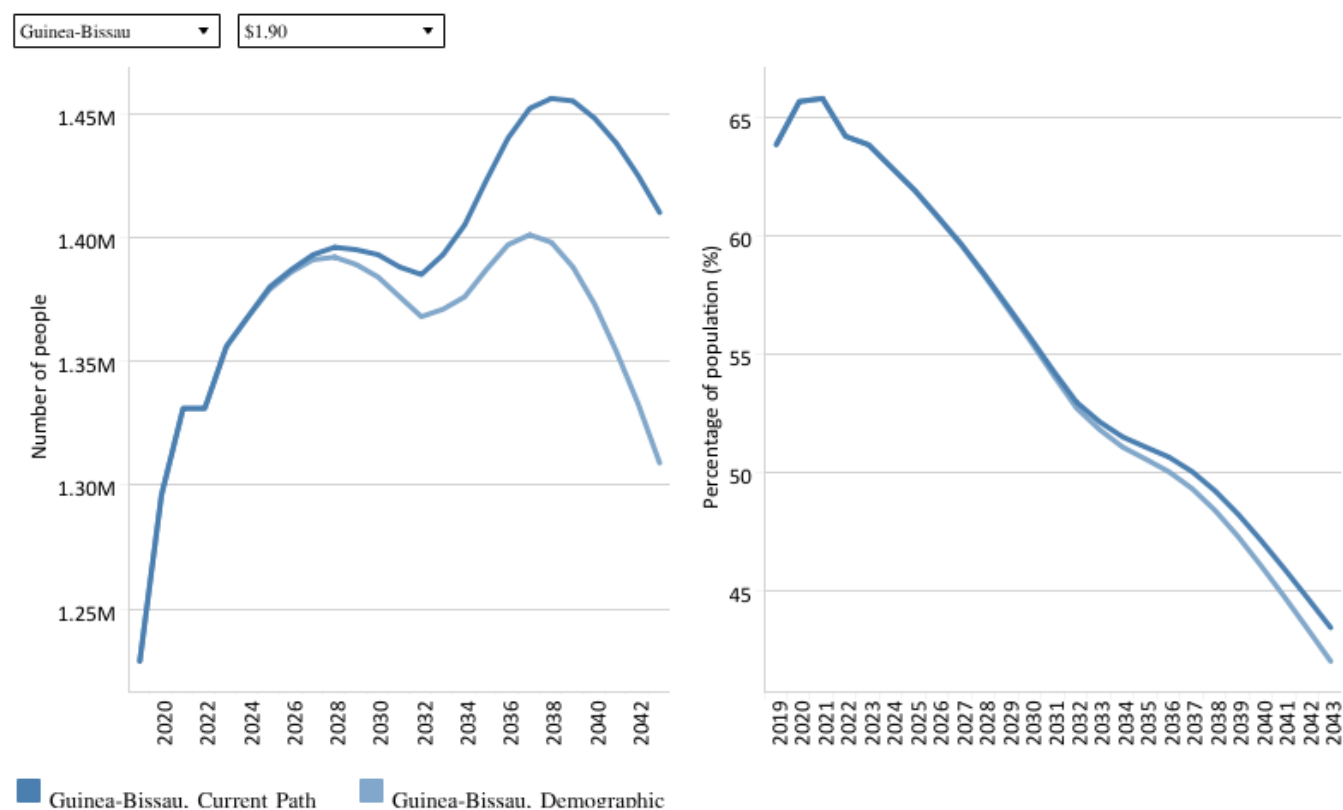
[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

In 2019, the GDP per capita for Guinea-Bissau was US\$1 776, which was US\$116 higher than the average for low-income African countries. By 2043, in the Demographic scenario, the GDP per capita will increase to US\$4 070, which is US\$103 more than the projected US\$3 967 in the Current Path forecast in the same year. This will also be higher than the US\$3 790 average for low-income countries in Africa. The additional increase in the GDP per capita as a result of the Demographic scenario can partly be attributed to the reduction in population growth as a result of the decline in fertility rates emanating from improved access to contraceptives. It can also be attributed to economic growth arising from the materialisation of the demographic dividend.

Chart 19: Poverty in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

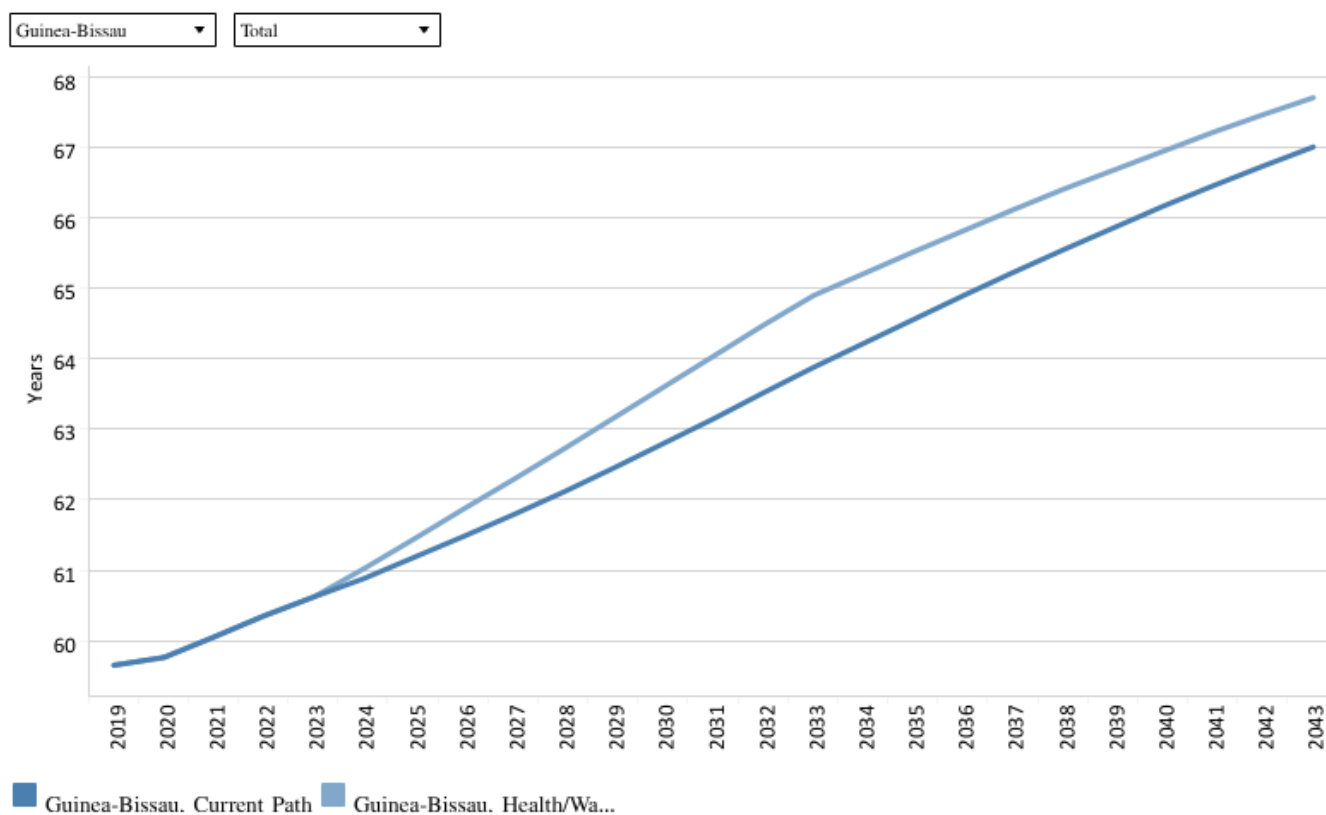
Navigation icons: back, forward, search, etc.

As noted earlier, the number of people in Guinea-Bissau living below the poverty line of US\$1.90 per day in 2019 was 1.2 million. In the Demographic scenario, this number will steadily rise to 1.3 million in 2043, which will be 100 000 fewer than in the Current Path forecast. Similarly, the proportion of the poor population will be reduced to 42% in the Demographic scenario, which is about 1.5 percentage points lower than the Current Path forecast but 16.8 percentage points higher than the average for low-income countries in Africa in 2043. The decline in both the number and portion of poor people in the Demographic scenario reflects the decline in the population as a result of modern contraceptive use which reduces fertility rates. The reduction of the size of the cohort of children under the age of 15 also allows households and the government to invest more in each child in terms of education and health, with positive implications for human capital formation and poverty reduction.



Health/WaSH scenario

Chart 20: Life expectancy in CP and Health/WaSH scenario, 2019–2043



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics Evaluation GBD Foresight Tool data

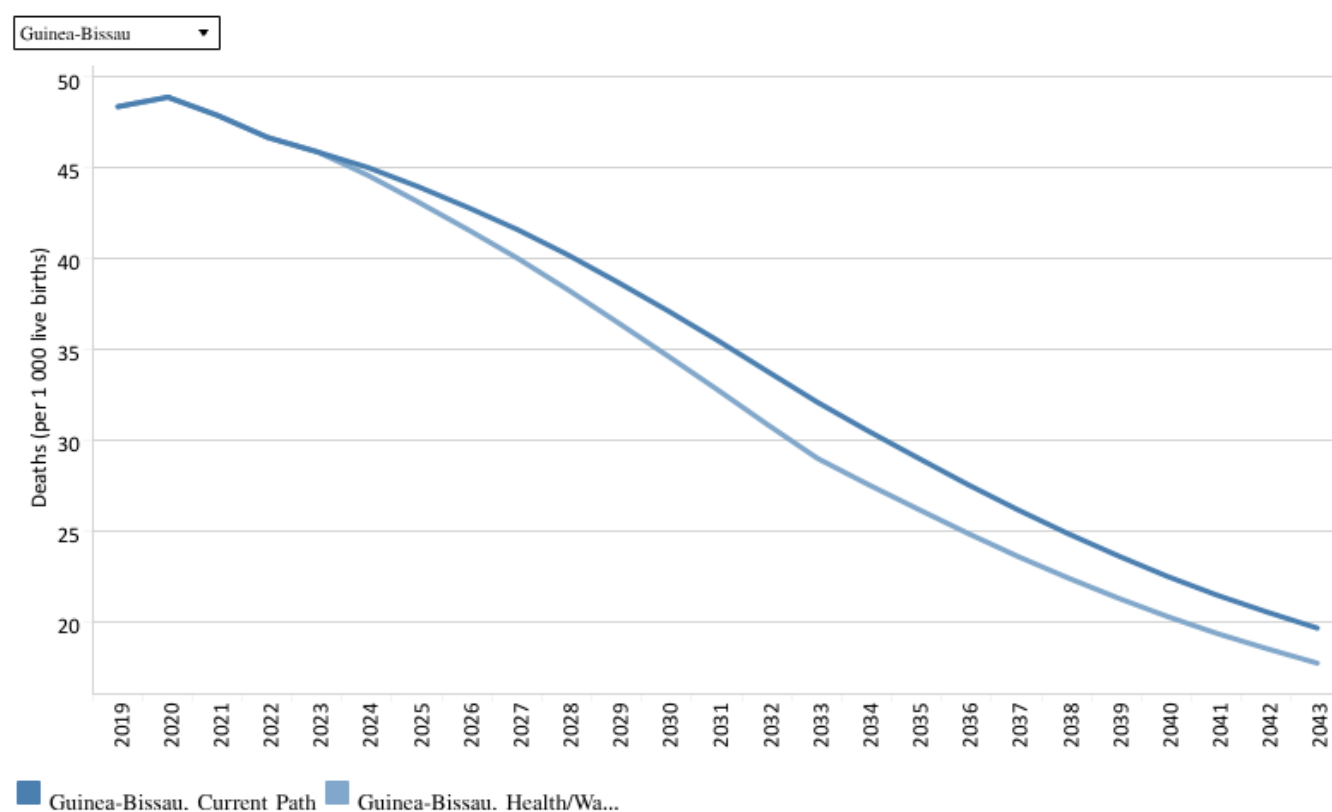
View on Tableau Public

This section presents reasonable but ambitious improvements in the Health/WaSH scenario, which include reductions in the mortality rate associated with both communicable diseases (e.g. AIDS, diarrhoea, malaria and respiratory infections) and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (e.g. diabetes), as well as improvements in access to safe water and better sanitation. The acronym WaSH stands for water, sanitation and hygiene.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

The life expectancy at birth for the average Bissau-Guinean was 59.7 years in 2019, which was below the average of 63.8 years for low-income countries in Africa. On average, females have a higher life expectancy at birth (62.1 years) than males (57.1 years). In the Health/WaSH scenario, life expectancy is estimated to increase to 67.7 by 2043, which is an increase of eight months more the Current Path forecast of 67 and just under four years below the average for low-income African countries. This increased life expectancy in the country can be attributed to the expected improvement in access to safe water (nearly 100% of population) and sanitation, as well as a reduction in mortality from communicable diseases. However, deaths from non-communicable diseases continue to be a problem. Females will continue to have a higher life expectancy than males with a difference of over four years by 2043.

Chart 21: Infant mortality in CP and Health/WaSH scenario, 2019–2043
Deaths per 1 000 live births



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Mortality Visualization Tool data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

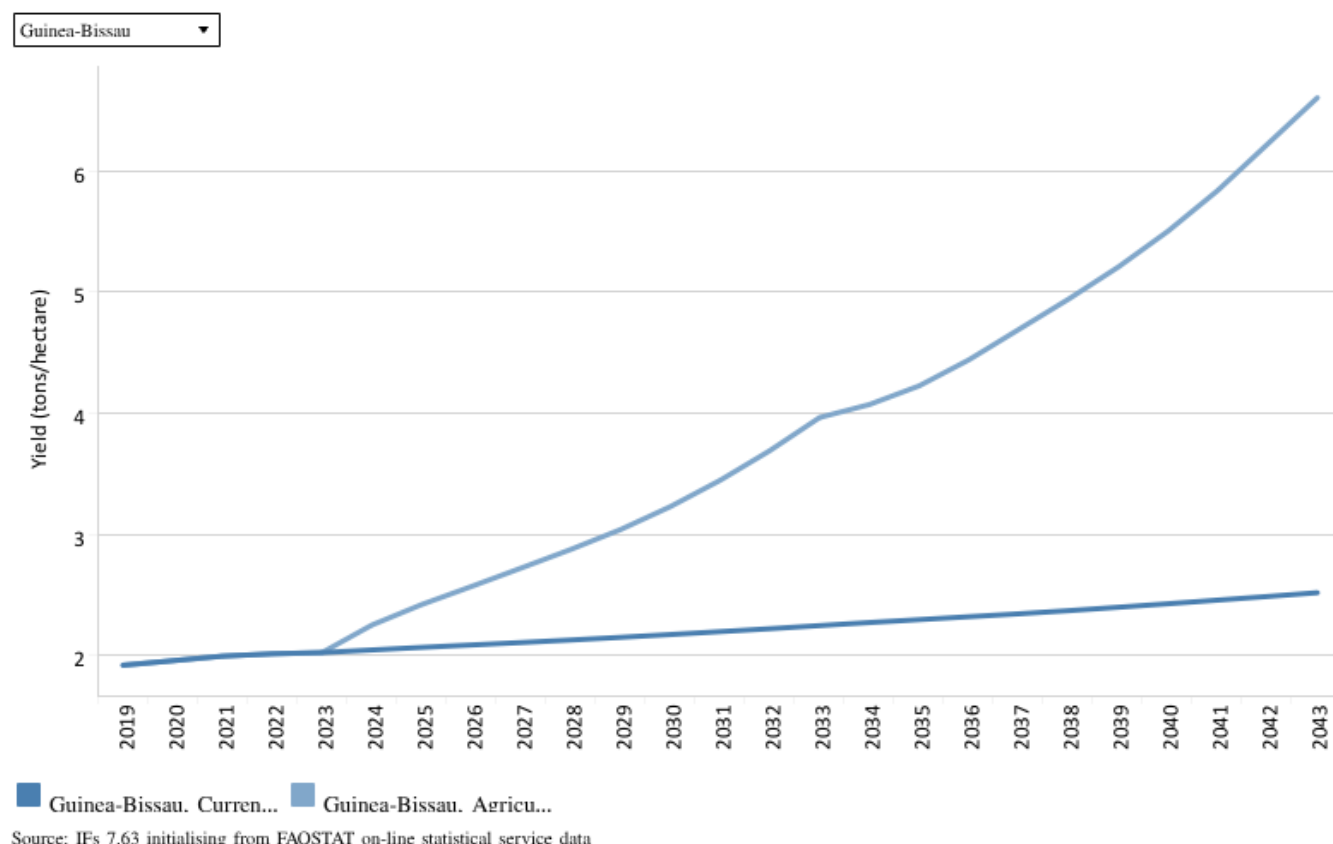
Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

The infant mortality rate per 1 000 live births in 2019 was 48.4 comparable to the average for low-income countries in Africa.. By 2043, infant mortality per 1 000 live births in the country will be 17.7 in the Health/WaSH scenario and 19.7 in the Current Path forecast. The fall in infant mortality is due to reduced prevalence of communicable and non-communicable diseases, especially neonatal sepsis, among children under five.



