

- the COVID-19 pandemic has further hampered the already fragile situation of women and girls and other vulnerable groups in the country and increased the need to strengthen the coverage and quality of all service delivered nationwide and in remote areas in particular;
- access to justice is still a difficulty to most of the population and especially to those illiterate and vulnerable that lack the knowledge and means to reach/use these services, unless support is provided;
- the roles played by traditional and religious leaders in conflict resolution and mediation at grassroot level are entrenched in national culture, also due to the absence of other “means” to solve quarrels, leading often to the non-observation of human rights of women and girls, youth and people with disabilities. Their role in terms of influencing social norm change is critical;
- the usage and institutionalization of ADR mechanisms in the justice system revealed to be key for guaranteeing that the population has access to a human-rights compliant justice;
- justice and police institutions lack logistical devices to properly develop their work;
- the population recognizes and welcomes the role played by CSO in communities and is generally open and trustful of their work; public servants within the justice and social protection sectors also value the support provided by CSOs;
- public institutions and their staff require training and on-the-job-training, as well as close support and monitoring to ensure that the knowledge and tools received are duly applied and integrated in their work;
- justice and security institutions lack means to properly train their human resources (induction, refreshments, etc.) to ensure that these are knowledgeable of their functions and how to deliver them with high-quality;
- there is a lack of institutional ownership and sustainable vision of actions, mainly caused by insufficient funds and human resources - both in number and capacity – which could hamper the achievement of results if not promoted;
- key entities/institutions often show insufficient interest to communicate and collaborate with one another – at high, medium at low levels – due to fears of loss of influence and control, unless partnership is promoted through concrete activities and joint approaches;
- widespread corruption and abuse of power make it easy to distrust partners, reducing effective opportunities to full collaboration, requiring continuous policy and institutional dialogue at different levels;
- separation of powers and sectoral governance is not effective which allows for political intrusion in security and legal spheres thus hampering the work conducted over the past decades if not strategically addressed.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action was built taking into account the current context, the findings from Ianda Guiné and the Gender Profile of Guinea-Bissau while also capitalizing on lessons learned from previous and currently ongoing Actions. It addresses the need for strengthening trust, dialogue, and cooperation among actors operating within the security and justice sectors, as well as improving their respective institutional capacities and internal governance to enable them to execute their mandates and perform their specific functions. Moreover, and because the Government is not able to provide security, justice, human rights, and a gender-sensitive services to all segments of society, the Action will support the provision of key public services within the focus sectors.

The two Outcomes are interlinked on what concerns the improvement of the Guinea-Bissau’s internal security governance and the effective and inclusive access to justice converging into the Overall Objective of contributing to ensuring respect for human rights in Guinea-Bissau by strengthening the rule of law and the justice and security systems. The two main components on security and justice culminate into a third one related to human rights since it envisions the provision of human rights compliant police services and the provision of quality justice services to the overall and especially vulnerable population (focusing on women and girls, and victims of trafficking in human beings), including in the regions outside Bissau. The results obtained within each of the three components will be capitalised and disseminated to retro-feed the dialogue at all levels (namely sectoral, hierarchical, and geographical), following a circular sequence (dialogue ↔ methodologies/tools ↔ capacities ↔ performance)