Agriculture scenario

Chart 22: Yield/hectare in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Pre-loss levels



View on Tableau Public

Share

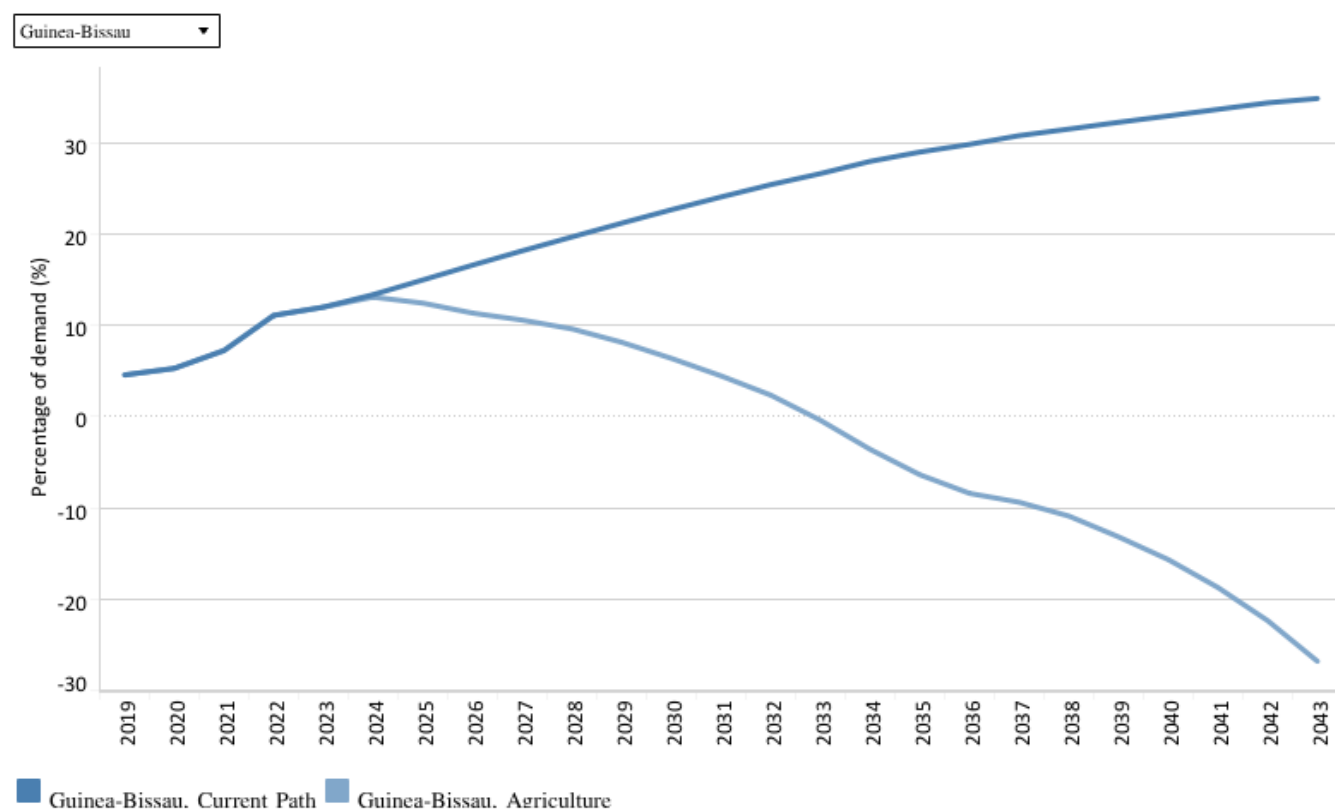
The Agriculture scenario represents reasonable but ambitious increases in yields per hectare (reflecting better management and seed and fertiliser technology), increased land under irrigation and reduced loss and waste. Where appropriate, it includes an increase in calorie consumption, reflecting the prioritisation of food self-sufficiency above food exports as a desirable policy objective.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

The data on yield per hectare (in metric tons) is for crops but does not distinguish between different categories of crops.

In 2019, the average yield per hectare for crops was 1.9 metric tons per hectare, which was below the average of 2.7 metric tons per hectare for low-income countries in Africa. In the Current Path forecast, this is projected to increase to 2.5 metric tons per hectare by 2043. In the Agriculture scenario, however, the average yield will be 6.6 metric tons per hectare. This means that if the country is able to adopt modern methods of farming including the use of fertiliser and improved seeds, there will be a resulting increase of an extra 4.1 metric tons per hectare in 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast. Although Guinea-Bissau's yield per hectare is consistently lower than the average for low-income African countries, from 2041, the trend will be reversed such that by 2043, Guinea-Bissau's yield per hectare will be 0.7 metric tons per hectare more than the average for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 23: Agriculture imports in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Net imports for meat, crops and fish, % of demand



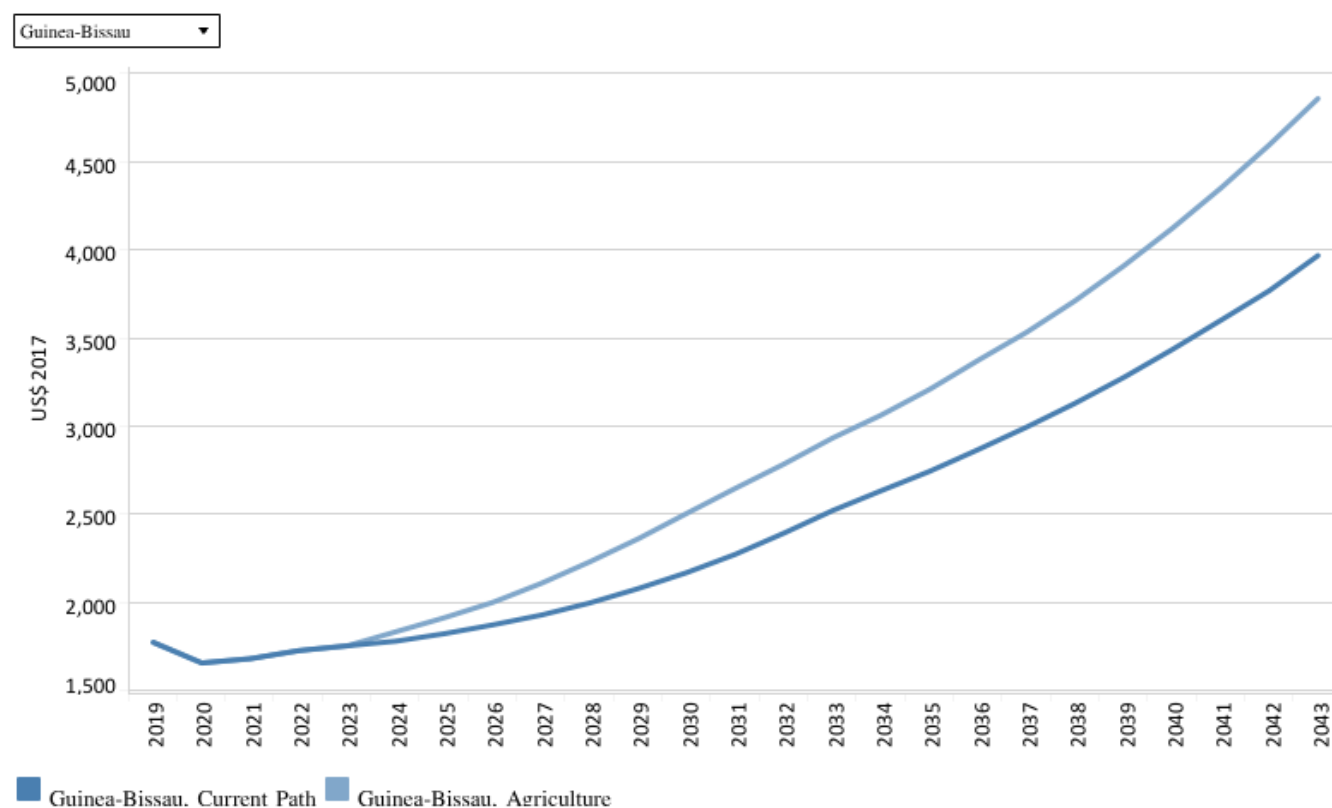
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Food and Agriculture Organization Food Balance Sheets data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

In 2019, the net agricultural import of Guinea-Bissau was 4.6% of agricultural demand, which was below the average for low-income countries in Africa. Import dependence is a common problem in most African economies. Agriculture employs about 75%–80% of the **rural workforce**, and although about 45% of the total land in the country is fertile for agricultural purposes, the country is still unable to produce enough to meet domestic consumption. Generally, food security is a problem in the country, with about 11% of households in Guinea-Bissau identified as food insecure. Common challenges with the agriculture sector in Guinea-Bissau include land tenure problems, inaccessibility to and limited market opportunities, as well as climate change. The Current Path forecast is that import dependence will grow to 34.9% of total demand. The situation is reversed in 2033 in the Agriculture scenario, such that by 2043, the country will be a net exporter of agricultural products with a balance of 26.8% of total agricultural demand. This balance will be higher than the average for low-income countries by about 26 percentage points, suggesting that there is tremendous potential that is yet to be tapped in terms of agriculture production in Guinea-Bissau. Therefore, if agricultural policies that increase yield per hectare and reduce loss and waste are implemented, the country will be able to move from being food import dependent to being a net exporter of agricultural products from 2033.

Chart 24: GDP per capita in the CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



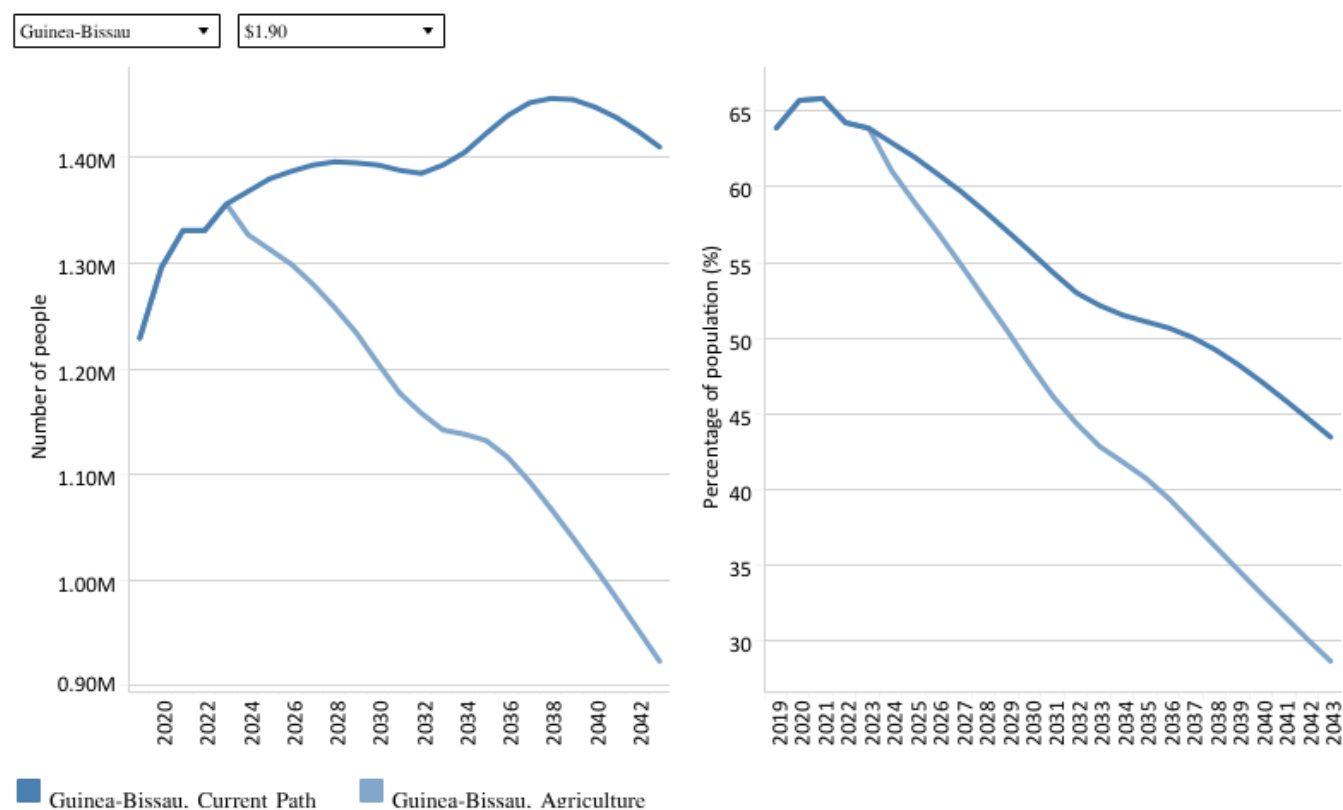
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

The Agriculture scenario is expected to lead to an increase in the GDP per capita over the years. As a result of the Agriculture scenario, by 2043 the GDP per capita will increase from US\$1 776 in 2019 to US\$4 856, constituting about a 173% increase over the period. These estimates are greater than the projections in the Current Path forecast as, by 2043, the additional gains from GDP per capita as a result of the Agriculture scenario will be US\$889. In this scenario, Guinea-Bissau's GDP per capita will still remain above average for low-income countries in Africa. Indeed, the gap in GDP per capita between Guinea-Bissau and its income peer group is projected to positively widen in the Agriculture scenario.

Chart 25: Poverty in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

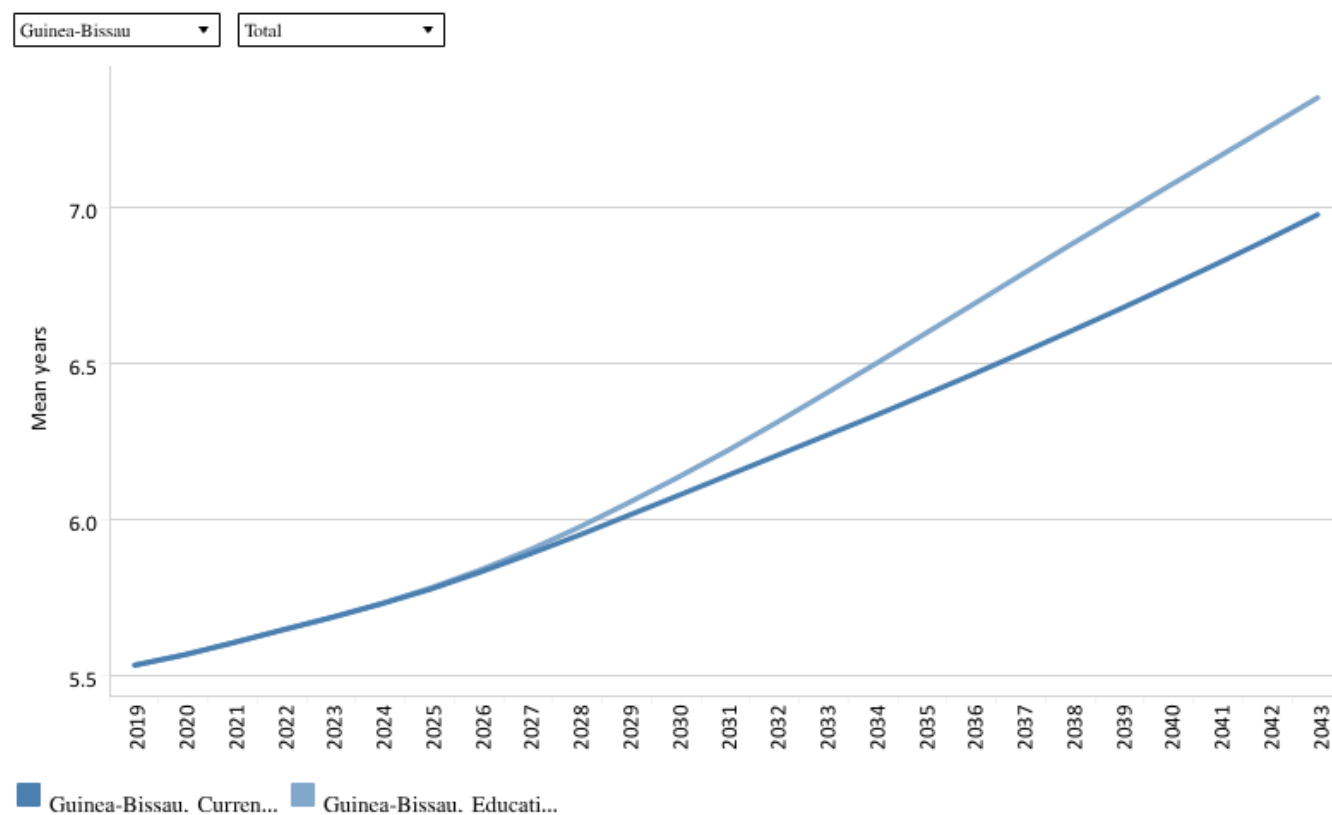
Implementing good agricultural policies that result in increased yield per hectare and reduction in waste appear to have a significant impact on poverty reduction in the country. In the Current Path forecast, 1.4 million people (43.5% of the population) are projected to be extremely poor by 2043. However, in the Agriculture scenario, the number of people below the poverty line of US\$1.90 will be reduced to 900 000, constituting 28.7% of the population. This means that 500 000 additional Bissau-Guineans can be lifted out of extreme poverty by focusing primarily on agricultural growth. This is expected given that agriculture is the backbone of the Bissau-Guinean economy and the majority of the poor population in Guinea-Bissau are employed in the agriculture sector. Throughout the period under consideration, in the Agriculture scenario, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty in Guinea-Bissau will be higher than the average of low-income countries in Africa, although the gap closes. By 2043, the poverty rate in Guinea-Bissau in the Agriculture scenario will be 3.5 percentage points higher than the average for low-income countries in Africa.



Education scenario

Chart 26: Mean years of education in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043

Mean years of adult (+15) education



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Barro-Lee data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

↶ ↷ ↺ ↻ | 📄 📱 🔗 Share

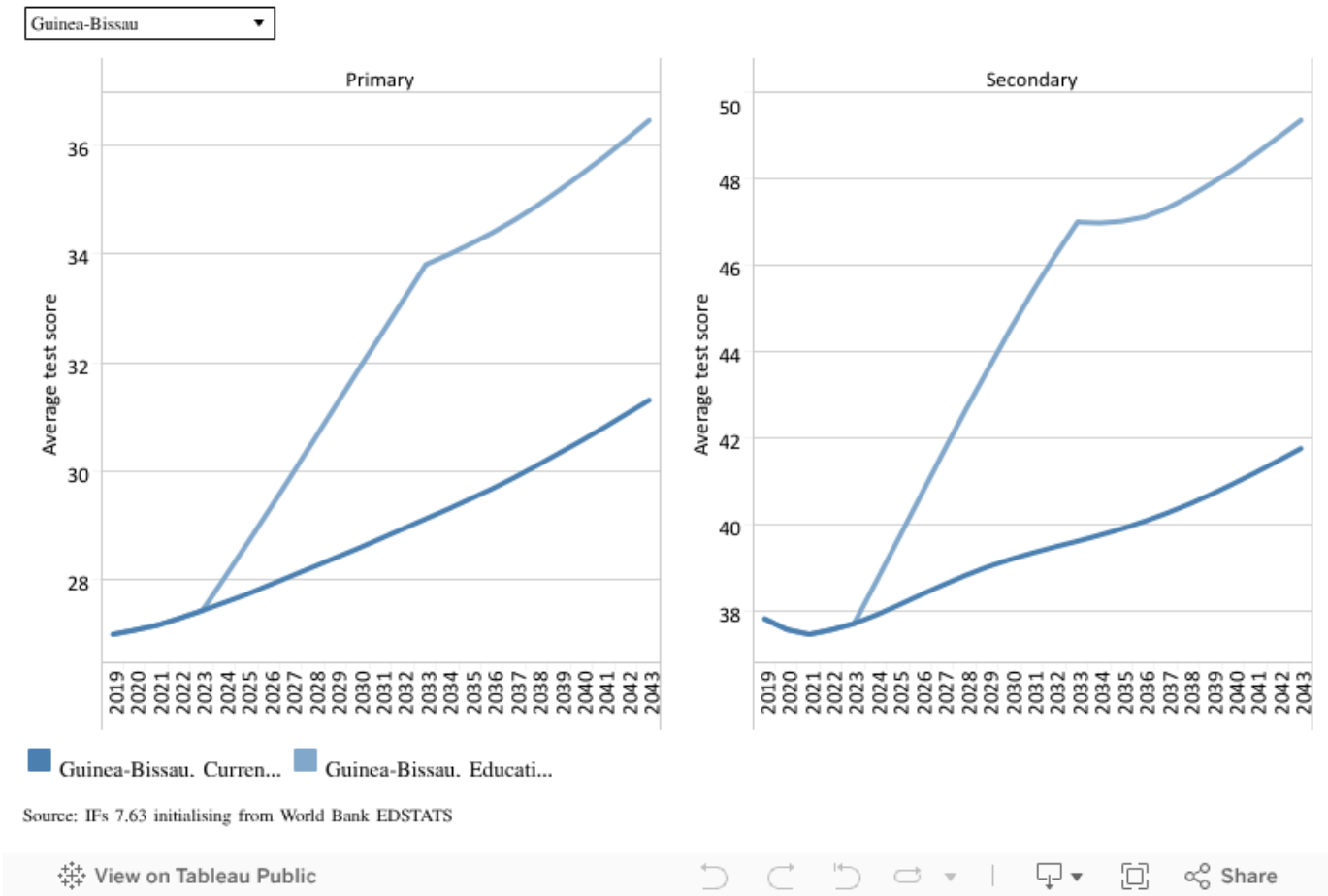
The Education scenario represents reasonable but ambitious improved intake, transition and graduation rates from primary to tertiary levels and better quality of education. It also models substantive progress towards gender parity at all levels, additional vocational training at secondary school level and increases in the share of science and engineering graduates.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Shortages of teachers — especially in rural areas — poorly trained teachers, overcrowded schools, inadequate educational facilities and infrastructure, and a lack of adequate teaching and learning materials are common challenges facing the education system in Guinea-Bissau. In 2019, Guinea-Bissau's mean years of education was 5.5 years, which was above the average of 4.4 for low-income countries on the continent. This was probably due to the implementation of compulsory free primary education for all children between 7 and 14 years. In terms of gender, the mean years of education for males is 6.9, which is 2.6 years more than the female average of 4.3. This means that on average, men are more likely to attain higher education than women. The higher rate of repetition among girls has been a key factor in accounting for the high rate of school drop-outs among girls. This gap in favour of men for mean years of education in Guinea-Bissau is higher than the average of 1.3 years for low-income countries in Africa. By 2043, in the Education scenario, it is expected that the mean years of education will rise to 7.3 years, which will be 0.3 years more than the Current Path estimates and 0.7 years more than the average for low-income countries in Africa. Also, based on the Education scenario forecast, the gender gap

regarding mean years of education will reduce by 1 year by 2043, while the gender gap closes by 0.5 years for the average low-income country in Africa within the same period.

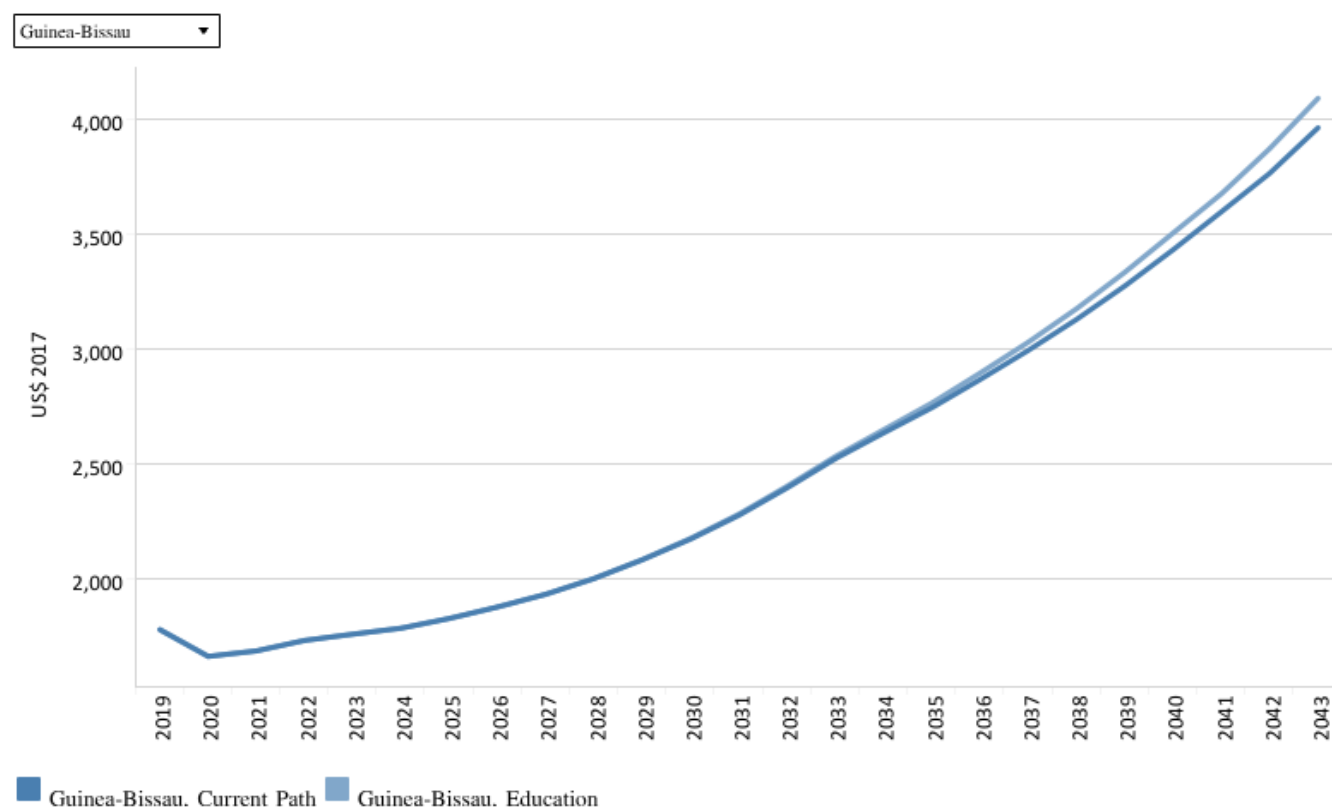
Chart 27: Education quality in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043
Average test scores for primary and secondary learners



The average test score for primary learners in Guinea-Bissau for 2019 was 27%, which was lower than the average of 27.7% for low-income countries in Africa, signifying a relatively poorer performance in this regard. The Education scenario will increase the average test score for primary learners to 36.5% by 2043, compared to the Current Path forecast estimate of 31.3%. Also, the Education scenario for 2043 will result in scores which are 0.9 percentage points higher than the continental average for low-income countries.

In 2019, the average secondary learner test score for Guinea-Bissau was 37.8%, which was above the average of 35.8% for low-income African countries. This suggests that Guinea-Bissau performs relatively better at secondary level than at primary level. By 2043, the average test scores for secondary learners is projected to rise to 49.4%, which is higher than the Current Path forecast of 41.8% and the average of 37.8% for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 28: GDP per capita in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

By 2043, the GDP per capita as a result of the Education scenario is estimated to be US\$128 more than the projected amount of US\$3 967 in the Current Path forecast. However, this will still be US\$172 less than the average of US\$3 923 for low-income countries in Africa. Investment in education takes time to yield results as it would take more than a decade for a child enrolled in primary school today to make a meaningful contribution to the economy. Therefore, although education may be the surest intervention for poverty eradication, it is not the quickest way to reduce poverty levels. Investment in primary and secondary education, though a prerequisite for human capital development, in many instances, is in effect an investment in literacy, which falls short of human capital development. Human capital development, which is a fundamental determinant of output growth, is usually embodied in years of tertiary education.

Chart 29: Poverty in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

By 2043, in the Education scenario, there will be 1.35 million poor people (41.7% of the population). This means that the Education scenario will contribute to reducing the number of poor people in Guinea-Bissau by 60 000 in 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast. This is not too surprising given the powerful effect of education on poverty levels in Guinea-Bissau: household heads with higher educational attainment are more likely to have lower levels of poverty compared to household heads with lower educational attainment. The proportion of poor people in Guinea-Bissau based on the Education scenario will however still be 16.5 percentage points higher than the average for low-income countries in Africa.

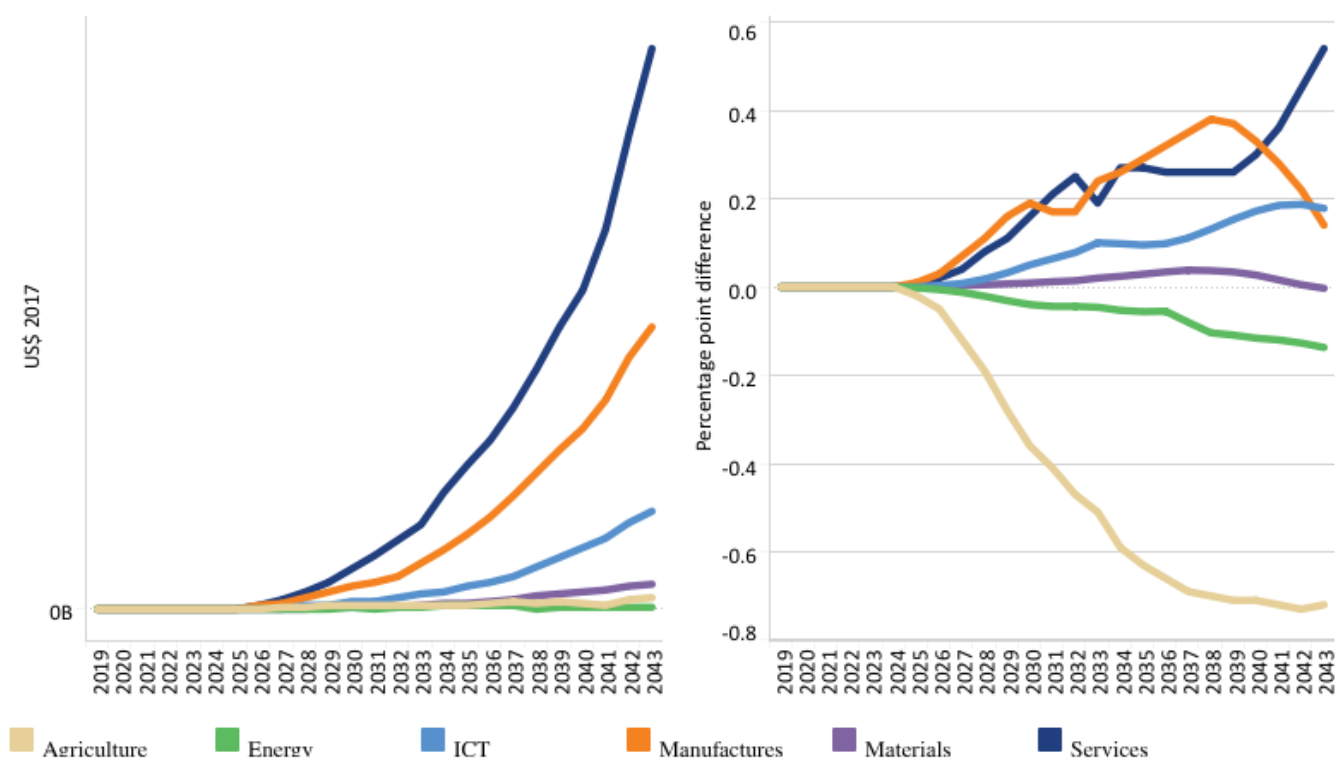


Manufacturing scenario

Chart 30: Value added by sector in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Absolute and % point difference GDP



Guinea-Bissau



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

View on Tableau Public

Share

The Manufacturing/Transfers scenario represents reasonable but ambitious manufacturing growth through greater investment in the economy, investments in research and development, and promotion of the export of manufactured goods. It is accompanied by an increase in welfare transfers (social grants) to moderate the initial increases in inequality that are typically associated with a manufacturing transition. To this end, the scenario improves tax administration and increases government revenues.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Chart 30 should be read with Chart 8 that presents a stacked area graph on the contribution to GDP and size, in billion US\$, of the Current Path economy for each of the sectors.

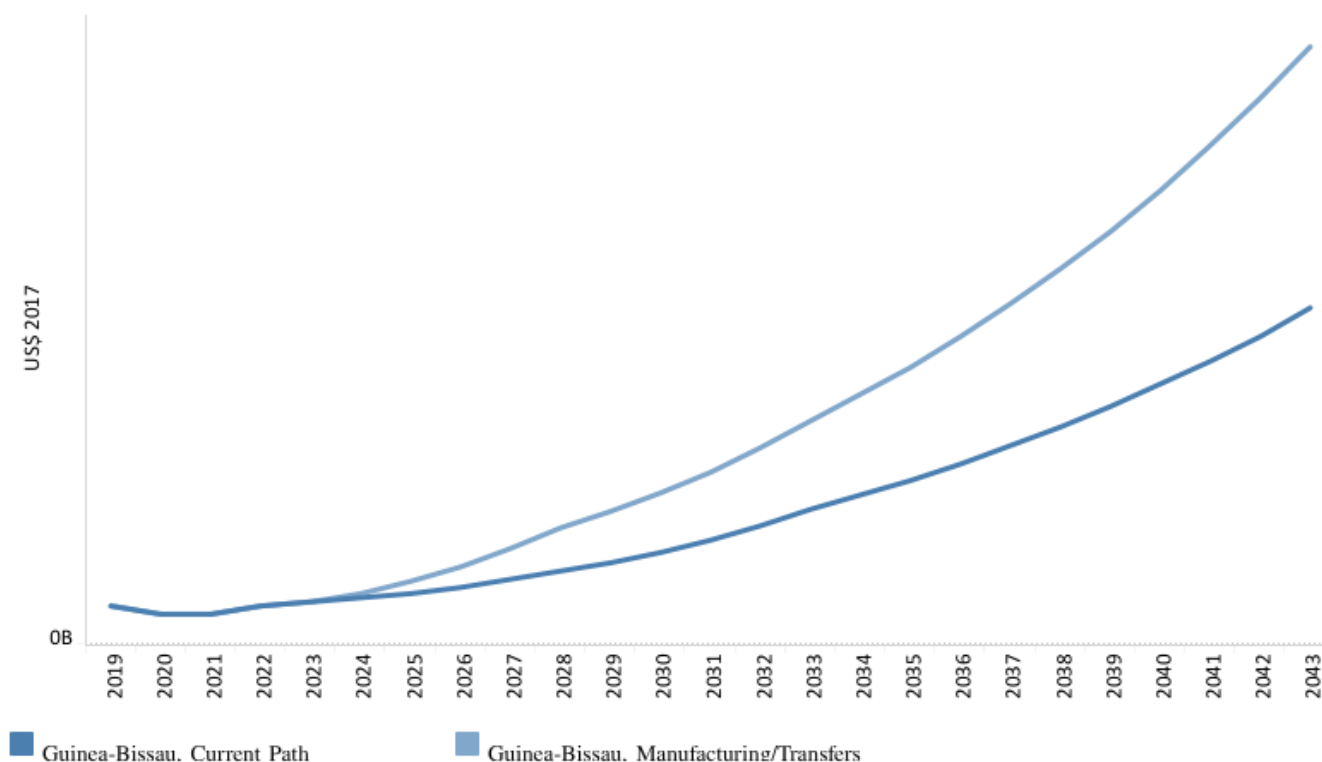
In the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario, the service sector will be the largest contributor to GDP with an absolute contribution of US\$0.32 billion more by 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast. This corresponds to a rate of contribution of 0.54% percentage points. The manufacturing sector, which is the second largest contributor, is projected to contribute an additional US\$0.16 billion to GDP by 2043, although its rate of contribution declines from 0.37% in 2035 to 0.14% difference to GDP based on the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario. The third largest contributor to GDP in Guinea-Bissau will be ICT with a contribution of US\$0.06 billion, corresponding to a 0.18 percentage point difference. It is significant to note that the rate of the contribution of agriculture to GDP based on the difference between the

Manufacturing/Transfers scenario and the Current Path forecast declines significantly over the period from -0.05 percentage points in 2026 to -0.72 percentage points in 2043.

Chart 31: Gov welfare transfers in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Billions US\$ 2017



Guinea-Bissau ▼



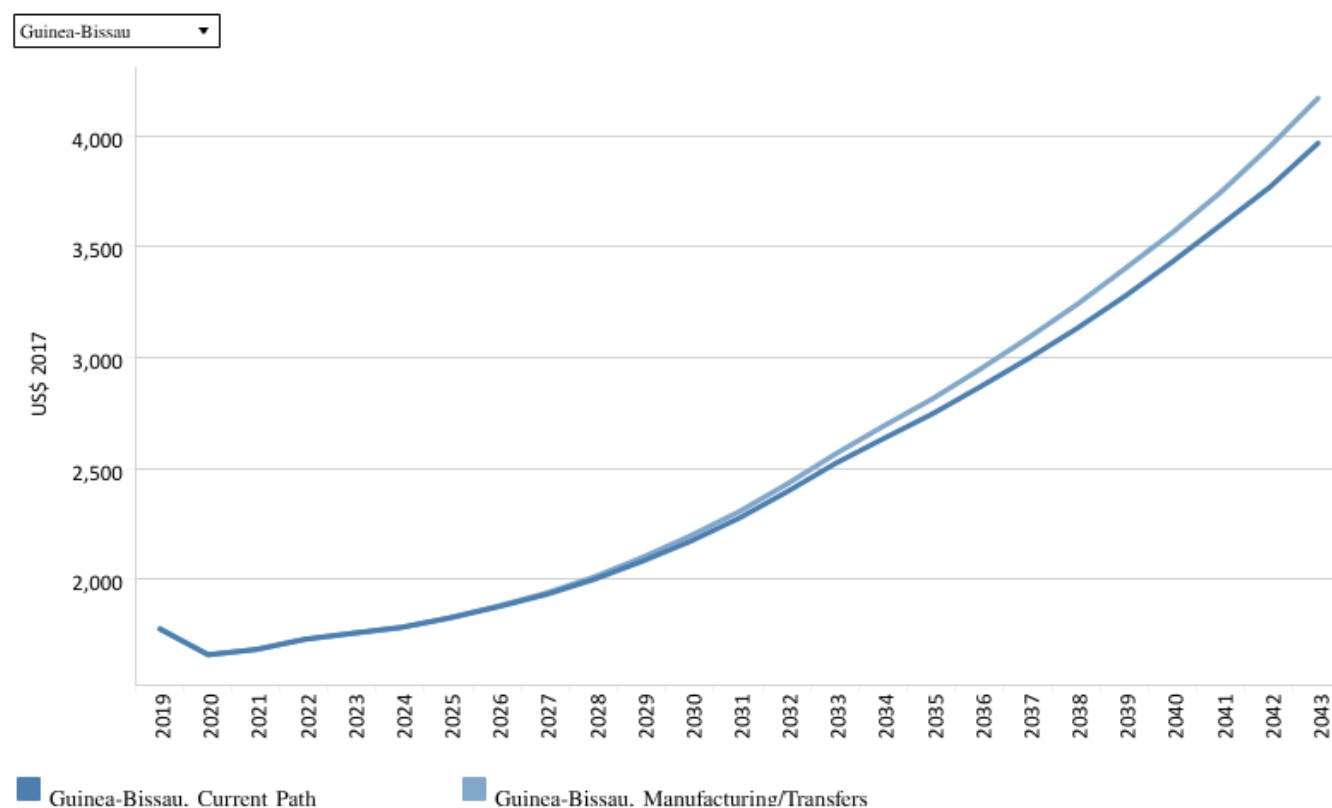
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

↶ ↷ ↺ ↻ | 📄 📱 🔗 Share

The Guinea-Bissau government's welfare transfers to households are significantly low. In 2019, total welfare transfers to households were US\$0.02 billion (about 1.9% of GDP), which is below the average of 2.2% of GDP for low-income countries in Africa. This is projected to increase to US\$0.32 billion by 2043 in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario, constituting almost 5.3% of GDP, which is far more than the US\$0.18 billion estimated for 2043 in the Current Path forecast. This suggests that the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario can lead to an improvement in government welfare transfers by an additional US\$0.14 billion compared to the Current Path in 2043. However, the gap between Guinea-Bissau and its income group peers in terms of government welfare transfers as a per cent of GDP is expected to widen from 0.3 percentage points in 2019 to 1.7 percentage points in 2043 in this scenario.

Chart 32: GDP per capita in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



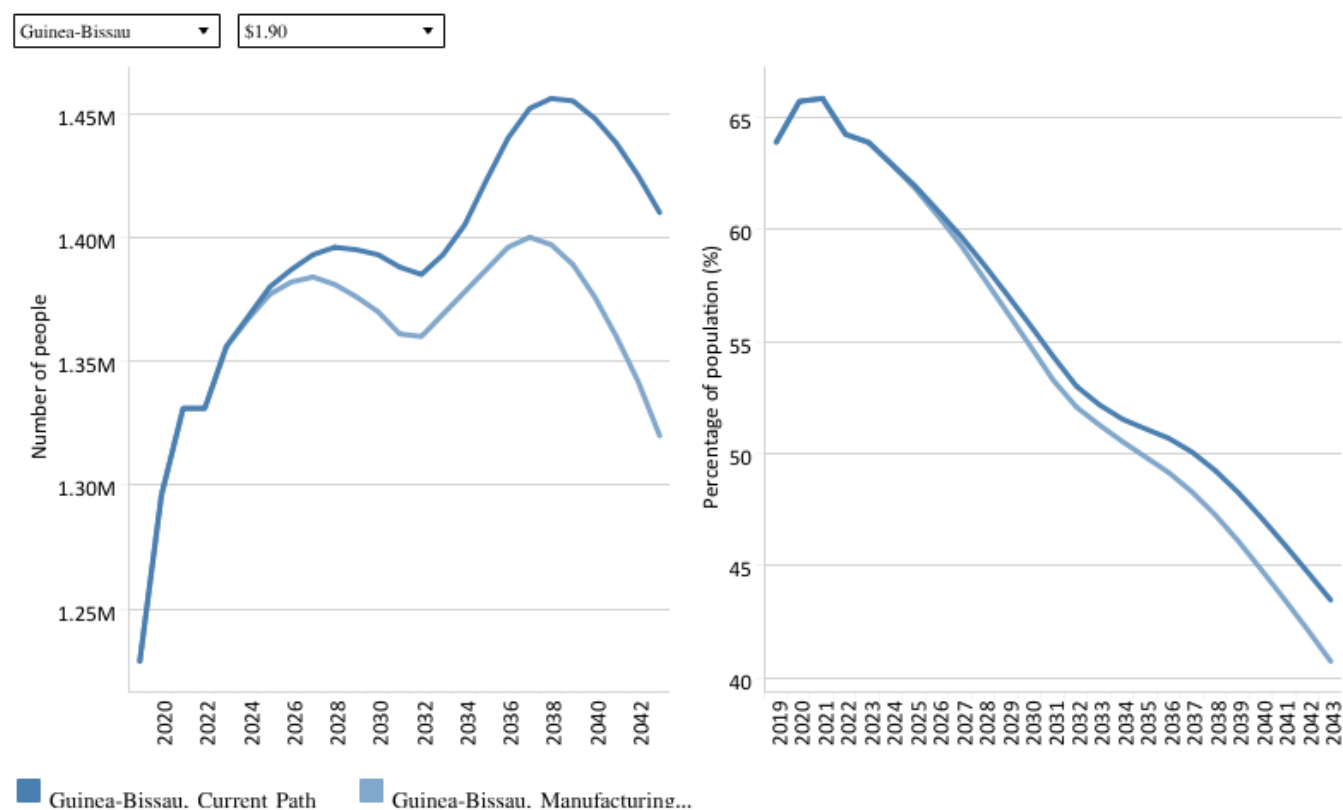
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

By 2043, it is estimated that the GDP per capita in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario will rise to US\$4 169, which is US\$379 more than projections in the Current Path forecast. The GDP per capita for Guinea-Bissau by 2043 in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario will also be above the average of US\$4 005 for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 33: Poverty in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

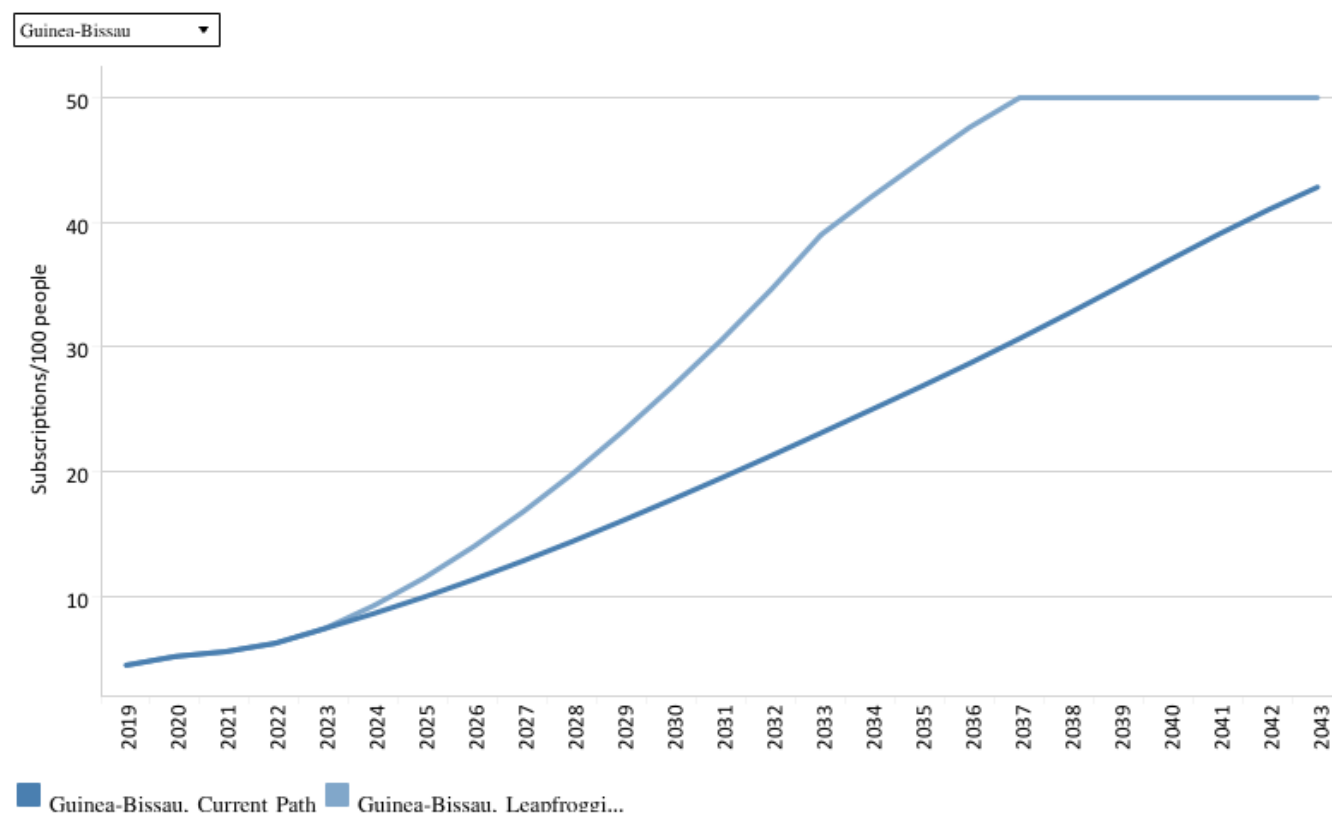
During the period under consideration, the absolute number of poor people is projected to increase although the percentage of poor people is expected to decline. Compared to the Current Path forecast, the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario leads to a much quicker decline in poverty. The total number of poor people is projected to increase to 1.3 million (40.7% of the population) in 2043 in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario. An estimated 90 000 people (about 2.7% of the population) can be lifted above the poverty line of US\$1.90 as a result of the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario. This means that if the country embraces policies such as investment in the economy, research and development and export promotion, the absolute number of poor people will likely be 90 000 fewer than on the Current Path in 2043. Nonetheless, the proportion of poor people in Guinea-Bissau based on the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario in 2043 will be about 15.5 percentage points above the average for low-income countries in Africa.



Leapfrogging scenario

Chart 34: Fixed broadband access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043

Subscriptions per 100 people



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Telecommunication Union data

View on Tableau Public

Share

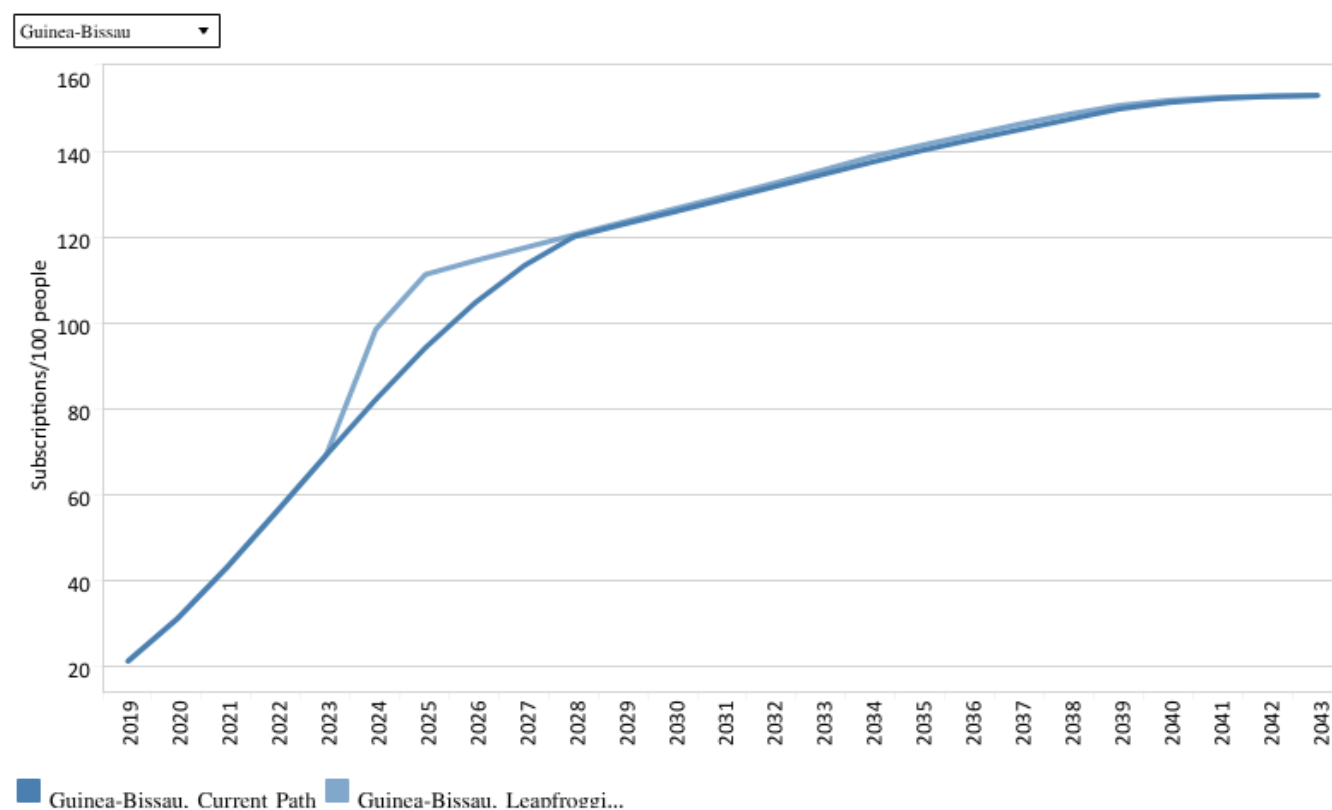
The Leapfrogging scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious adoption of and investment in renewable energy technologies, resulting in better access to electricity in urban and rural areas. The scenario includes accelerated access to mobile and fixed broadband and the adoption of modern technology that improves government efficiency and allows for the more rapid formalisation of the informal sector.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Fixed broadband includes cable modem Internet connections, DSL Internet connections of at least 256 KB/s, fibre and other fixed broadband technology connections (such as satellite broadband Internet, ethernet local area networks, fixed-wireless access, wireless local area networks, WiMAX, etc.).

In 2019, the total number of fixed broadband subscriptions in Guinea-Bissau was 4.5 per 100 people — greater than the average of 2.3 for low-income countries in Africa. In the Current Path forecast, fixed broadband subscriptions are expected to rise to 42.8 per 100 people by 2043. The Leapfrogging scenario will lead to a much greater increase in fixed broadband subscriptions compared to the Current Path forecast, with a difference of almost 7.2 subscriptions per 100 people by 2043. In the forecast horizon, fixed broadband subscriptions in Guinea-Bissau are expected to be higher than the average for low-income African countries.

Chart 35: Mobile broadband access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Subscriptions per 100 people



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Telecommunication Union data

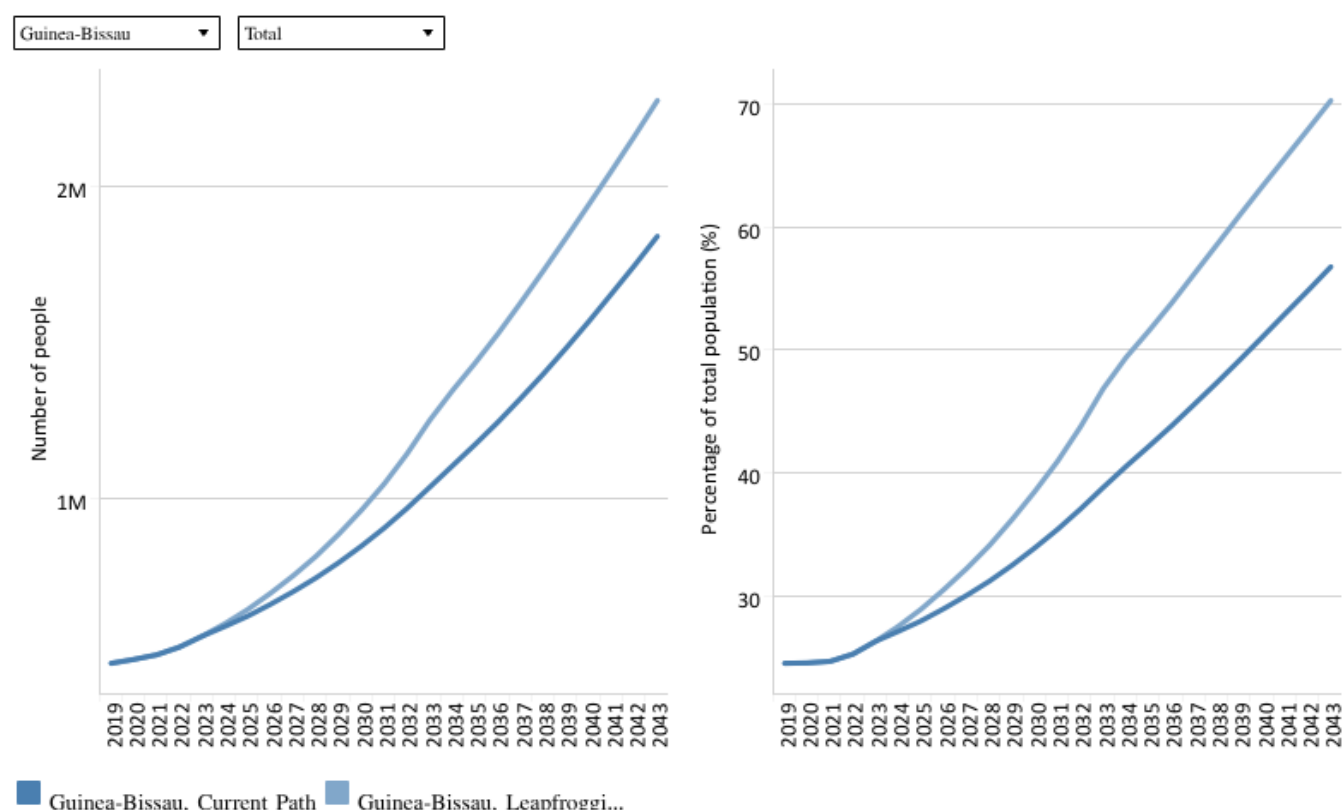
[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

Mobile broadband refers to wireless Internet access delivered through cellular towers to computers and other digital devices.

Guinea-Bissau had 21.4 mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 people in 2019, which was slightly below the average of 22.9 for low-income countries on the continent. Although between 2024 and 2027 mobile broadband subscriptions in the Leapfrogging scenario rise above the Current Path, from 2028, the Leapfrogging scenario and the Current Path forecast converge. By 2043, mobile broadband subscriptions in the Current Path forecast and in the Leapfrogging scenario increase to 152.9 per 100 people, above the average of 137.4 per 100 people for Africa's low-income countries.

Chart 36: Electricity access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of population



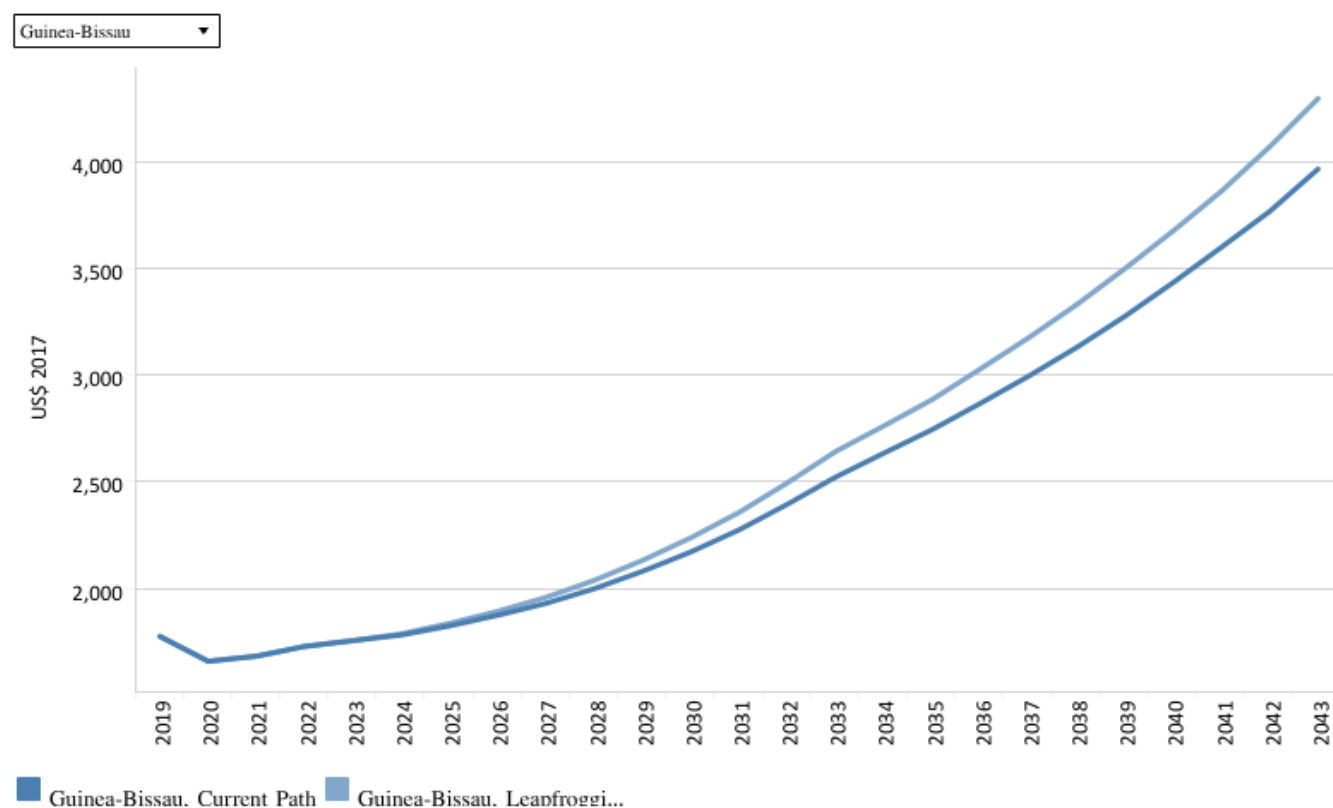
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Share

Guinea-Bissau has a low level of access to electricity. The number of Bissau-Guineans who had access to electricity in 2019 was 500 000 people, representing 24.5% of the total population. This is below the average of 32.2% for low-income countries in Africa. The country has a rural-urban disparity in terms of access to electricity. About 44.4% of people in urban centres had access to electricity compared to the paltry 9.2% of those in the rural areas in 2019. In the Leapfrogging scenario, it is projected that by 2043 about 70.3% of Bissau-Guineans (constituting 2.3 million people) will have access to electricity. This is below the projected average for low-income countries in Africa. It is, however, higher than the 56.8% of the population (reflecting 1.8 million people) projected in the Current Path forecast, signifying that the Leapfrogging scenario can provide access to electricity to an additional 500 000 people. In 2043, 83.5% and 76% of urban dwellers in Guinea-Bissau will have access to electricity in the Leapfrogging scenario and in Current Path forecast, respectively. However, in the case of rural dwellers, 55.8% and 35.6% will have access to electricity by 2043 based on the Leapfrogging scenario and the Current Path forecast, respectively.

Chart 37: GDP per capita in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

Guinea-Bissau's GDP per capita is projected to increase from US\$1 776 in 2019 to US\$4 297 in 2043 in the Leapfrogging scenario. This represents an increase of US\$330 over the Current Path forecast for 2043. It is also higher than the projected average of US\$4 130 for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 38: Poverty in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

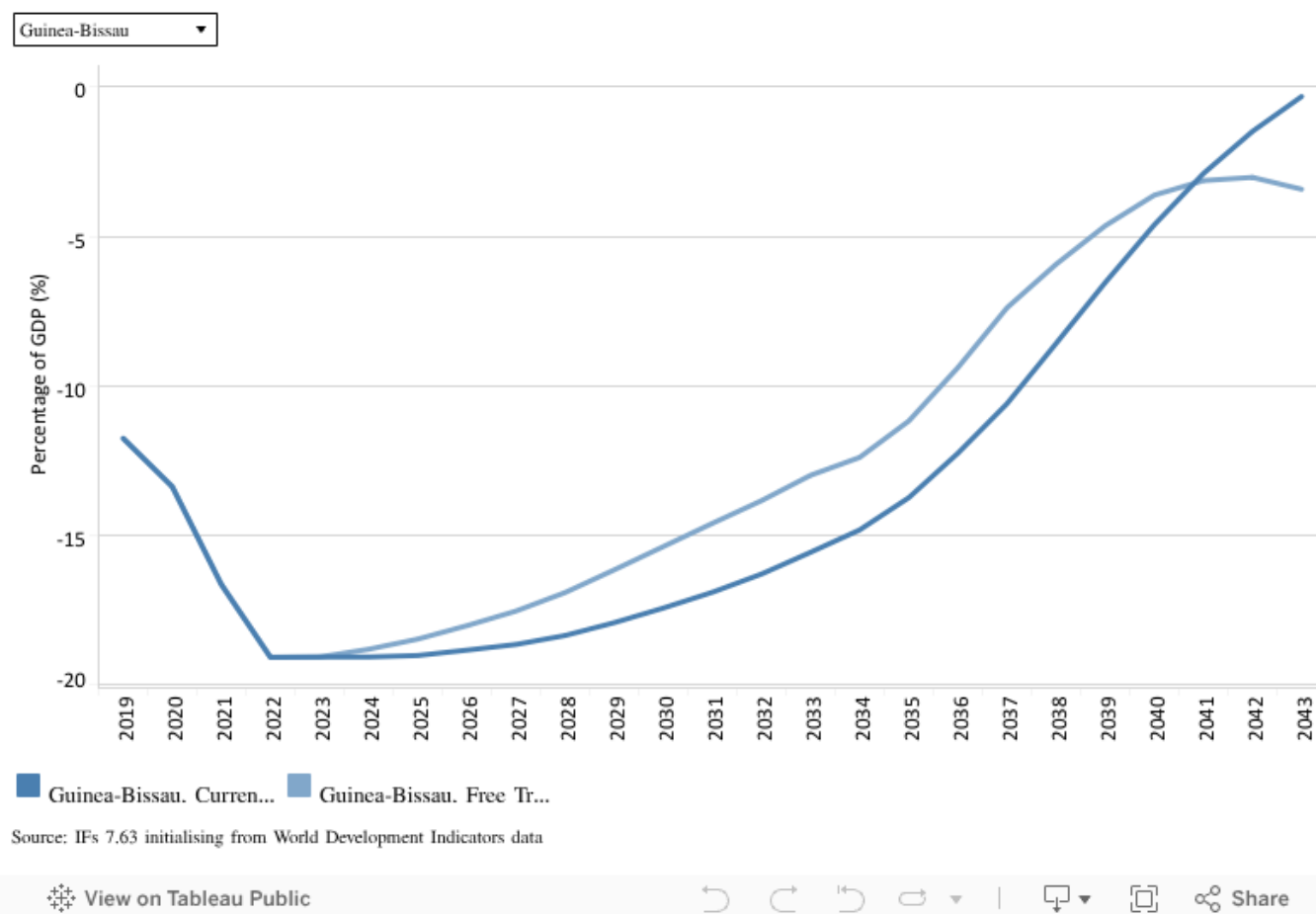
Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

In the Leapfrogging scenario, the number of poor people in 2043 is projected to be 1.3 million, representing 40.5% of the population. This projection is lower than the 1.4 million people estimated in the Current Path forecast for the same year, which suggests that the number of poor people in the Leapfrogging scenario is about 100 000 fewer than the Current Path forecast in 2043. The number of poor people projected in the Leapfrogging scenario is however still 15.3 percentage points higher than the average for low-income African countries.



Free Trade scenario

Chart 39: Trade balance in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043
% of GDP



The Free Trade scenario represents the impact of the full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by 2034 through increases in exports, improved productivity and increased trade and economic freedom.

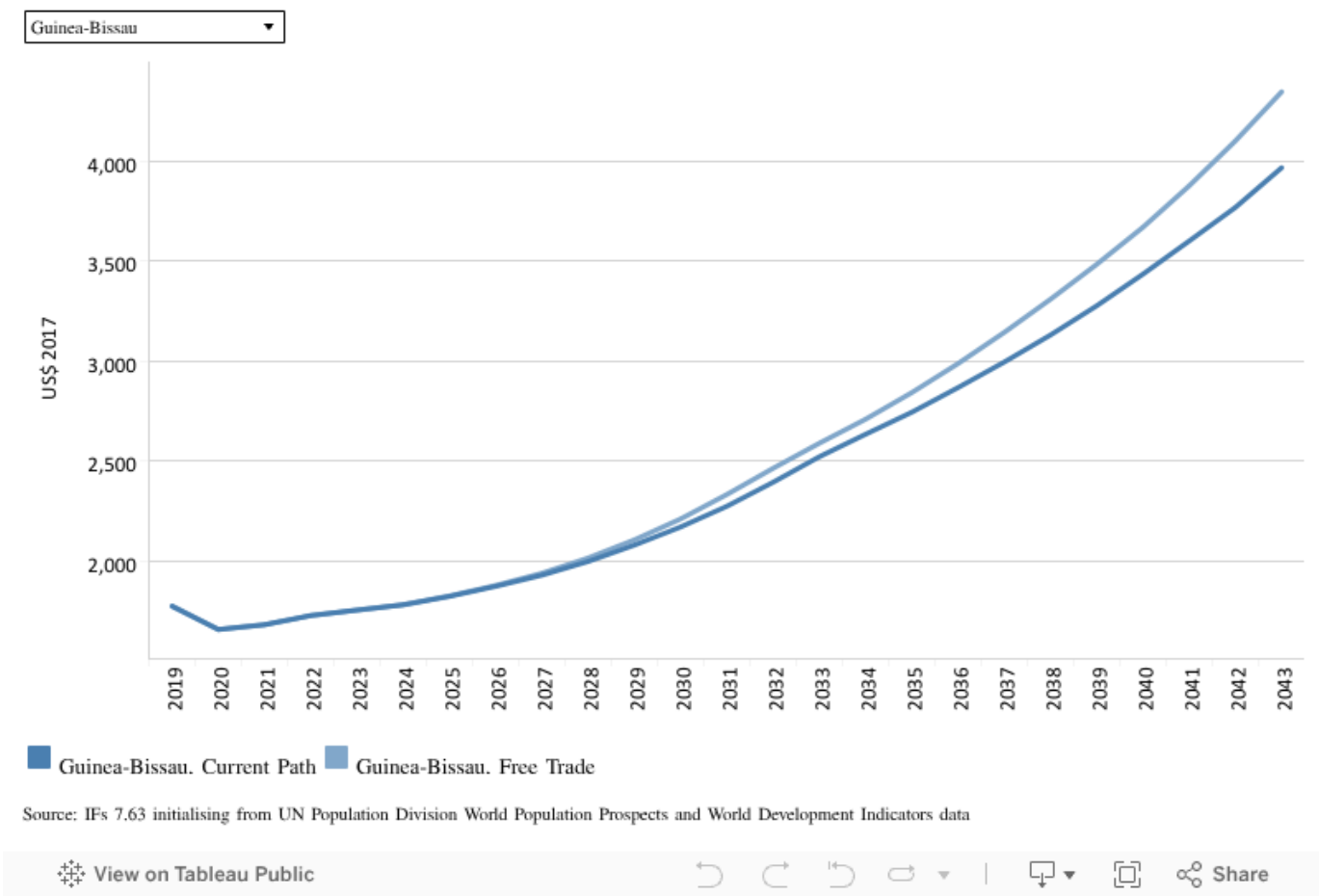
The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

The trade balance is the difference between the value of a country's exports and its imports. A country that imports more goods and services than it exports in terms of value has a trade deficit, while a country that exports more goods and services than it imports has a trade surplus.

Guinea-Bissau, like many African economies, is a net importer of goods and services. The major export of Guinea-Bissau is cashews, which accounts for about 85%–90% of total exports. The main imported items are fuel and food items such as rice and wheat flours. In 2019, Guinea-Bissau's trade deficit represented 11.8% of GDP, which was below the average deficit of 12.9% for low-income African countries. This deficit worsened due to political instability, unreliable rainfall and fluctuations in the price of its principal export. Guinea-Bissau will continue to see deterioration until 2023 with a balance of 19.1%. Afterwards, the country will witness an improvement in its trade balance in both the Current Path forecast and in the Free Trade scenario. The improvement is much quicker in the latter until 2041 when the situation reverses. By 2043, Guinea-Bissau's trade deficit as a percentage of GDP is projected to be 3.4% in the Free Trade scenario. This is 3.1 percentage points higher than the estimate in the Current Path forecast in the same year, suggesting that in the long term,

the Current Path will lead to greater improvement in trade balance than the Free Trade scenario. Between 2020 and 2036, Guinea-Bissau's trade deficit as a percentage of GDP is higher than the average for low-income African countries. Within the rest of the period, the reverse is the case.

Chart 40: GDP per capita in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



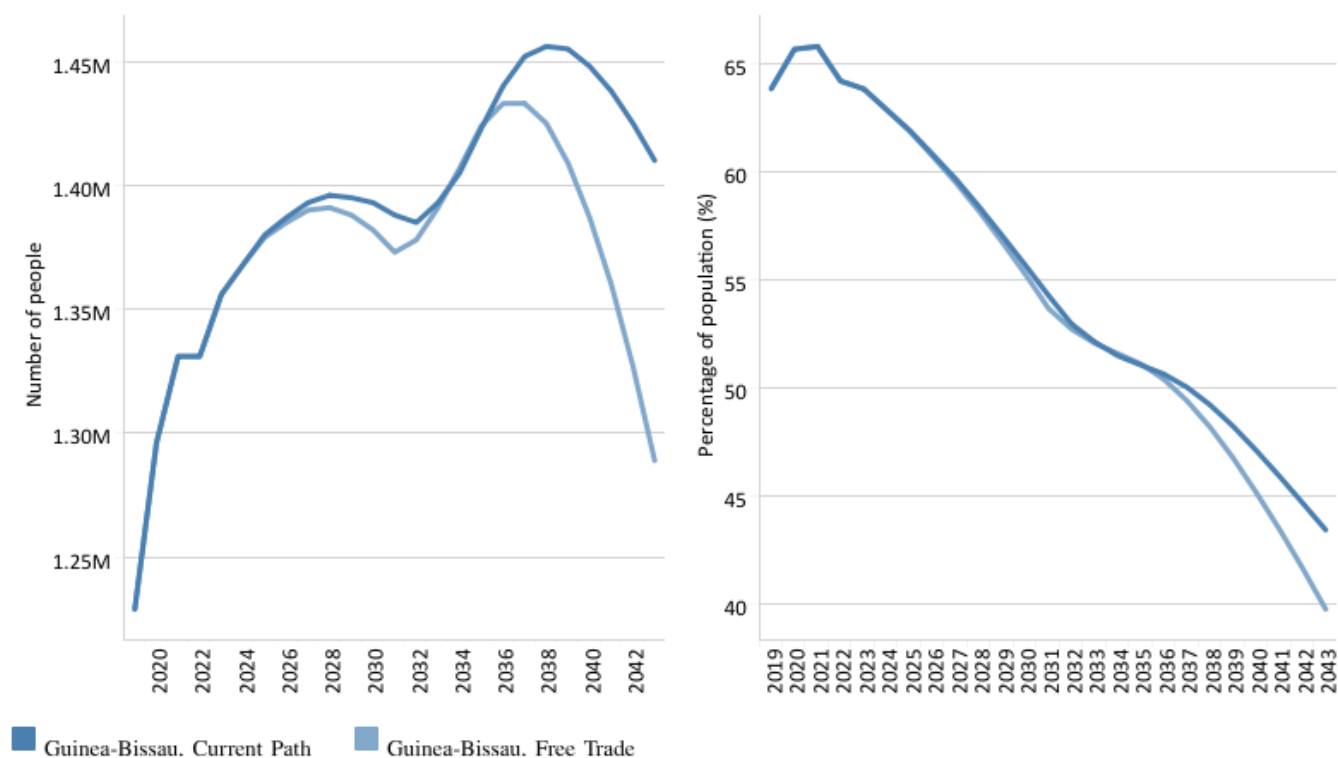
The GDP per capita for Guinea-Bissau is estimated to increase to US\$4 346 by 2043 in the Free Trade scenario, which is US\$379 more than the projections of the Current Path in 2043. This means that if Guinea-Bissau takes advantage of the AfCFTA to increase trade and productivity, it can achieve an extra US\$379 increase in GDP per capita compared to the Current Path forecast in 2043. Notwithstanding, the average GDP per capita of US\$4 260 for low-income African countries is US\$91 higher than the projected value for Guinea-Bissau in the Free Trade scenario.

Chart 41: Poverty in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of total population



Guinea-Bissau \$1.90



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

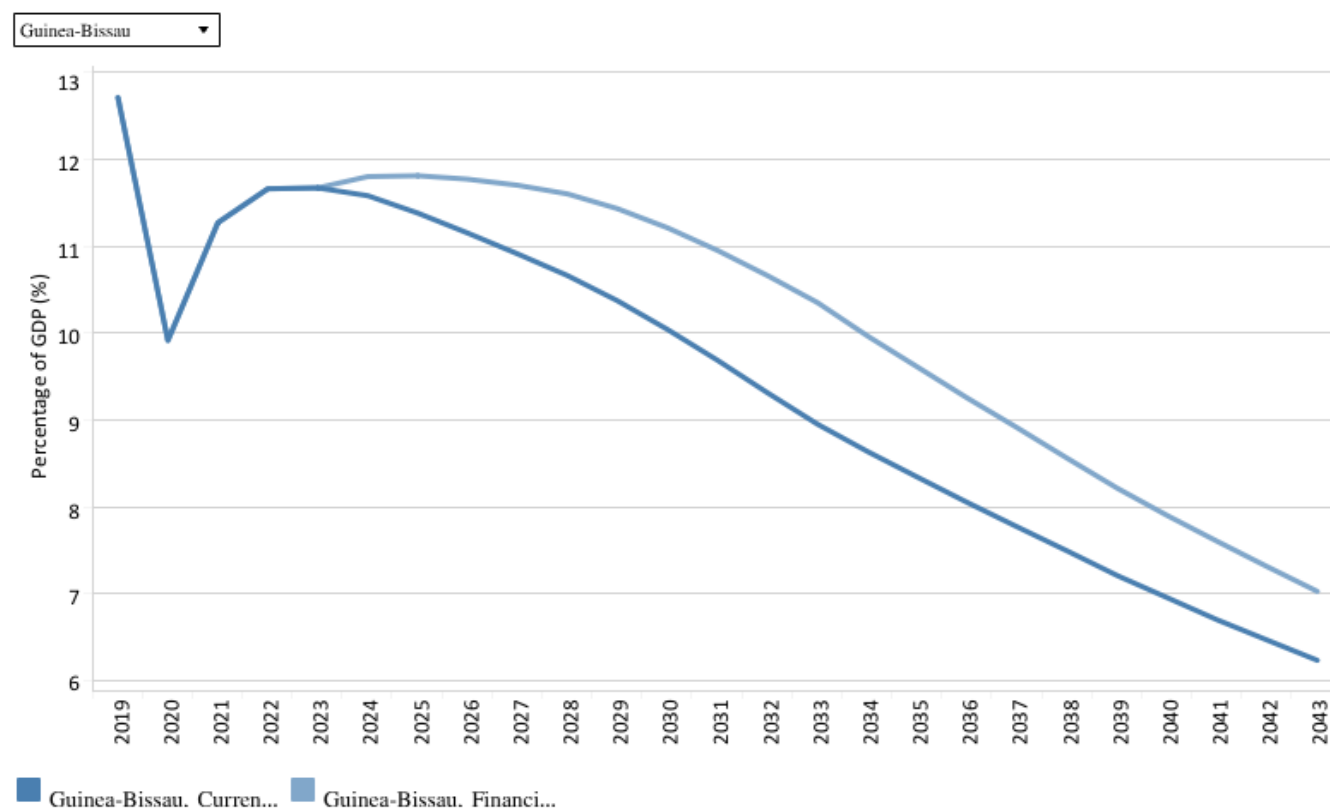
Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

By 2043, about 1.3 million people (representing 39.8% of the population) will be living below the poverty line of US\$1.90 per day. The AfCFTA has the potential to increase intra-Bissau-Africa trade and boost productivity leading to a 3.7 percentage points lower poverty than the Current Path forecast. That is to say that the Free Trade scenario lifts 120 000 fewer poor people out of extreme poverty than the Current Path by 2043. The proportion of the poor people projected in the Free Trade scenario is still higher than the average for low-income countries in Africa.



Financial Flows scenario

Chart 42: Foreign aid in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
% of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Development Assistance Committee of the OECD data, and World Bank and OECD GNI estimates.

[View on Tableau Public](#)

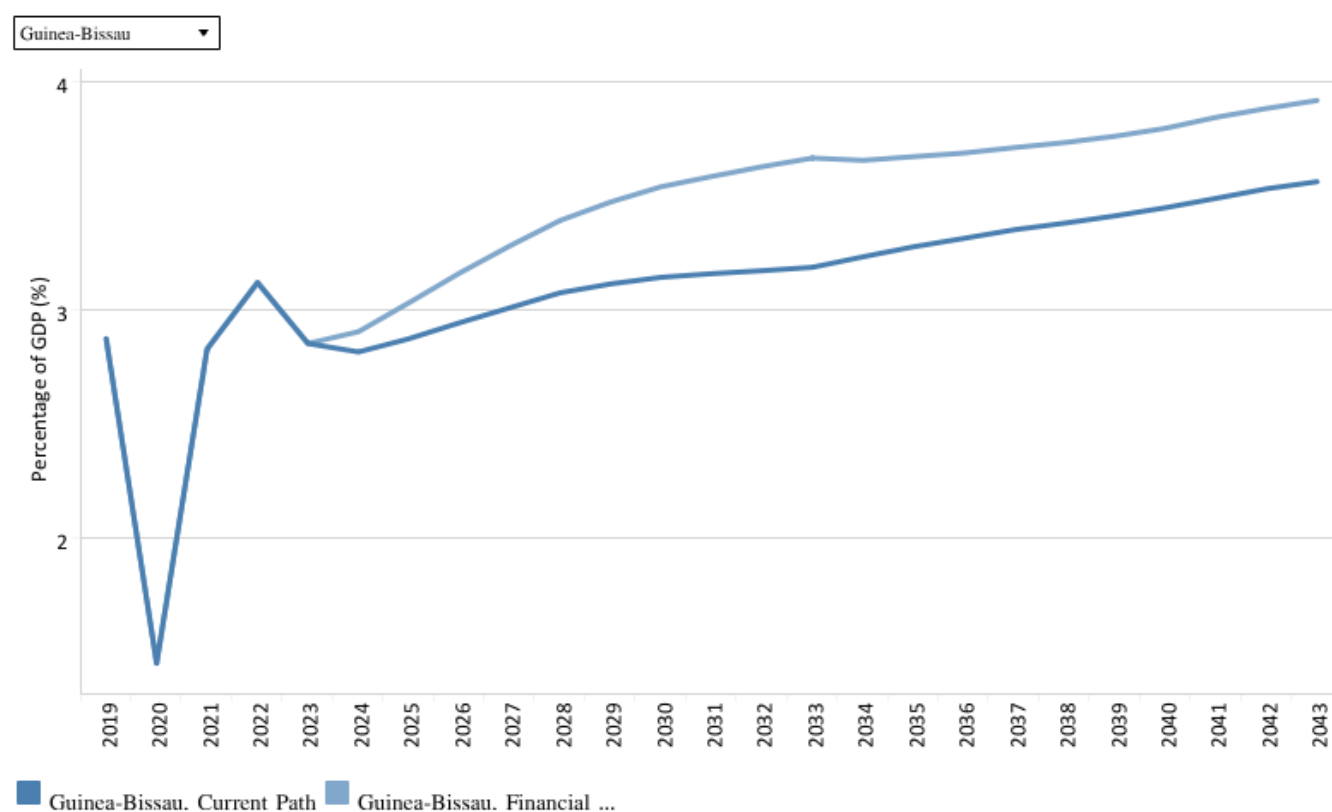
[Share](#)

The Financial Flows scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious increase in worker remittances and aid flows to poor countries, and an increase in the stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) and additional portfolio investment inflows to middle-income countries. We also reduced outward financial flows to emulate a reduction in illicit financial outflows.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Generally, the total foreign aid received by Guinea-Bissau has been quite high. The country is a large recipient of aid and relies heavily on aid to support its budget. In 2011, the country was ranked the 20th [most aid-dependent country](#) in the world. Foreign aid accounts for about 80% of the country's total budgetary support. The total foreign aid received by Guinea-Bissau in 2019 was 12.7% of GDP, constituting about US\$120.5 million, which was higher than the average of 8.6% for low-income countries in Africa. Although foreign aid to Guinea-Bissau in absolute terms is projected to rise, foreign aid as a percentage of GDP is expected to decline such that by 2043 the total foreign aid received by the country is projected to be 7% of GDP in the Financial Flows scenario and 6.2% of GDP in the Current Path forecast. This suggests that in the Financial Flows scenario, foreign aid as a percentage of GDP is lower than in the Current Path forecast by 0.8 percentage points in 2043. These projections are still higher than the average for a low-income African country. The expected decline in foreign aid can be explained by the anticipated growth and expansion in the future, resulting in a higher GDP that would automatically disqualify the country from certain aid packages. It is also plausible that GDP will outgrow foreign aid in the country.

Chart 43: Inflow of FDI in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
% of GDP



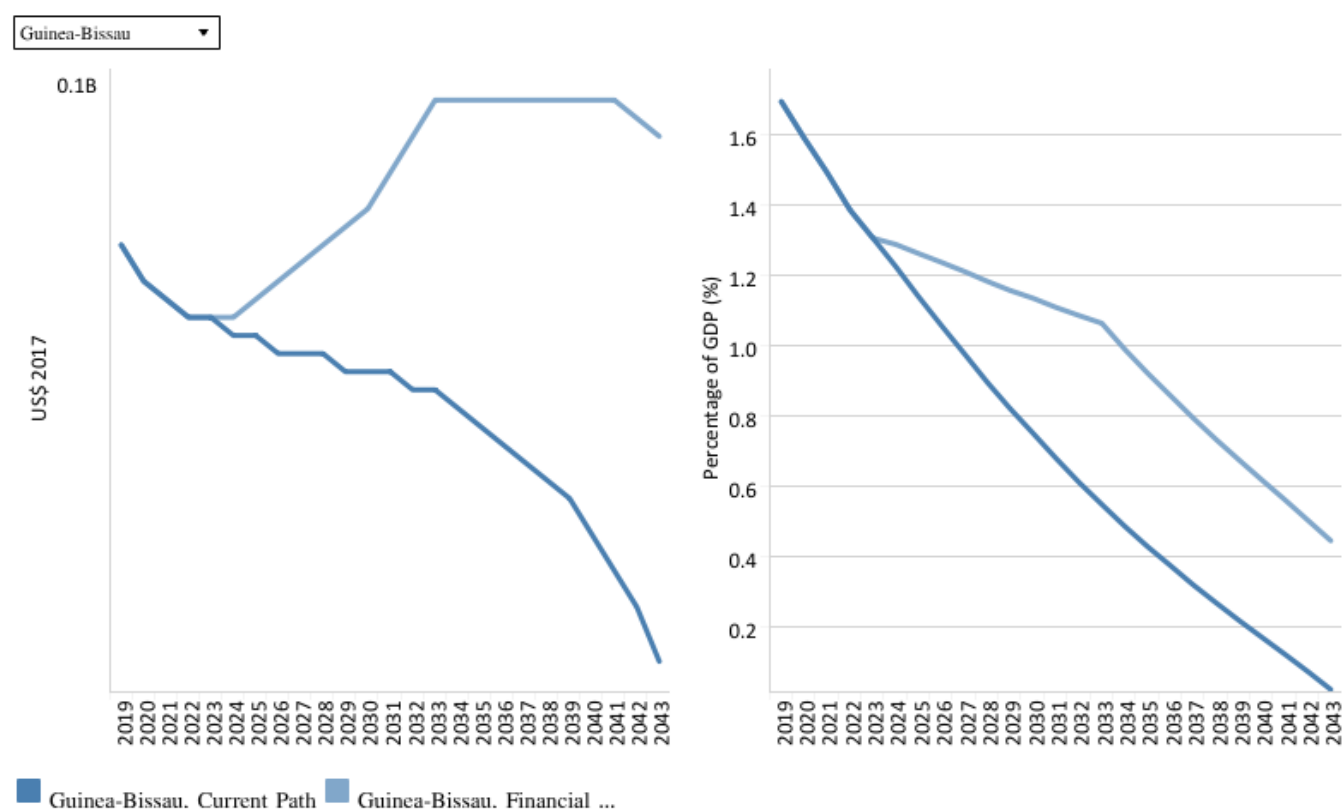
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

The total FDI inflow to Guinea-Bissau is quite low. The country was ranked 174th in the 2020 World Bank Report on the ease of doing business. Factors that account for the low level of investment in the country include political instability, poor infrastructural networks, corruption and high energy costs in the country. Guinea-Bissau's total FDI in 2019 amounted to 2.9% of GDP, which is lower than the average of 4.3% for low-income African countries. By 2043, it is projected that total FDI to the country will be about 3.7% of GDP in the Current Path forecast. In the Financial Flows scenario, FDI is projected to be around 3.9% of GDP in 2043, which will also be below the average of 5.3% for low-income countries on the continent.

Chart 44: Remittances in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
Billions US\$ 2017 and % of GDP



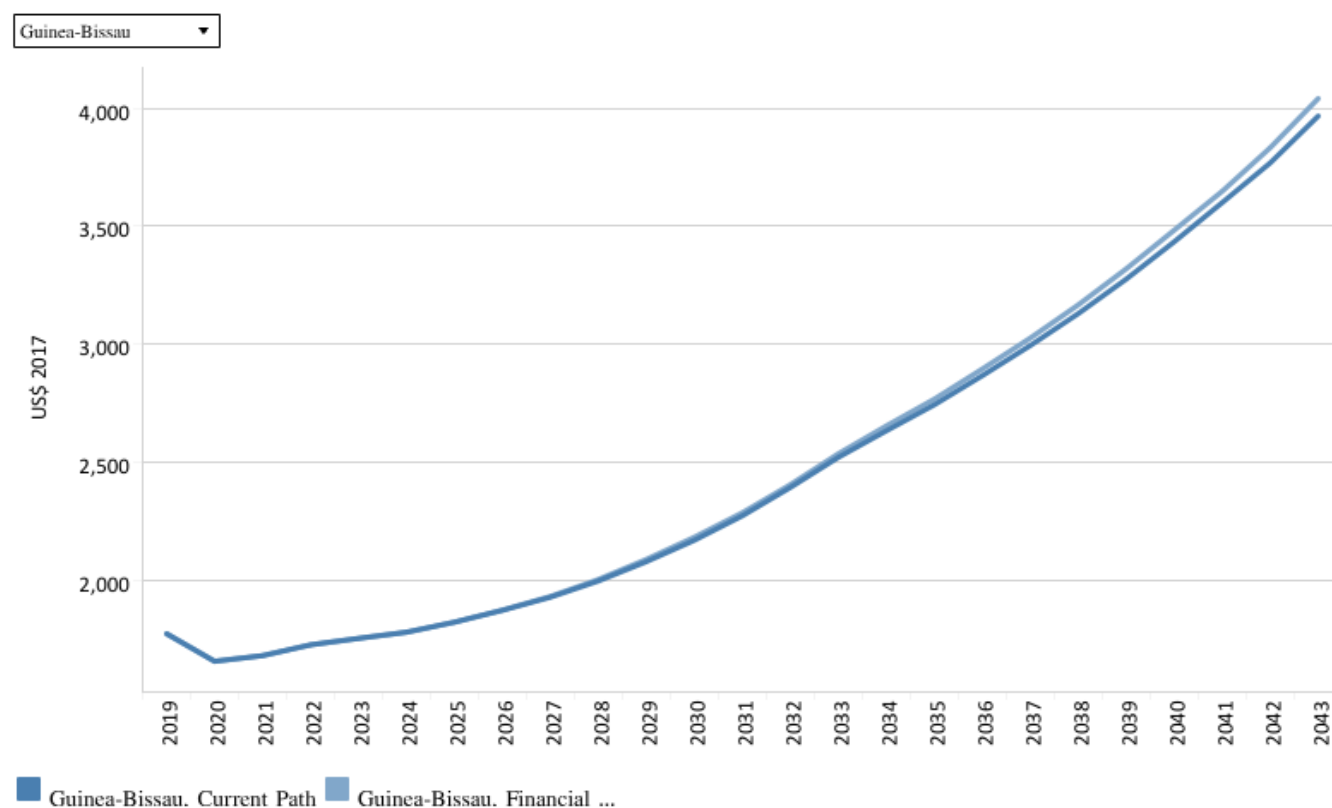
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

In 2019, the total value of remittances that Guinea-Bissau received amounted to US\$0.03 billion, which constituted about 1.7% of GDP. This is significantly lower than the average for low-income African countries. The absolute value of remittance is projected to remain steady in the Financial Flows scenario but declines in the Current Path in 2043. Remittances as a percentage of GDP will fall in the Current Path forecast and in the Financial Flows scenario. In the Financial Flows scenario, remittances as a percentage of GDP are projected to fall to 0.45%. Remittances will decline quicker in the Current Path forecast, so that by 2043 total remittances in the country will be about 0.02% of GDP. Due to greater output growth compared to the growth in remittances in the Financial Flows scenarios, the value of remittance increases while its proportion of output falls.

Chart 45: GDP per capita in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

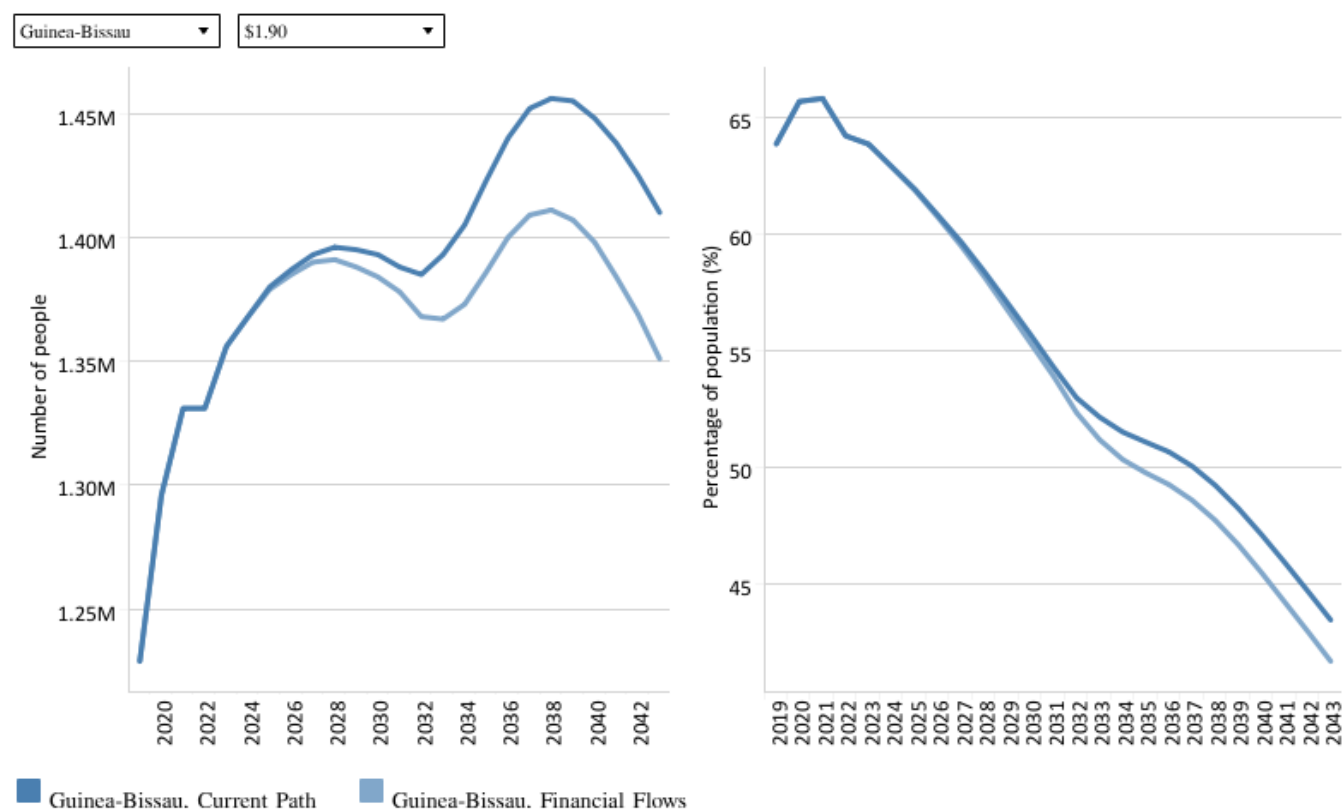
[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

Guinea-Bissau's GDP per capita is estimated to increase to US\$4 041 by 2043 in the Financial Flows scenario. This represents an increase of US\$74 over the Current Path projection in the same year. The US\$4 041 estimate is higher than the average for low-income countries in Africa, which is projected to be US\$3 860 by 2043. The insignificant increase in the GDP per capita in the Financial Flows scenario reflects the minimal FDI inflows due to political instability in Guinea-Bissau.

Chart 46: Poverty in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

Trade openness will reduce poverty in the long term after initially increasing it due to the redistributive effects of trade. Most African countries export primary commodities and low-tech manufacturing products, and therefore a continental free trade agreement (AfCFTA) that reduces tariffs and non-tariff barriers across Africa will increase competition among countries in primary commodities and low-tech manufacturing exports. Countries with inefficient, high-cost manufacturing sectors might be displaced as the AfCFTA is implemented, thereby pushing up poverty rates. In the long term, as the economy adjusts and produces and exports its comparatively advantaged (lower relative cost) goods and services, poverty rates will decline.

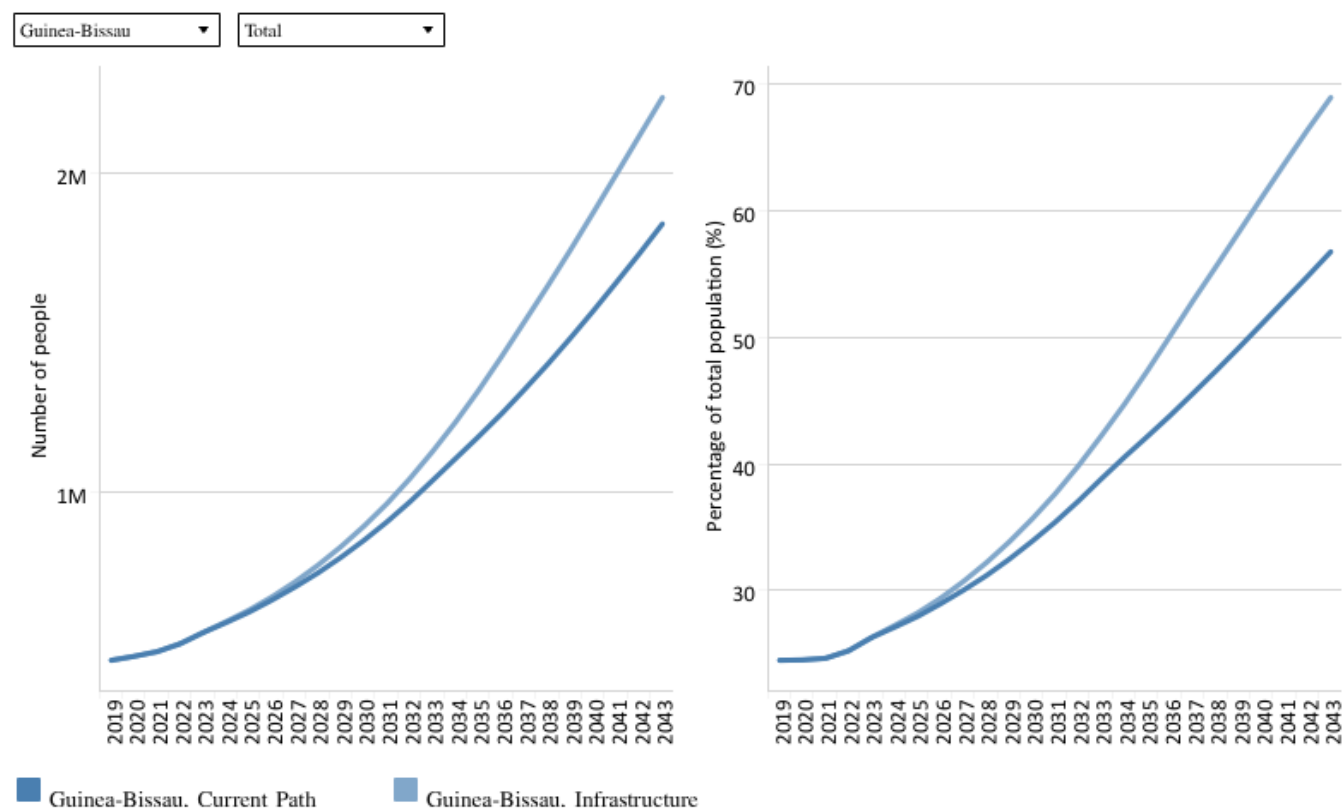
In the Financial Flows scenario, about 1.4 million people (representing 41.7% of the total population) are projected to live below the poverty line of US\$1.90 per day in 2043. This estimate constitutes a reduction of about 60 000 people compared to the Current Path forecast in the same year. It is also higher than the average of 25.2% of the total population for low-income countries in Africa.



Infrastructure scenario

Chart 47: Electricity access in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

↶ ↷ ↺ ↻ | ⏏ ⏏ Share

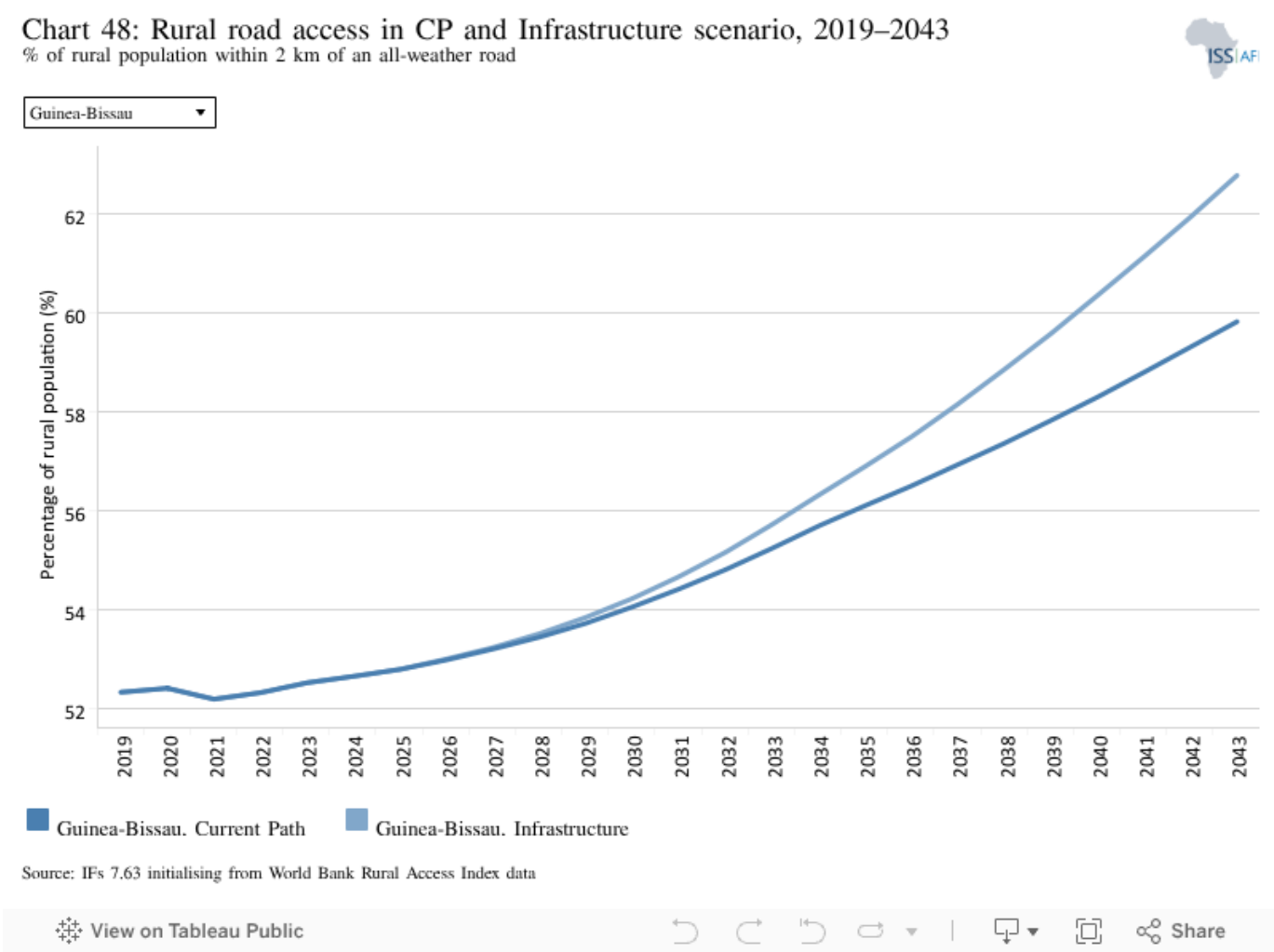
The Infrastructure scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious increase in infrastructure spending across Africa, focusing on basic infrastructure (roads, water, sanitation, electricity access and ICT) in low-income countries and increasing emphasis on advanced infrastructure (such as ports, airports, railway and electricity generation) in higher-income countries.

Note that health and sanitation infrastructure is included as part of the Health/WaSH scenario and that ICT infrastructure and more rapid uptake of renewables are part of the Leapfrogging scenario. The interventions there push directly on outcomes, whereas those modelled in this scenario increase infrastructure spending, indirectly boosting other forms of infrastructure, including that supporting health, sanitation and ICT.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

As of 2019, 500 000 people (24.5% of the population) had access to electricity in Guinea-Bissau, and this is expected to increase to 2.2 million people (69% of the population) in 2043 in the Infrastructure scenario. This increase exceeds the projected value of 1.8 million people (56.8% of the population) in the Current Path forecast. In terms of rural–urban dichotomy, by 2043, it is projected that 76% and 80.8% of urban dwellers will have access to electricity in the Current Path forecast and in the Infrastructure scenario, respectively. However, only 55.9% and 35.6% of rural dwellers in the Infrastructure scenario and in the Current Path forecast respectively will have access to electricity in 2043, indicating a

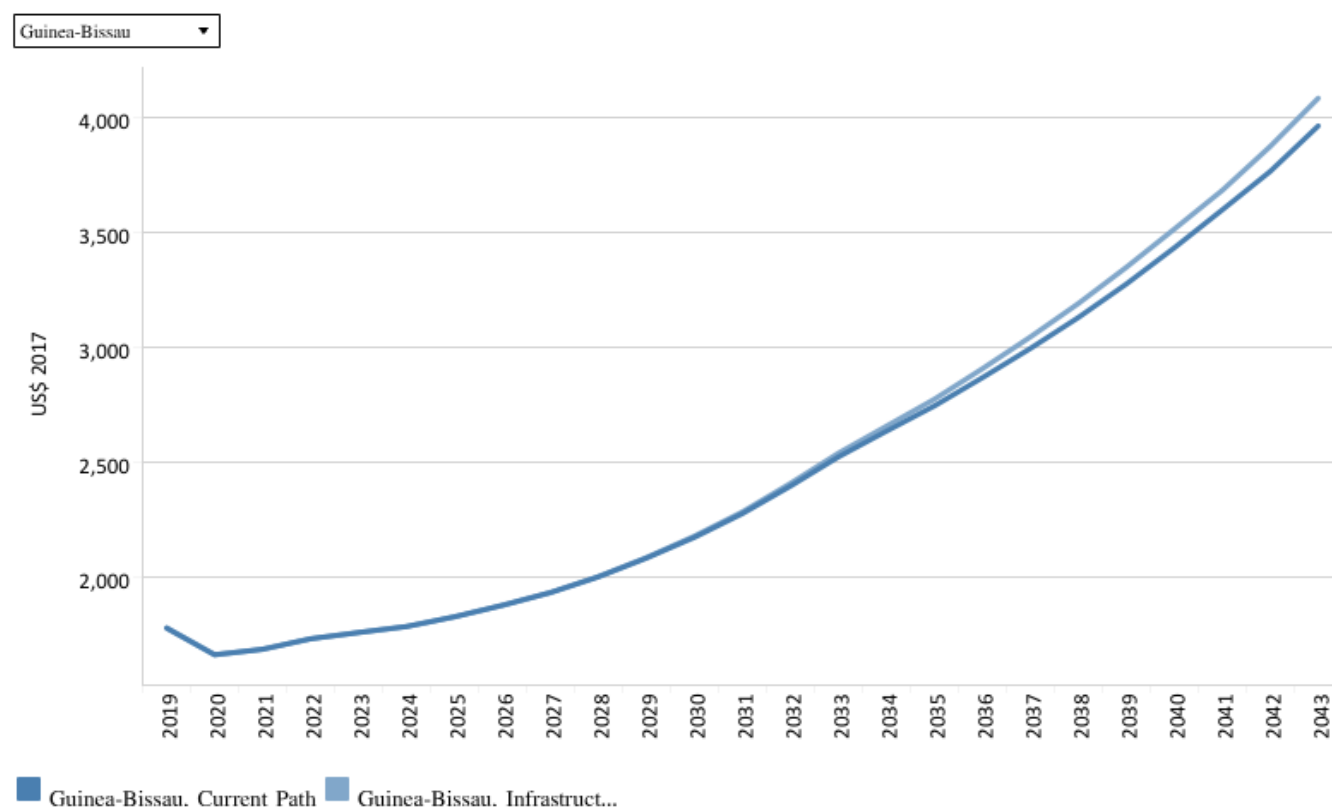
disparity in access to electricity between urban and rural dwellers in both the Current Path and in the Infrastructure scenario.



Indicator 9.1.1 in the Sustainable Development Goals refers to the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road and is captured in the Rural Access Index.

In 2019, 52.3% of all rural dwellers in Guinea-Bissau resided within 2 km of an all-weather road, which was higher than the average of 43% for low-income African countries. In the Infrastructure scenario, this is expected to rise to 62.8% by 2043, higher than the 59.8% of people projected in the Current Path forecast and the average of 53.5% for low-income countries in Africa. Accessible rural roads enable rural dwellers to enjoy amenities from nearby urban areas while allowing urban centres to also benefit from the agricultural products supplied by rural areas more easily. This leads to improvement in socioeconomic development in the life of citizens.

Chart 49: GDP per capita in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

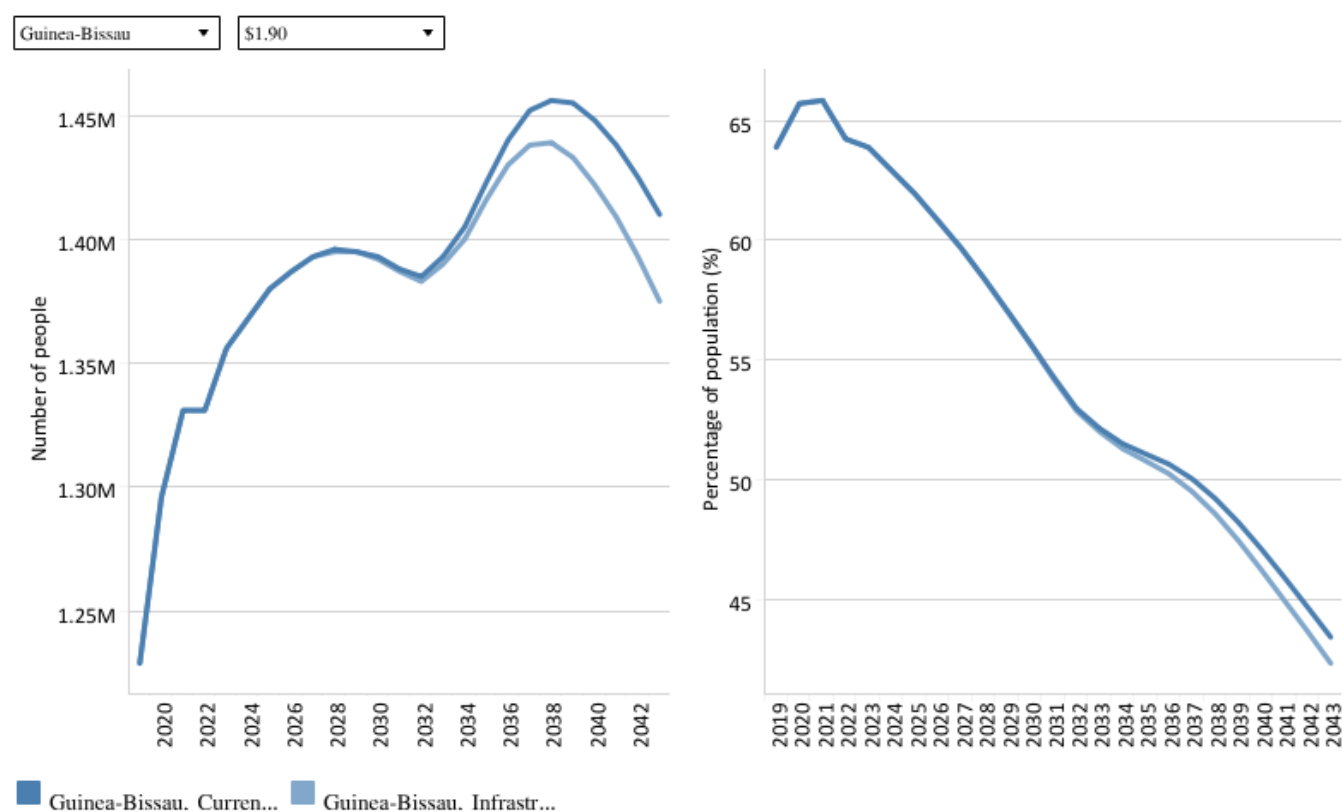
[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

Guinea-Bissau's GDP per capita is estimated to rise to US\$4 088 by 2043 in the Infrastructure scenario. This is US\$121 more than the projection in the Current Path forecast in the same year, and above the average of US\$3 967 for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 50: Poverty in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

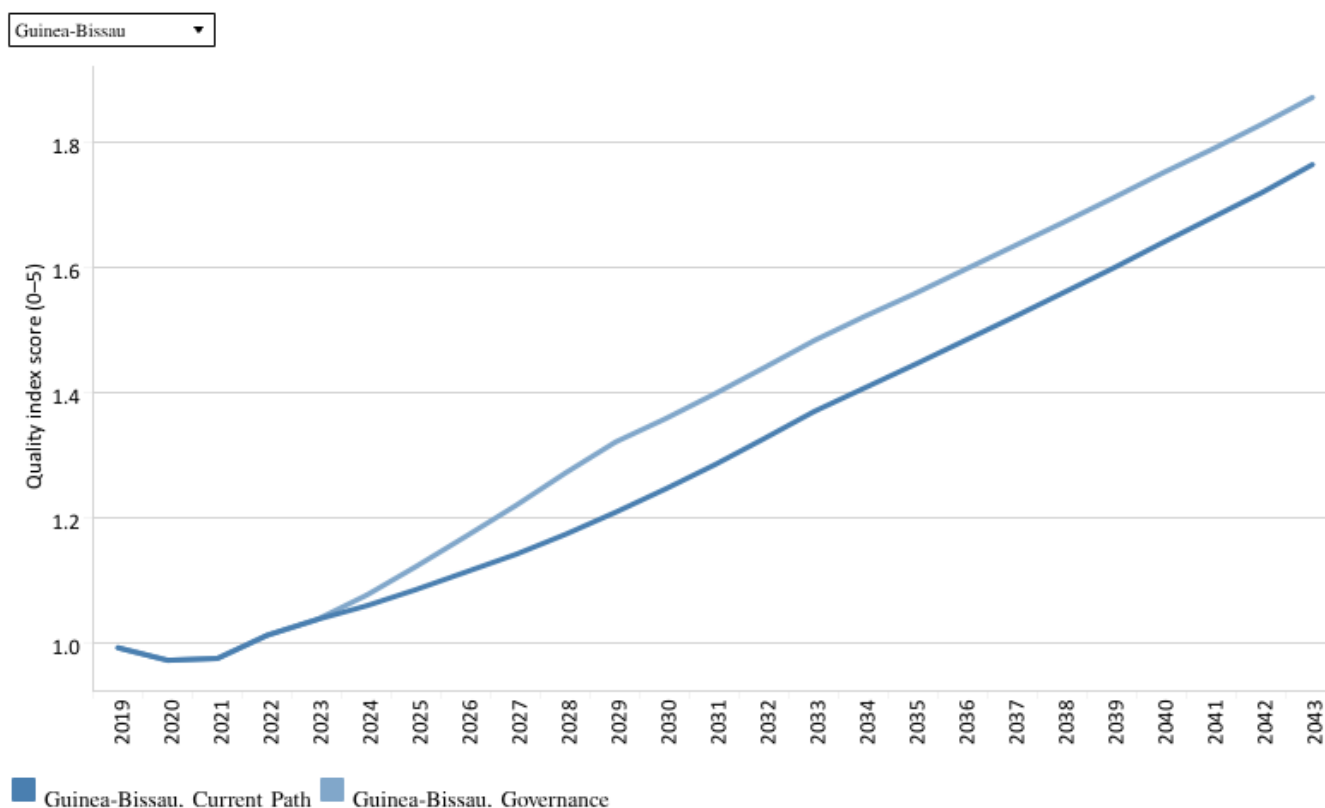
Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

By 2043, the proportion of the poor population is expected to decline from 63.9% in 2019 to 42.4% in 2043 in the Infrastructure scenario. This corresponds to 1.4 million poor people in 2043 who will live below the poverty line. Comparing this with the projections in the Current Path forecast suggests that there will be 35 000 fewer poor people in the Infrastructure scenario than in the Current Path forecast for the same year. This will, however, be higher than the estimated average of 25.2% for low-income countries in Africa.



Governance scenario

Chart 51: Gov effectiveness in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043
World Bank quality index score for government effectiveness



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Kaufmann, Kraay and Mastruzzi (2010) data

View on Tableau Public

Share

The Governance scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious improvement in accountability and reduces corruption, and hence improves the quality of service delivery by government.

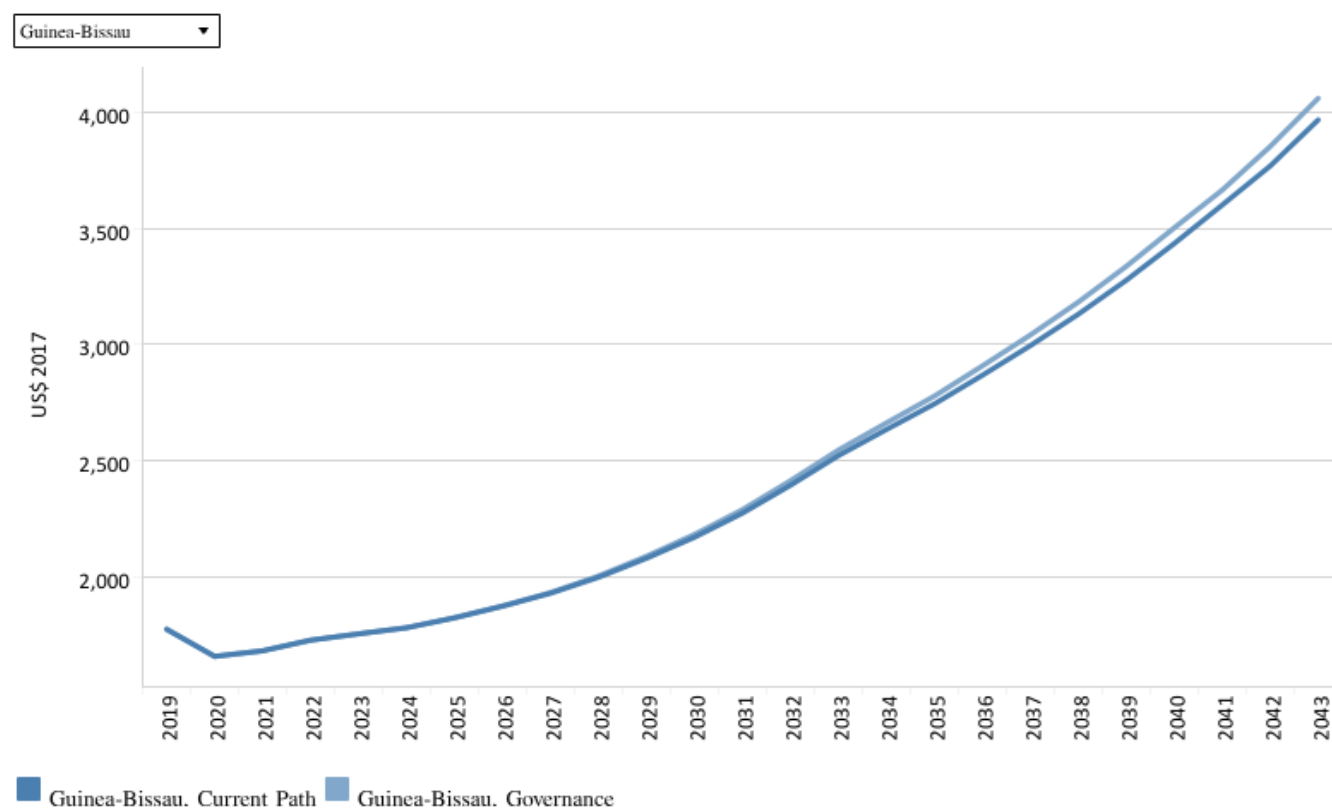
The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

As defined by the World Bank, government effectiveness ‘captures perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government’s commitment to such policies’.

Chart 51 presents the impact of the interventions in the Governance scenario on government effectiveness.

In 2019, Guinea-Bissau’s score for government effectiveness was 0.99, which was below the average of 1.4 for low-income countries in Africa. In both the Current Path forecast and the Governance scenario, government effectiveness is estimated to increase over the period, although the increase in the scenario is higher than the increase in the Current Path forecast. The projected score for government effectiveness in the Governance scenario by 2043 is 1.87 which is 0.11 more than projected score in the Current Path forecast. However, this score is 0.16 less than the average for low-income countries in Africa.

Chart 52: GDP per capita in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

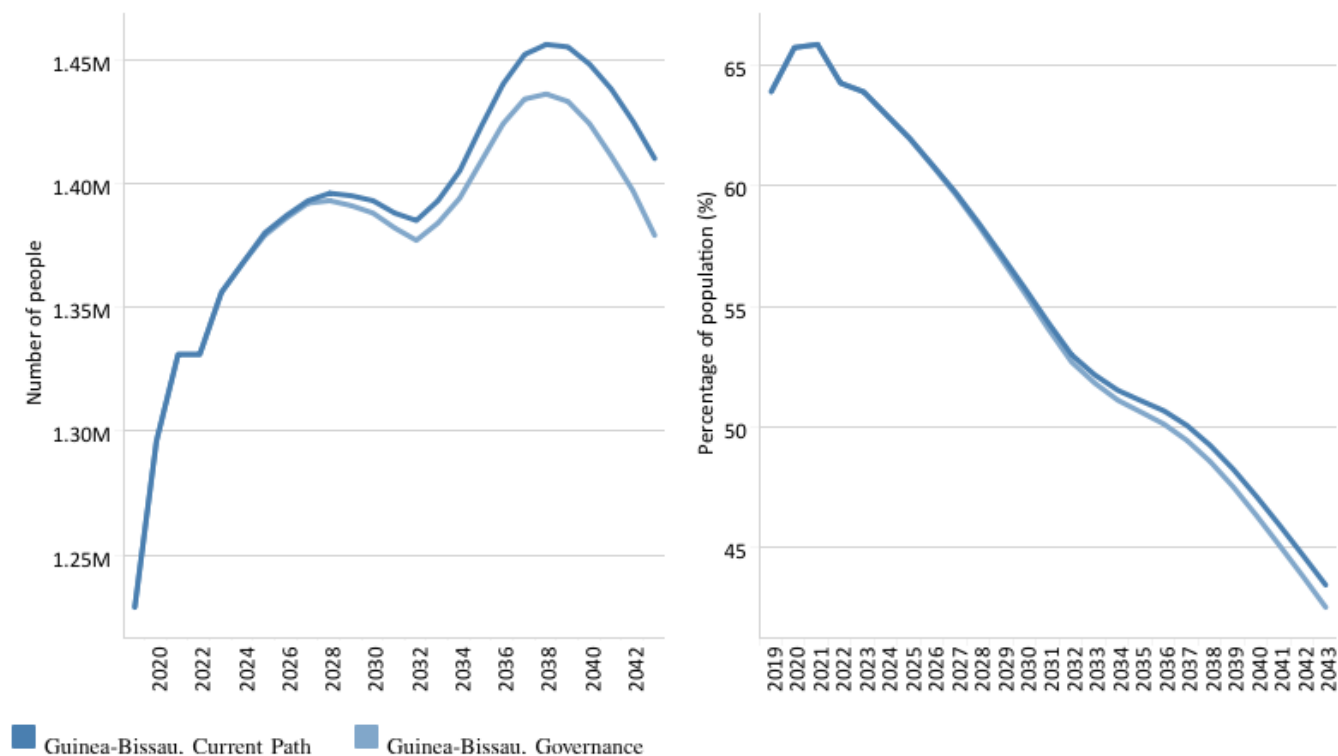
In the Governance scenario, Guinea-Bissau's GDP per capita is projected to increase to US\$4 059 in 2043, which is US\$92 more than the estimates in the Current Path forecast and higher than the average of US\$3 917 for low-income countries on the continent in the same year. This suggests that good governance in the form of reducing corruption, improving the quality of service delivery and accountability can lead to an additional US\$92 in GDP per capita compared with the Current Path forecast in 2043.

Chart 53: Poverty in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of total population



Guinea-Bissau \$1.90



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

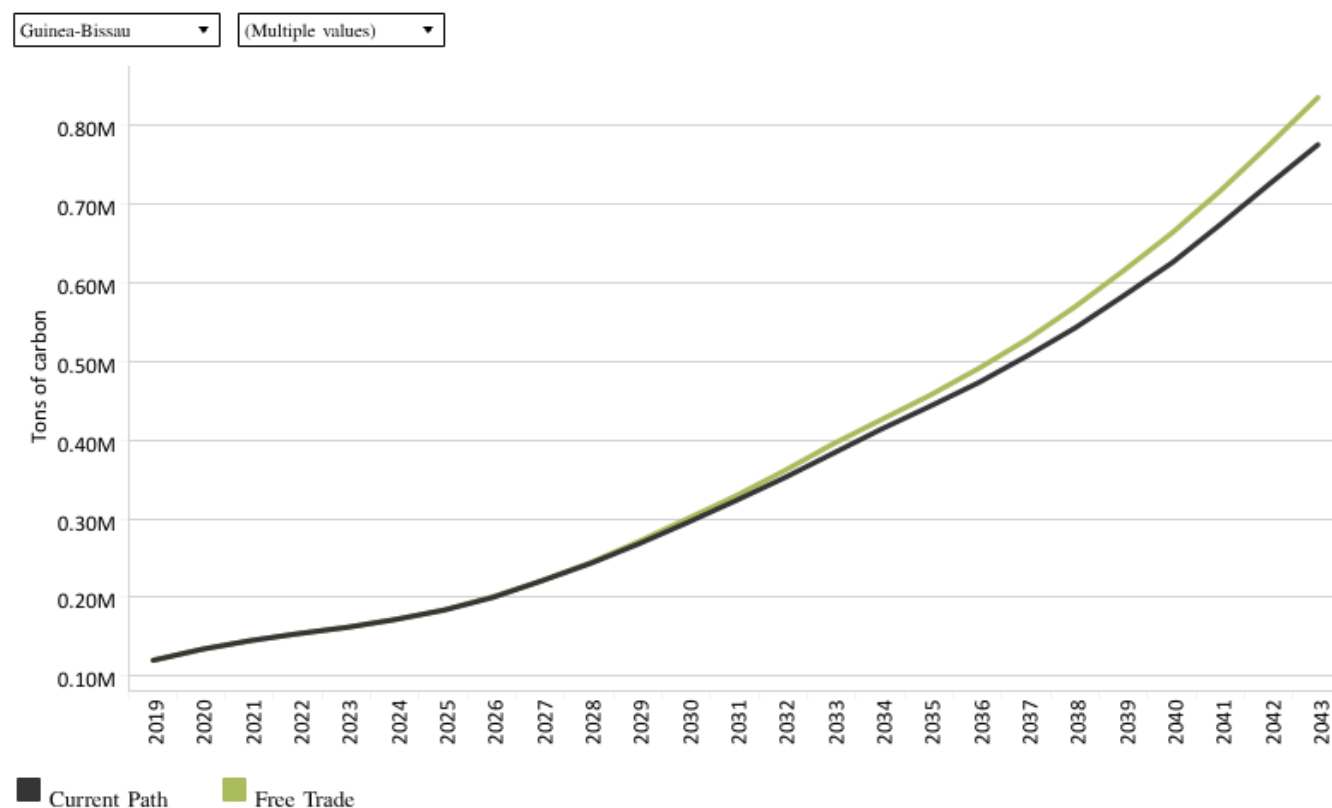
The proportion of people living below the poverty line of US\$1.90 is expected to decline to 42.5% in 2043 in the Governance scenario, which is higher than the 25.2% average for low-income African countries. It also corresponds to about 30 000 fewer people than the 1.41 million poor people projected in the Current Path forecast for 2043.



Impact of scenarios on carbon emissions

Chart 54: Carbon emissions in CP and scenarios, 2019–2043

Million tons of carbon (note, not CO₂ equivalent)



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center data

[View on Tableau Public](#)

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, and share.

This section presents projections for carbon emissions in the Current Path for Guinea-Bissau and the 11 scenarios. Note that IFs uses carbon equivalents rather than CO₂ equivalents.

The total amount of carbon emitted by Guinea-Bissau in 2019 was 0.12 million tons; carbon emissions are projected to increase in all the scenarios to total 1.2 million tons in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario by 2043. The intervention with the greatest impact on carbon emissions is the Agriculture scenario, which will lead to Guinea-Bissau's carbon emissions being 0.9 million tons in 2043. This is followed by the Free Trade and Manufacturing/Transfers scenarios with projected carbon emissions of 0.84 million tons and 0.81 million tons, respectively, by 2043. The intervention with the least impact on carbon emissions is the Demographic scenario which results in emissions of 0.76 million tons of carbon.

Donors and sponsors



Reuse our work

- All visualizations, data, and text produced by African Futures are completely open access under the [Creative Commons BY license](#). You have the permission to use, distribute, and reproduce these in any medium, provided the source and authors are credited.
- The data produced by third parties and made available by African Futures is subject to the license terms from the original third-party authors. We will always indicate the original source of the data in our documentation, so you should always check the license of any such third-party data before use and redistribution.
- All of our charts [can be embedded](#) in any site.

Cite this research

Enoch Randy Aikins (2025) Guinea-Bissau. Published online at futures.issafrica.org. Retrieved from <https://futures.issafrica.org/geographic/countries/guinea-bissau/> [Online Resource] Updated 05 July 2024.

About the authors

Mr Enoch Randy Aikins joined the AFI in May 2021 as a Researcher. Before that, Enoch was a research and programmes officer at the Institute for Democratic Governance in Accra in charge of local governance reforms, poverty and inequality and public sector reforms. He also worked as a research assistant (economic division) with the Institute for Statistical Social and Economic Research at the University of Ghana. Enoch's interests include African politics and governance, economic development, public sector reform, poverty and inequality. Enoch is a Young African Fellow at the School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute in Florence and has an MPhil in economics from the University of Ghana, Legon.

About African Futures & Innovation

Scenarios and forecasting can help Africa identify and respond to opportunities and threats. The work of the African Futures & Innovation (AFI) program at the Institute for Security Studies aims to understand and address a widening gap between indices of wellbeing in Africa and elsewhere in the world. The AFI helps stakeholders understand likely future developments. Research findings and their policy implications are widely disseminated, often in collaboration with in-country partners. Forecasting tools inspire debate and provide insights into possible trajectories that inform planning, prioritisation and effective resource allocation. Africa's future depends on today's choices and actions by governments and their non-governmental and international partners. The AFI provides empirical data that informs short- and medium-term decisions with long-term implications. The AFI enhances Africa's capacity to prepare for and respond to future challenges. The program is headed by Dr Jakkie Cilliers.